

January 23, 2002

AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN THE SERVICES OF G. ALFRED HESS JR., PH. D., TO CONDUCT A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE EDUCATIONAL COMPONENTS OF THE DESEGREGATION CONSENT DECREE

THE GENERAL COUNSEL REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Retention of the expert services of G. Alfred Hess Jr., Ph.D.

DESCRIPTION: The Board authorized a focused analysis of the district's progress in achieving the goals of the federal desegregation consent decree to which it has been subject since 1980. To that end, the law department seeks to retain several individuals to serve as experts in various education-related disciplines. Those individuals will collect and examine the available data relevant to specific programs goals under the decree, including student and faculty assignments; discipline issues; funding obligations; compensatory education programs; bilingual education programs; transportation; and facility maintenance and construction. Following the experts' review, we anticipate that each will generate a summary report assessing historical achievements and, correspondingly, identifying and making recommendations with respect to any areas wherein we need improvement. The Board will then use that information to coordinate a viable future plan of action regarding the consent decree.

G. Alfred Hess Jr., Ph.D. comes highly recommended as a nationally respected expert in the area of primary and secondary education assessments. Indeed, the Board previously retained Dr. Hess in regard to an assessment of high school programs. As his attached curriculum vitae reveals, Dr. Hess is an associate professor at Northwestern University, College of Education and Social Policy. He is also the Director of the University's Center for Urban School Policy. Well published in the area of urban educational assessment, Dr. Hess has provided a wealth of expert/consultant services on education issues as relates to the Chicago school district and the state of Illinois generally.

With respect to the present project, Dr. Hess and two research associates will conduct a detailed, school-by-school assessment of our compliance with the consent decree educational component, including extra-curricular programs and discipline. In addition to reviewing the multitude of educational materials maintained by the district, Dr. Hess will interview educational program administrators and staff to gain further insight into the district's compliance record. He will also conduct on-site, sample assessments of the educational programs at several schools throughout the district. Dr. Hess ultimately will provide detailed analyses and opinions on the issue of the district's compliance with the educational component of the consent decree, presently and historically, and offer recommendations for the future. We expect that a draft report will issue in April of 2002.

As detailed in attached prospectus prepared by Dr. Hess, the projected cost for her complete services will approximate \$81,250.00. That cost estimate breaks down to 200-250 hours of work at an hourly rate for Dr. Hess of \$150.00; \$100.00/hr for the qualitative researcher; and \$75.00/hr. For the research analyst. Dr. Hess has requested payment in two installments. We have requested that he submit hourly billing statements to the law department on a monthly basis.

LSC REVIEW: LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: Charge \$81,250.00 to Law Department - Legal and Supportive Services - Professional Services: Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2002 0014-210-000-1011-5410

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

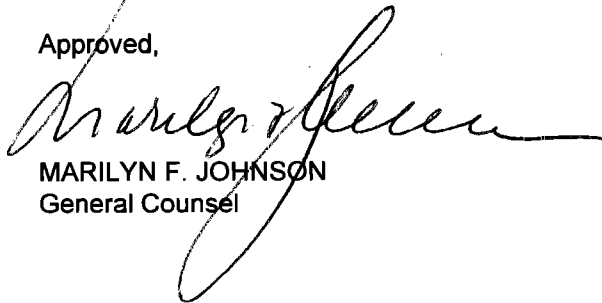
Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness - The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted July 26, 1995, (95-0726-EX3), as amended from time to time, is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995, (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Contingent Liability - The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved,



MARILYN F. JOHNSON
General Counsel

Within Appropriation:



KENNETH C. GOTSCH
Chief Fiscal Officer