B.3.2 Contracted Services

The Leona Group, in conjunction with Havasu Preparatory Academy High School, prides itself on a strong, well managed infrastructure that meets the overarching needs of supporting a school on various levels. On occasion, situations may arise where it is in the best interest of the school to seek outside expertise or services. Areas may include but are not limited to:

- Specific legal counsel outside the area of expertise of our in-house counsel including School Law and Special Education experts Denise Lowell-Britt and Heather Pierson from the law firm of Udall, Shumway & Lyons. Denise Lowell-Britt has been practicing law at Udall, Shumway & Lyons since 1987 and has been a partner of the firm since 1993. Ms. Lowell-Britt devotes her practice entirely to representing school districts, charter schools and other public educational institutions. She heads the firm's education law practice group. Heather R. Pierson joined Udall, Shumway & Lyons, P.L.C. in 2009. She focuses her practice primarily in the area of education law, representing school districts and charter schools throughout the State. This is provided by the CMO.

- Special Education related services are contracted for provision of Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Auditory and Vision related services as well as School Psychologists. Current contracted rates are as follows: Speech Therapy: $75/hr, Speech, OT and PT Evaluations: $250 flat rate, OT: $75/hr, PT: $75/hr, Sign Language Interpreter:$85/hr, School Psychologist student evaluations for SPED: $400-500 flat rate (budget line item #37). All of these specialists must hold degrees and certifications in their respective areas. Costs associated with ESS were determined by reviewing costs for comparable schools with similar populations. These services are currently contracted through Learning Detectives and Professional Education and Assessment for Kids (PEAK).

- Professional Development consultants are contracted on an as-needed basis. Once the professional development needs of the school have been determined, the services of highly qualified personnel will be provided. In the past, consultants have been contracted to provide professional development services with fees ranging from $2,000 to $10,000 per presenter. These services, currently, fall under the CMO fee (budget line item #36).

- We will contract with an independent third party auditor to complete our audit. Costs associated with the independent third party audit were derived from our current costs associated with current schools managed by this CMO. $6500 per year is the budgeted amount.