WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT <u>COUNTY OF ESSEX</u> <u>AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON</u> <u>ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,</u> <u>COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE</u> <u>FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016</u>

# <u>WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</u> <u>COUNTY OF ESSEX</u> <u>AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE</u> <u>FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,</u> <u>COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE</u> <u>FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016</u> <u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>

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November 4, 2016

The Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education West Essex Regional School District County of Essex, NJ

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Board of Education of the West Essex Regional School District in the County of Essex for the year ended June 30, 2016, and have issued our report thereon dated November 4, 2016.

As part of our audit, we performed procedures required by the New Jersey Department of Education, and the findings and results thereof are disclosed on the following pages, as listed in the accompanying table of contents.

We will review the status of the comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed these comments and suggestions with various management personnel, and we will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations.

This report is intended for the information of the West Essex Regional School District's management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

NISIVOCCIA LLP

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William F. Schroeder Licensed Public School Accountant #2112 Certified Public Accountant

### Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator and Treasurer of School Moneys, the activities of the Board of Education, the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Board of Education.

# Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

Multi-peril insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on Exhibit J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the district's CAFR.

### Officials in Office and Surety Bonds

Name	Position	Coverage
Kerry Ann Keane	Treasurer of School Monies	\$ 250,000
Pamela Hinman	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	125,000

The District has Employee Dishonesty and Faithful Performance coverage through the School Alliance Insurance Fund as detailed on Exhibit J-20 of the CAFR.

#### **Tuition Charges**

A comparison of tentative tuition charges and actual certified tuition charges was made. The actual costs were different than estimated costs. The Board made a proper adjustment to the billings to sending districts for the change in per pupil costs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1(f)3.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

#### **Examination of Claims**

An examination of claims paid on a test basis, during the period under review indicated overall compliance with respect to signatures, certification or supporting documentation.

#### Payroll Account and Position Control Roster

The net salaries of employees of the Board were deposited in the Payroll Account. Employees' payroll deductions and employer's share of fringe benefits were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account. Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including current year health benefits withholding due to the general fund.

All payrolls were approved by the Superintendent and were certified by the President of the Board, the Board Secretary/Business Administrators and the Chief School Administrator. Payrolls were delivered to the Treasurer of School Monies with a warrant to her order for the full amount of the payroll.

The required certification (E-CERT1) of compliance with requirements for income tax on compensation of administrators (superintendent, assistant superintendent, and business administrator) to the NJ Department of Treasury was filed in a timely manner.

## Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Cont'd)

#### Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made on a test basis as of June 30, for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable.

### Classification of Expenditures - General and Administrative

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.2 as part of our test of transactions of randomly selected expenditure items. We also reviewed the coding of all expenditures included in our compliance and single audit testing procedures. In addition to randomly selecting a test sample, our sample selection specifically targeted administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(f). Overall compliance was noted.

#### Board Secretary's Records

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the Board Secretary's records for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records. Based on these procedures, we have no comments.

#### Treasurer's Records

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the Treasurer's records for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records. Based on these procedures, we have no comments.

#### No Child Left Behind (N.C.L.B.)

The N.C.L.B. financial exhibits are contained herein within the Special Revenue Section of the District's CAFR. This section of the CAFR documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Title I and Title II of the No Child Left Behind Act.

The study of compliance for the N.C.L.B. did not indicate any area of noncompliance.

#### Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the CAFR. This section of the CAFR documents the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

The District's Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedule A and Schedule B located in the CAFR.

Our audit of the federal and state funds on a test basis indicated that obligations and expenditures were incurred during the fiscal year or project period for which the project was approved.

#### Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Cont'd)

#### T.P.A.F. Reimbursement

Our audit procedures included a test of the biweekly reimbursements filed with the Department of Education for district employees who are members of the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions were noted.

The T.P.A.F. Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures was remitted to the State of New Jersey prior to the required deadline of October 1, 2016. The reimbursement form was reviewed and no exceptions were noted.

#### Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy

Travel regulations require each District to adopt a formal policy and procedure pertaining to travel and expense reimbursement for its employees and board members. The regulations include requirements for the District to establish a maximum travel amount for the year and to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded. The regulations also require that all travel must be preapproved by the Board of Education and Superintendent and that a brief report detailing the key issues addressed at the travel event must be submitted after the travel event has occurred. Overall compliance was noted.

### School Purchasing Programs

#### Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

# N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 states:

a. "When the cost or price of any contract awarded by the purchasing agent in the aggregate, does not exceed in a contract year the total sum of \$17,500, the contract may be awarded by a purchasing agent when so authorized by resolution of the Board of Education without public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, except that the Board of Education may adopt a resolution to set a lower threshold for the receipt of public bids or the solicitation of competitive quotations. If the purchasing agent is qualified pursuant to subsection b. of section 9 of P.L.1971, c. 198 the Board of Education may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$25,000. Such authorization may be granted for each contract or by a general delegation of the power to negotiate and award such contracts pursuant to this section.

b. Commencing in the fifth year after the year in which P.L.1999, c. 440 takes effect and every five years thereafter, the Governor, in consultation with the Department of Treasury, shall adjust the threshold amount and the higher threshold amount which the Board of Education is permitted to establish as set forth in subsection a. of this section or the threshold amount resulting from any adjustment under this subsection, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the index rate as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2, and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000. The Governor shall notify all local school districts of the adjustment no later than June 1 of every fifth year. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of the year in which it is made ....."

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 states, "Every contract for the provision or performance of any goods or services the cost of which in the aggregate exceeds the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the Board of Education to the lowest responsible bidder after public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, except as is provided otherwise in this chapter or specifically by any other law ....."

School Purchasing Programs (Cont'd)

#### Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Cont'd)

Effective July 1, 2015 and thereafter the bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 and 18A:18A-3(a) are \$40,000 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$29,000 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is currently \$18,800.

The Board of Education has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory thresholds within the contract year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the Attorney's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

Inasmuch as the system of records did not provide for an accumulation of payments for categories for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies, the results of such an accumulation could not reasonably be ascertained. Disbursements were reviewed, however, to determine whether any clear-cut violations existed. No exceptions were noted.

Based upon the results of our examination, we did not note any individual payments, contracts, or agreements for the performance of any work or goods or services, in excess of the statutory thresholds where there had been no advertising for bids in accordance with the provision of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4, amended.

Resolutions were adopted authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services" per N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5.

The system of records did not provide for an accumulation of purchases for which the school board used contracts entered into by the State Department of Purchase and Property pursuant to Ch. 114, P.L. 1977, therefore, the extent of such purchases could not reasonably be ascertained.

#### School Food Service

The District does not participate in the Child Nutrition Program and therefore received no federal or state support.

#### Student Body Activities

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the records of the Student Activities Fund for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records.

#### Finding:

During our review of student activities records, we noted that a receipt of goods signature and/or vendor's claimant signature were not consistently obtained on the related purchase orders for all cash disbursements.

#### Recommendation:

It is recommended that a receipt of goods certification and vendor's claimant signature are obtained on the related purchase orders prior to all payments.

#### Management's Response:

The Business Administrator will communicate all of the bookkeeping requirements to the schools and will make arrangements to provide assistance to them, if necessary, in their implementation.

#### Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 15, 2015 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the disabled, low income students and bilingual education. We also performed a review of the District procedures related to its completion. The information on the A.S.S.A. was compared to the District workpapers with minor exceptions. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified on a test basis without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

The District maintained workpapers on the prescribed State forms or their equivalent.

The District's written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data appear to be adequate.

### **Pupil Transportation**

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported on the 2015-2016 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The information that was included on the DRTRS was verified to the DRTRS Eligibility Summary Report with a minor exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

Our procedures also included a review of transportation related contracts and purchases. Based on our review, the District complied with proper bidding procedures and award of contracts. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

#### Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of the SDA grant agreements for consistency with recording SDA revenue, transfer of local funds from the general fund or from the capital reserve account, and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction.

#### Finding:

During our review it was noted that the Middle School improvements project has been complete for a few years and the outstanding SDA grant is still receivable. Since the District has filed all the necessary paperwork and is currently in final review at the State a formal recommendation is not deemed to be warranted.

#### Management Suggestions

#### Student Body Activities

Though the student activity records are managed in a custodial capacity and the State Board of Education has not prescribed a uniform system of bookkeeping, it is suggested that the District follow the same guidelines as prescribed for the governmental funds as a better business practice.

### Management Suggestions (Cont'd)

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements:

The next Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") statement which will have a significant impact on the District will be GASB#75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions, will be effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. This standard replaces GASB#45, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions. It is similar to GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions GASB#68 in that successful implementation of this standard will require the provision of certain key financial and non-financial information from the New Jersey Division of Pensions.

#### Deferred Compensation Plans

The District has a fiduciary responsibility to its employees related to the deferred compensation plans offered by the District. The District should consider a periodic review of the benefits, features, costs, and performance of its deferred compensation plans and make that information available to employees to assist employees in making suitable choices for investing their retirement funds while fulfilling the District's fiduciary responsibilities.

#### Cyber Security

Cyber-crime has become much more prevalent in the last few years. Websites and internal networks, including personally identifiable information ("PII"), have been hacked and resulted in significant losses to organizations, both financial and reputational. We suggest that the District consider options to test and protect the District from cyber-crime.

#### Independent Contractors vs. Employees

The District should consider reviewing the status of "Independent Contractors" utilized by the District with Internal Revenue Service guidelines for determination of employment status. The IRS has been reviewing employers, including governments, to determine compliance. A proactive approach may help to minimize or eliminate potential penalties related to incorrect employment status determination.

#### Status of Prior Year Findings/Recommendations

The prior year recommendations regarding outstanding purchase orders be review and properly accounted for in the General Fund was resolved in the current year. The prior year recommendation regarding the District continue to pursue the collection of the remaining SDA receivable was partially resolved during the year. The prior year recommendation regarding purchase orders being prepared prior to all purchases for the Student Body Activities is included as a management suggestion in the current year. The prior year recommendation regarding a receipt of goods certification and a vendor's claimant signature be obtained prior to all payments of the Student Body Activities account was not resolved and is included as a current year recommendation.

# WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2015

	2016-17 Application for State School Aid					Sample for Verification						
	Repor	ted on	Repor	ted on			San	nple	Verifi	ed per	Error	s per
	A.S.	S.A.	Work	oapers			Selecte	d from	Regi	sters	Regis	sters
	On	Roll	On	Roll	Err	ors	Workpapers		On Roll		On Roll	
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
Grade Seven	253		248		5		248		248			
Grade Eight	244		239		5		239		239			
Grade Nine	248		246		2		246		246			
Grade Ten	211		212		(1)		212		212			
Grade Eleven	247		248		(1)		248		248			
Grade Twelve	231		229		2		229		229			
Subtotal	1,434		1,422		12		1,422		1,422	<del>,</del>		
Special Education:												
Middle School	90		92		(2)		10		10			
High School	163	11	177		(14)	11	17		17			
Subtotal	253	11	269		(16)	11	27		27			
Totals	1,687	11	1,691	-0-	(4)	11	1,449	-0-	1,449	-0-	-0-	-0-
Percentage Error					-0.24%	100.00%					0.00%	0.00%

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# <u>WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</u> <u>SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS</u> <u>APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY</u> <u>ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2015</u>

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		Private Schools for Disabled						
	Reported on ASSA as Private Schools	Sample for Verification	Sample Verified	Sample Errors				
Special Education:								
Middle School	9	1	1					
High School	23	3	3					
Totals	32	4	4	-0-				
Percentage Error				0.00%				

#### <u>WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</u> <u>SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLLMENT</u> <u>APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY</u> <u>ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2015</u>

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	R	esident Low Income	Sample for Verification			
	Reported on ASSA as Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors
Grade Seven	4	4		1	1	
Grade Eight	4	4		1	1	
Grade Nine	5	5		2	2	
Grade Ten	6	6		2	2	
Grade Eleven	4	4		1	1	
Grade Twelve	4	4		1	1	
Subtotal	27	27		8	8	
Special Education:						
Middle School	7	7		7	7	
High School	12	11	(1)	11	11	
Subtotal	19	18	(1)	18	18	
Totals	46	45	(1)	26	26	-0-
Percentage Error		-	-2.17%			0.00%

#### WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2015

	Resident LEP Low Income						Resident LEP Not Low Income					
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Scores, Application and Register	Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP Not Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Not Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Scores and Register	Sample Errors
Grade Seven	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	
Grade Eight												
Grade Nine	1	1					1	1				
Grade Ten	1	1					1	1				
Grade Eleven	2	2					2	2				
Grade Twelve	2	2		1	1		2	2		1	1	
Subtotal	7	7		2	2		7	7		2	2	
Totals	7	7	-0-	2	2	-0-	77	7	-0-	2	2	0
Percentage Error	r		0.00%			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%

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# WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENT APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2015

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	Transportation								
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors			
	UY DOL	by Distilet							
Regular - Public Schools	964	964		40	40				
Regular - Special Education	135.0	135.0		27	27				
Transported - Non Public	1	1		1		1			
AIL Non- Public	315	315		40	40				
Special Needs - Public	9.0	9.0		2	2				
Special Needs - Private	28	28		4	4				
Totals	1,452	1,452	-0-	114	113	1			
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.88%			

	Reported	Recalculated
Average Mileage - Regular Including Grade PK Students	5.0	5.0
Average Mileage - Regular Excluding Grade PK Students	5.0	5.0
Average Mileage - Special Education with Special Needs	14.4	14.4

# WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

# **EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION**

# **REGULAR DISTRICT**

# SECTION 1

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# A. <u>2% Calculation of Excess Surplus</u>

2015-16 Total General Fund Expenditures per the CAFR, Ex. C-1 Increased by: Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	\$ 37,632,499 (B) \$ -0- (B1a) \$ -0- (B1b)
Decreased by: On-Behalf TPAF Pension and Social Security Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases	<u>\$ 3,551,981</u> (B2a) (B2b)
Adjusted 15-16 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1's)-(B2's)]	<u>\$ 34,080,518</u> (B3)
2% of Adjusted 2015-16 General Fund Expenditures [(B3) times .02] Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000 Increased by: Allowable Adjustment	\$         681,610         (B4)           \$         681,610         (B5)           \$         510,117         (K)
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]	<u>\$ 1,191,727</u> (M)
SECTION 2	
Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/16 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	<u>\$ 6,618,904</u> (C)
Decreased by: Year End Encumbrances Legally Restricted - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Legally Restricted - Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Other Restricted/Reserved Fund Balances Assigned - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 4,302,193 (C4) \$ 496,402 (C5)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance [(C)-(C1)-(C2)-(C3)-(C4)-(C5)]	<u>\$ 1,692,996</u> (U1)
Increased by: Adjustment for Disallowed Transfers per S1701	<u>\$ -0-</u> (C6)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance for Excess Surplus Calculation (U1 + Co	5) <u>\$ 1,692,996</u> (U2)

# WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 (Continued)

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**SECTION 3** 

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Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus [(U2)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE, ENTER -0-	\$ 501,269 (E)
<u>Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2016</u>	
Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)] Fund Balance Restricted for 2015-16 per S1701	\$         -0-         (C3)           \$         -0-         (E)           \$         -0-         (F)
Total $[(C3)+(E)+(F)]$	<u>\$ -0-</u> (D)
Detail of Allowable Adjustments	
Impact Aid Sale and Lease Back Extraordinary Aid Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid Current Year School Bus Advertising Revenue Recognized	\$         -0-         (H)           \$         -0-         (I)           \$         455,307         (J1)           \$         54,810         (J2)           \$         -0-         (J3)
Total Adjustments ((H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)+(J3))	<u>\$ 510,117</u> (K)
Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance	
Statutory restrictions: Approved unspent separate proposal Sale/lease-back reserve Capital reserve Maintenance reserve Emergency reserve Tuition reserve Other state/governmental mandated reserve Other Restricted Fund Balance not noted above	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$ 4,302,193 (C4)

# WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

It is recommended that:

1. <u>Administrative Practices and Procedures</u>

None

2. <u>Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting</u>

None

3. <u>School Purchasing Program</u>

None

4. <u>School Food Service</u>

None

5. <u>Student Body Activities</u>

A receipt of goods certification and vendor's claimant signature are obtained prior to all payments of the Student Body Activities account.

6. <u>Application for State School Aid</u>

None

7. <u>Pupil Transportation</u>

None

8. <u>Facilities and Capital Assets</u>

None.

# 9. <u>Status of Prior Year Findings/Recommendations</u>

The prior year recommendations regarding outstanding purchase orders be review and properly accounted for in the General Fund was resolved in the current year. The prior year recommendation regarding the District continue to pursue the collection of the remaining SDA receivable was partially resolved during the year. The prior year recommendation regarding purchase orders being prepared prior to all purchases for the Student Body Activities is included as a management suggestion in the current year. The prior year recommendation regarding a receipt of goods certification and a vendor's claimant signature be obtained prior to all payments of the Student Body Activities account was not resolved and is included as a current year recommendation.