

MEMORANDUM

TO: Elizabeth Board of Education

FROM: Dan Snowberger, Superintendent
Rebekah Brooks, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Auditor Recommendation

DATE: March 10, 2025

The district has put out an RFP for auditing services. We received two responses from qualified firms in addition to the current proposal from our past auditor, Hinkle & Company. The district has utilized Hinkle & Company for several years. Last year, Legacy Academy asked permission to select a different firm and separate from Hinkle. Based on our recent experiences, we are recommending a change in auditing firm.

The two additional proposals were from Wall, Smith, & Bateman and Hoelting & Company. After reviewing the proposals, we set up interviews with the two new firms and invited FAC members to be a part of the interview process. Board member Michael Calahan participated in the interview process, however no other member of our FAC was available at the time they were scheduled.

Both companies did an outstanding job and clearly were considered great options for the district. Wall, Smith & Bateman has recent experience using Skyward during Pagosa Springs' implementation year with the software. This experience and their ability to support our continued use of Skyward as our financial package leads us to recommend we formally engage them as our new auditor.

All three proposals are attached. In considering the financial aspects of the proposal, Wall, Smith & Bateman is also our lowest cost provider.

I request the board to *move to approve the selection of Wall, Smith, & Bateman as our new auditing firm beginning with the audit of the 2024-25 school year.*