



Carroll County Public Schools

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Steven Lockard, Ph.D.
Superintendent

February 22, 2022

Dear Mr. Henry:

As Superintendent of Carroll County Public Schools and Secretary/Treasurer to the Board of Education of Carroll County, I am sending this letter on behalf of the Board in response to your email of February 17, 2022. To that end, please be advised that the law firm of Pessin Katz Law, P.A. has agreed to handle the pending declaratory judgment litigation brought on behalf of the Board and Board members Battaglia and Sivigny on a pro bono basis without any charge to the Board, Board members, or any other person or entity.

To put these pro bono services into full context, it may be helpful for me to explain the retainer agreement approved by the Board in public session last June for the current fiscal year and which agreement is similar to retainer agreements from prior years. The Board pays Pessin Katz Law, P.A., a set amount each month (\$15,000) for the provision of a wide-variety of legal services to the Board and to the entire school system. Each month, Pessin Katz Law, P.A. sends detailed invoices to my office describing the services provided at their hourly rates as quoted to the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) for inclusion on the MABE Legal Services Administration approved attorneys' list. In June, Pessin Katz Law, P.A. and my office prepare a fiscal year reconciliation that is presented to the Board for review and approval in public session whereby any fees incurred in excess of the retainer are then billed with an additional 20% discount. In addition, Pessin Katz Law, P.A. does not charge for the attendance and participation of its attorneys at the Board's regular monthly public meeting.

Within that context, Pessin Katz Law, P.A. has advised that it will not apply any time spent in the pending declaratory judgment litigation towards the retainer or towards any fees in excess of the retainer. Accordingly, the pro bono services provided by Pessin Katz Law, P.A. in this matter are 100% free of charge.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Lockard

Superintendent

C: Carroll County Board of Education
Edmund O'Meally