TOWN OF NEWTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF SUSSEX
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

TOWN OF NEWTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

COUNTY OF SUSSEX

AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE

FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,

COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

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November 8, 2019

The Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education
Town of Newton School District
County of Sussex, 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 Town of Newton School District in the County of Sussex for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, and have issued our report thereon dated November 8, 2019.

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 suggestions and recommendations.

This report is intended for the information of the Town of Newton 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

Heidi A. Wohlleb

Licensed Public School Accountant #2140

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
Dawn L. Babcock	Treasurer of School Monies	\$	235,000
Dr. Alfred Savio	School Business Administrator/Board Secretary		235,000
The District has Employee Dishonesty	and Faithful Performance coverage through the School	Allia	ance 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 and supporting documentation except as noted in the below finding.

Finding

During the course of our testing, it was noted that certain disbursements were made out of the petty cash account that exceeded the per disbursement limit as per the Board policy.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board policy be reviewed to determine if the per disbursement limit for petty cash should be increased.

Management Response

The Board will review the policy and determine whether the per disbursement limit should be increased.

(Continued)

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Cont'd)

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 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.

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.

<u>Classification of Expenditures – General and Administrative</u>

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 included 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.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The E.S.E.A. 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 Titles I, II, III and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

The study of compliance for the E.S.E.A. did not indicate any area of noncompliance.

(Continued)

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Cont'd)

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.

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.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

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, 2019. 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.

School Purchasing Programs (Cont'd)

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

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"

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 \$19,000 for 2018-2019.

As per N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3, the Board passed a resolution at its April 23, 2019 meeting, authorizing the Business Administrator as a qualified purchasing agent and increasing the bid threshold to \$40,000.

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 school food service program was not selected as a major federal and/or state program. We inquired of school management, or the appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the SFA had any Child Nutrition Program reimbursement overclaims or underclaims. No exceptions were noted.

We also inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the SFA's expenditures of school food service revenues were limited to allowable direct and indirect costs. No exceptions were noted.

Non-program foods were purchased, prepared or offered for sale. The Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position in the CAFR Schedule B-5 does separate program and non-program revenue and program and non-program cost of goods sold.

Finding

Net cash resources of the Food Service Fund exceeded three months average expenditures by \$24,008. As the District already has plans in place to reduce the excess, no formal recommendation is judged to be warranted.

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 the analyses of balance for the High School and Merriam Avenue School student activities accounts, we noted certain clubs/activities with deficit balances. As the District is in the process of resolving these deficits and will ensure balances are reviewed on a regular basis in the future, a formal recommendation is not deemed necessary.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 15, 2018 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the disabled, low income and bilingual education students. 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 with a minor 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.

(Continued)

Pupil Transportation

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported on the 2018-2019 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The information that was included on the DRTRS was verified to the DRTRS Eligibility Summary Report without 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

There were no active SDA grants.

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

The District did submit the annual Statement of Assurance to the NJ Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g).

Management Suggestion

New Jersey Earned Sick Leave Law

The New Jersey Earned Sick Leave Law was effective October 29, 2018. This law allows employees to accrue 1 hour of earned sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to 40 hours each calendar year. We suggest that Districts perform a review each year to determine if there are any employees not previously eligible to receive earned sick leave who are now entitled to under this law and that adequate records are maintained for the accrual of the earned sick leave.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements

The next GASB Statement which will have an impact on the District's financial statements is GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, which is effective for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This Statement establishes criteria for identifying fiduciary activities. The focus of the criteria generally is on (1) whether a government is controlling the assets of the fiduciary activity and (2) the beneficiaries with whom a fiduciary relationship exists. The Statement will likely have an impact on the financial statement presentation of the Payroll Agency Fund and may have an impact on the presentation of the Student Activities Agency Fund and Trust Funds.

Purchasing Compliance

It has come to our attention that a number of school districts in New Jersey are being cited by the State Department of education for the purchasing of goods or services prior to the issuance of an approved purchase order. We are taking this opportunity to reiterate to our clients that a valid, approved purchase order must be prepared prior to obligating the District to a purchase of goods or services to be in compliance with requirements of the State.

Follow-up on Prior Year Finding/Recommendation

There were no prior year recommendations.

APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2018

	2019-2020	2019-2020 Application for State School Aid	e School Aid			0,1	Sample for Verification	/erification		
	Reported on	Reported on			Sample	ole	Verified per	d per	Errors per	s per
	A.S.S.A.	Workpapers			Selected from	from	Registers	ters	Registers	sters
	On Roll	On Roll	Errors	ors	Workpapers	tpers	On Roll	toll	On Roll	Roll
	Full Shared	Full Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
Half Day Preschool	26	27	(1)		27		27			
Full Day Kindergarten	80	80			80		80			
Grade One	70	70			70		70			
Grade Two	64	64			64		64			
Grade Three	29	29			29		29			
Grade Four	77	77			77		77			
Grade Five	78	78			78		78			
Grade Six	62	62			62		62			
Grade Seven	73	72	-		72		72			
Grade Eight	65	99	(1)		99		99			
Grade Nine	171	171			171		171			
Grade Ten	149	149			149		149			
Grade Eleven	141	141			141		141			
Grade Twelve	152	152			152		152			
Subtotal	1,275	1,276	(1)		1,276		1,276			
Special Education:										
Elementary School	102	102			10		10			
Middle School	56	56			5		5			
High School	102	102			10		10			
Subtotal	260	260			25		25			
Totals	1,535	1,536	(1)	-0-	1,301		1,301		-0-	-0-
Percentage Error			-0.07%	%00.0					%00.0	%00.0

TOWN OF NEWTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2018

		Private Schools	s for Disabled	
	Reported			
	on ASSA	Sample		
	as Private	for	Sample	Sample
	Schools	Verification	<u>Verified</u>	Errors
Special Education:				
High School	5	2	2	
Totals	5	2	2	-0-
Percentage Error				0.00%

TOWN OF NEWTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENT APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2018

	R	Resident Low Income	e	Sar	mple for Verification	on
	Reported on	Reported on		Sample	Verified to	
	ASSA as	Workpapers as		Selected from	Application	Sample
	Low Income	Low Income	Errors	Workpapers	and Register	Errors
Full Day Kindergarten	35	35		2	2	
Grade One	40	40		2	2	
Grade Two	22	22		2	2	
Grade Three	32	32		2	2	
Grade Four	29	29		2	2	
Grade Five	32	32		2	2	
Grade Six	24	24		2	2	
Grade Seven	35	35		1	1	
Grade Eight	23	22	1	1	1	
Grade Nine	27	27		1	1	
Grade Ten	24	24		1	1	
Grade Eleven	12	12		1	1	
Grade Twelve	27	26	1	1	1	
Subtotal	362	360	2	20	20	
Special Education:						
Elementary School	58	58		3	3	
Middle School	33	33		1	1	
High School	29	29		1	1	
Subtotal	120	120		5	5	
Totals	482	480	2	25	25	-0-
Percentage Error			0.41%			0.00%

APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2018

			Resident LEP	Resident LEP Low Income				Resi	ident LEP N	Resident LEP Not Low Income		
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as	Reported on Workpapers		Sample Selected	Verified to Test Scores,		Reported on A.S.S.A. as	Reported on Workpapers as		Sample Selected	Verified to Test Scores	
	LEP Low	as LEP Low		from	Application	Sample	LEP Not Low	LEP Not Low		from	and	Sample
	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	and Register	Errors	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	Register	Errors
Full Day Kindergarten	9	9					1	_				
Grade One	9	9		-	-		_	_				
Grade Two	-	-					-	1				
Grade Three	_	-					2	2		_	-	
Grade Four	-						2	2		_	-	
Grade Five												
Grade Six	3	3		1	1							
Grade Seven	_	_										
Grade Eight	1	-					-					
Grade Nine	4	4		1	1		5	5		-	_	
Grade Ten	3	3		1	1							
Grade Eleven	-	1					_	-				
Grade Twelve	m	3										
Subtotal	32	32		4	4		14	14		3	3	
Special Ed - Elementary Special Ed - Middle School	- T	_										
Subtotal												
Totals	33	33	0-	4	4	0-	14	14	0-	3	3	-0-
Percentage Error	or		%00.0			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%

TOWN OF NEWTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2018

			Transp	ortation		
	Reported on DRTRS	Reported on DRTRS		T 1		
	by DOE	by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
Regular - Public Schools	69	69		6	6	
Transported - Non Public	26	26		3	3	
AIL Non- Public	3	3		1	1	
Special Needs - Public	44	44		4	4	
Special Needs - Private	2	2		1	1	
Totals	144	144	-0-	15	15	-0-
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

	Reported	Recalculated
Average Mileage - Regular Including Grade PK Students	6.7	6.7
Average Mileage - Regular Excluding Grade PK Students	6.7	6.7
Average Mileage - Special Education with Special Needs	3.9	3.9

TOWN OF NEWTON SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

REGULAR DISTRICT

SECTION 1

A. 2% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2018-2019 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 Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Regular Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Inclusion	\$ 31,623,731 (B) \$ -0- (B1a) \$ -0- (B1b) \$ -0- (B1c) \$ 80,074 (B1d)
Decreased by: On-Behalf TPAF Pension and Social Security Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases	\$ 4,574,772 (B2a) \$ -0- (B2b)
Adjusted 2018-2019 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1's)-(B2's)]	\$ 27,129,033 (B3)
2% of Adjusted 2018-2019 General Fund Expenditures [(B3) times .02] Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000 Increased by: Allowable Adjustment	\$ 542,581 (B4) \$ 542,581 (B5) \$ 2,895 (K)
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]	\$ 545,476 (M)
SECTION 2	
Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2019 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1) Decreased by:	\$ 2,246,544 (C)
Year End Encumbrances Legally Restricted - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Legally Restricted - Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent	\$ 162,062 (C1) \$ -0- (C2)
Year's Expenditures Other Restricted/Reserved Fund Balances	\$ -0- (C3) \$ 1,289,006 (C4)
Assigned - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 250,000 (C5)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance [(C)-(C1)-(C2)-(C3)-(C4)-(C5)-(C-6)]	\$ 545,476 (U1)

TOWN OF NEWTON SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019 (Continued)

SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus [(U1)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE, ENTER -0-	\$ 0 (E)
Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2019	
Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)]	\$ -0- (C3) \$ -0- (E)
Total [(C3)+(E)]	\$ -0- (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 Family Crisis Transportation Aid	\$ -0- (H) \$ -0- (I) \$ -0- (J1) \$ 2,895 (J2) \$ -0- (J3) \$ -0- (J4)
Total Adjustments ((H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)+(J3)+(J4)) Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$ 2,895 (K)
Statutory restrictions: Approved unspent separate proposal Sale/lease-back reserve Capital reserve Maintenance reserve Emergency reserve Tuition reserve School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - current year School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - prior year Impact Aid General Fund Reserve (Sections 8002 and 8003) Impact Aid Capital Fund Reserve (Sections 8007 and 8008) Other state/governmental mandated reserve	\$ -0- \$ -0- \$ 1,289,006 \$ -0- \$ -0- \$ -0- \$ -0- \$ -0- \$ -0- \$ -0-
Other Restricted Fund Balance not noted above	\$ -0-
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$ 1,289,006 (C4)

TOWN OF NEWTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

It is recommended that:

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

None

2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

The Board policy be reviewed to determine if the per disbursement limit for petty cash should be increased.

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

None

4. School Food Service

None

5. Student Body Activities

None

6. Application for State School Aid

None

7. <u>Pupil Transportation</u>

None

8. Facilities and Capital Assets

None

9. <u>Status of Prior Year's Finding/Recommendation</u>

There were no prior year recommendations.