

## Meter runs on Greece schools probe

### Costs tied to teacher discrimination case top \$51,000 so far

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(October 23, 2005) — GREECE — Greece Central School District has spent more than \$51,000 in connection with an investigation into teacher discrimination. And since the probe is expected to continue through November, that figure will rise.

Harter Secret and Emery, the Rochester-based law firm that represents Greece's school board, has submitted a \$29,543 invoice for services to school board President Ken Walsh.

The September bill covers work that the firm's lawyers took on between Sept. 9 and Sept. 30, Walsh said.

The company has not yet submitted a bill for work completed in October.

Berry Consulting Services, the educational consulting firm doing the probe, has billed \$16,181 for work completed through Oct. 13.

The Brockport-based firm has been working on the investigation since Sept. 27. The firm charges \$75 per hour per person. Three people

The district's interim superintendent, Josephine Kehoe, who started her position Oct. 12, is paid \$890 for each full day of work. That's \$

To date, Kehoe has worked six full school days, \$5,340 before taxes.

Plus, the district is paying \$7,913 in salaries for three administrators — Greece Superintendent Margaret Keller-Cogan, Human Resources and Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Pagano-Fuller — who are on paid leave.

The salaries come from the district's administrative budget, which is part of the district's \$172.2 million spending plan.

"There's a lot that's lost around this," said Lisa Buckshaw, assistant superintendent of student learning and accountability. "It's not bus

The absence of three administrators means more work for others and missed opportunities, she said.

Funds for the bills will be covered differently.

Attorneys' fees will be paid as a legal expense.

Kehoe's salary is part of the district's administrative budget, and the consultant's bill will come from the school board's budget, Walsh said.

The board has already used two-thirds of its \$263,083 budget for the school year, as of Oct. 17, according to district financial records.

If the board exceeds its budget, district officials said, they aren't sure where any future funds would come from or what impact that would

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**Background**

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has determined that the Greece Central schools discriminated against five teachers. As a result, the district could face lawsuits costing hundreds of thousands of dollars. Superintendent Margaret Keller-Cogan and two other administrators are on paid leave while the district conducts its own investigation. Josephine Kehoe has been hired as temporary superintendent.