NORTH BERGEN BOARD OF EDUCATION INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS -FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE JUNE 30, 2019

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LERCH, VINCI & HIGGINS, LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS REGISTERED MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANTS

DIETER P. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA
GARY J. VINCI, CPA, RMA, PSA
GARY W. HIGGINS, CPA, RMA, PSA
JEFFREY C. BLISS, CPA, RMA, PSA
PAUL J. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA
DONNA L. JAPHET, CPA, PSA
JULIUŞ B. CONSONI, CPA, PSA
ANDREW D. PARENTE, CPA, RMA, PSA

ELIZABETH A. SHICK, CPA, RMA, PSA
ROBERT W. HAAG, CPA, PSA
DEBORAH K. LERCH, CPA, PSA
RALPH M. PICONE, CPA, RMA, PSA
DEBRA GOLLE, CPA
MARK SACO, CPA
SHERYL M. LEIDIG, CPA, PSA
ROBERT LERCH, CPA
CHRIS SOHN, CPA

Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education North Bergen Board of Education North Bergen, New Jersey

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the North Bergen Board of Education as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, and have issued our report thereon dated December 18, 2019.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Trustees, others within the District and the New Jersey State Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

LERCH, VINCI & HIGGINS, LLP Certified Public Accountants

Public School Accountants

Gary J. Vinci

Public School Accountant PSA Number CS00829

Fair Lawn, New Jersey December 18, 2019

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary 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

Fire Insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on Exhibit J-20, "Schedule of Insurance", as reported in the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (the "CAFR").

Official Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hugo Cabrera	Board Secretary	\$150,000
Steven Somick	School Business Administrator	150,000
Thomas Tango	Treasurer of School Monies	500,000

There is a Public Employees' Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$100,000.

Tuition Charges

A comparison of tentative tuition charges and actual certified tuition charges was made. The Board made a proper adjustment to the billings to sending Districts for the adjustment in per pupil costs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:A:23.3(f)3.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

An examination of claims paid during the period under review did not reveal any material discrepancies with respect to signature certification or supporting documentation.

Payroll Account

The net salaries of all employees of the Board were deposited in the Payroll Account. Employees' payroll deductions and employer's share of payroll taxes were also deposited in the Payroll Account.

All payrolls tested were certified by the President of the Board, the Board Secretary and the Chief School Administrator.

Salary withholdings tested were promptly remitted to the proper agencies including employee health benefits contribution withholdings due to the General Fund. The School Business Administrator completed and filed the required Certification of Compliance with Federal and State Law respecting the reporting of compensation of certain employees.

Finding – The health benefit opt-out payments are being made at twenty-five percent of the Chapter 78 contribution up to the maximum of \$5,000. The correct calculation is twenty-five percent of the net premium up to a maximum of \$5,000.

Recommendation – The District calculate the payment to employees who are opting out of health benefits in accordance with Chapter 78 P.L. 2011.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Payroll Account (Continued)

The District maintains a personnel tracking and accounting (Position Control) system.

Unemployment Compensation

The District has elected the reimbursement method for unemployment compensation. Under this method, a portion of the quarterly worker contribution is to be deposited into the District's unemployment insurance trust fund and be used to pay invoices received from the State for unemployment claims.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made as of June 30, for goods not yet received or services not yet rendered and it was determined that no blanket purchase orders were included in the balance of the reserves for encumbrances. Also, unpaid purchase orders included in the balance of accounts payable were reviewed for propriety and to determine that goods were received and services were rendered, as of June 30.

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(g) 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, our sample selection specifically targeted administrative coding, classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-2.4.

Board Secretary's Records

The prescribed contractual order system was followed.

Acknowledgment of the Board's receipt of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports was included in the minutes.

Finding – The District maintains a transportation bank account to process aid in lieu payment checks. At June 30, 2019, the District's transportation bank account had a cash balance of \$4,930. In addition, checks totaling approximately \$50 thousand have been outstanding for an extended period of time. This account balance was not recorded in the District's financial reports and was not included in the Board Secretary's report or Treasurer's cash report.

Recommendation – The transportation account transactions be included in the District's monthly financial reports and the excess cash balance be refunded to the Board's General Account.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Treasurer's Records

The Treasurer performed all cash reconciliations as required.

The Treasurer's records were in agreement with the records of the Board Secretary.

The Treasurer's cash balances were in agreement with the reconciled cash balances as determined during the audit.

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 within the Special Revenue section of the CAFR. This section of the CAFR documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Title I, II, III, and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.), as amended and reauthorized.

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.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The District's Special Projects were approved as listed on Exhibits K-3 and K-4 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.

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.

Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF)

Our audit procedures included a test of the semi-monthly reimbursement forms filed with the Department of Education for District employees who are members of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions were noted.

The amount of expenditures charged to the current year's Final Reports for all federal awards for the school district to reimburse the State for the TPAF/Social Security payments made by the State on-behalf of the school district for those employees whose salaries are identified as being paid from federal funds was made prior to the end of the 60 day grant liquidation period required by the Office of Grants Management. The expenditure was reviewed subsequent to the reimbursement and no exceptions were noted.

School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

The bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-23 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 \$19,000. The Board has designated the School Business Administrator as the qualified purchasing agent.

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

School Purchasing Programs (Continued)

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

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.

The results of our examination indicated that no individual payments, contracts, or agreements were made "for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies," 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.

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. Our examination did reveal, however, that purchases were made through the use of State contracts.

Food Service Fund

The financial transactions and statistical records of the school food services were reviewed. The financial accounts, meal count records and eligibility applications were reviewed on a test-check basis.

Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed for timely deposit.

The district utilizes a food service management company NuWay Concessionaries and is depositing and expending program monies in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34 and 19-1 through 19-4.1. Provisions of the contract were reviewed. The contract includes a provision which guarantees that the food service program will have a minimum profit of \$80,000. The operating results provision has been met.

Expenditures were separately recorded as food, labor and other costs. Vendor invoices were reviewed and costs verified. Inventory records on food supply items were currently maintained and properly applied in determining the cost of food and supplies used.

The cash disbursements records reflected expenditures for program related goods and services. The appropriate revenue and expenditure records were maintained in order to substantiate the non-profit status of the school food service fund.

Finding – The June 30, 2019 net cash resources exceeded the three month average of food service expenses.

Recommendation – The District review the operations of its Food Service Enterprise Fund to ensure that the net cash resources do not exceed the three month average expenses.

The number of meals claimed for reimbursement was compared to meal count records. As part of the claims process, the district completed edit check worksheets. Reimbursement claims were submitted/certified in a timely manner.

Finding — Our audit of the FSMC operating statement revealed that the meals claimed for which the District's administration fee is based did not agree with the meals claimed for reimbursement submitted to the Department of Agriculture.

Recommendation – The District review the FSMC operating statement on a monthly basis to ensure that the meals claimed for reimbursement agree with the reimbursement requests submitted to the Department of Agriculture.

Food Service Fund (Continued)

Applications for free and reduced price meals were reviewed for completeness and accuracy. The number of free and reduced price meals claimed as served was compared to the number of valid applications or to the list of directly certified students on file, times the number of operating days, on a school-by-school basis. The free and reduced price meal and milk policy was reviewed for uniform administration throughout the school system. The required verification procedures for free and reduced price applications were completed and available for review.

U.S.D.A. commodities were received and an inventory was maintained on a first-in, first-out basis.

The District's Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position (CAFR Schedule B-5) does separate program and non-program revenue and cost of goods sold.

The District's FSMC did provide the USDA mandated Non-Program Food Revenue tool.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included on Exhibits B-4, B-5 and B-6 of the District's CAFR.

Student Body Activities

The Board has a policy which clearly established the regulation of student activity and athletic account funds.

Finding — Our audit of Student Body Activities and Athletic account funds revealed that the balances of individual clubs and activities in the High School account is not in agreement with the reconciled cash balance in the account.

Recommendation – It is recommended that account balances in the High School Activity account be reviewed and in agreement with the monthly bank reconciliations.

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 limited English proficient. We also performed a review of the District procedures related to its completion. The information on the A.S.S.A. was compared to District workpapers with immaterial exceptions noted. The information on the workpapers was verified with minor exceptions noted. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

The District maintain workpapers on the prescribed state forms or their equivalent.

The District has adequate written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

Pupil Transportation

Our audit procedures included a test of on roll status reported in the 2018-2019 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The information that was included on the DRTRS was verified to the DRTRS Eligibility Report with immaterial exceptions noted. 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 School Development Authority (the "SDA") grant agreement for consistency with recording SDA revenue, transfer of local funds from the general fund and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction.

Miscellaneous

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

The school district adhered to all the requirements of N.J.A.C. 26-1.2 and 12.4 related to the testing for lead of all drinking water in educational facilities.

The school district submitted the annual Statement of Assurance to the Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g).

Follow-Up on Prior Year Findings

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year findings.

Suggestions to Management

- Outstanding checks and other reconciling items on the District's bank reconciliations be reviewed and cleared of record. In addition, old class accounts in the High School activity account should be reviewed and cleared of record.
- Interfund balances at June 30, 2019 should be cleared of record.

NORTH BERGEN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE FUND NUMBER OF MEALS FOOD SERVICE ENTERPRISE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

THIS SCHEDULE IS NOT APPLICABLE

NORTH BERGEN BOARD OF EDUCATION CALCULATION OF NET CASH RESOURCES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

THIS SCHEDULE IS NOT APPLICABLE

NORTH BERGEN BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2018 SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

		2018-2019	Applicatio	n for State S	School Aid	l	Sample for Verification						Private Schools for Disabled			
_	Repor	ted on	Repor	ted on			San	iple	Verifie	d per	Error	s per	Reported on	Sample		
	A.S.	S.A.	Work	apers			Selecte	d from	Regis	ter	Regis	sters	A.S.S.A. as	from		
	On I	Roll	On I		Err	ors	Work	papers	On R	oll	On I	Roll	Private	Work-	Sample	Sample
_	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Schools	papers	Verfiled	Errors
Half Day Preschool 4 yrs	185		185				185		185							
Full Day Kindergarten	396		396				14		14							
Grade 1	421		421				113		113							
Grade 2	461		461				64		64							
Grade 3	470		470				30		30							
Grade 4	483		483				65		65							
	477		463				107		107							
Grade 5			464													
Grade 6	464						67		67							
Grade 7	518		518				66		66							
Grade 8	463		463				54		54							
Grade 9	545		545				545		545							
Grade 10	496		496				496		496							
Grade 11	490		490				490		490							
Grade 12	478		478				478		478							
Subtotal	6,347	-	6,347	-		-	2,774		2,774	-	-			-		-
Special Ed - Elementary	524		524				56		56				7	6	6	
Special Ed - Middle	257		257				46		46				9	8	8	
Special Ed - High	368		368				368		368				23	20	20	
Subtotal	1,149	-	1,149	-		-	470	-	470	-	_	-	39	34	34	-
Totals	7,496	_	7,496	_	-	_	3,244	-	3,244		-	-	39	34	34	
Percentage Error				===	0.00%	6 0.00%				=	0.00%	0.00%				0.00%

NORTH BERGEN BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2018 SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

	Resident Low Income			Sample for Verification			Resident	LEP Free/Low Inc	ome	Sample for Verification		
-	Reported on	Reported on					Reported on	Reported on		,		
	A.S.S.A as	Workpapers as		Sample	Verified to		A.S.S.A as	Workpapers as		Sample	Verified to	
	Low	Low		Selected from	Application	Sample	LEP	LEP Low		Selected from	Test Application	
-	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	and Register	Errors	Low Income	Income	Errors	Worpapers	and Register	Errors
Full Day Kindergarten	295	295		5	5		59	59		6	6	_
Grade 1	316	316		5	5		52	52		5	5	
Grade 2	335	335		5	5		46	46		5	5	
Grade 3	323	323		4	4		36	36		4	4	
Grade 4	346	346		5	5		45	45		5	5	
Grade 5	325	326	(1)	5	5		39	37	2	4	4	
Grade 6	304	304	(-/	5	5		32	32		3	3	
Grade 7	298	299	(1)	5	5		44	44		5	5	
Grade 8	276	276	(-)	4	4		46	46		5	5	
Grade 9	289	287	2	5	5		46	46		6	6	
Grade 10	248	248		4	4		31	31		5	5	
Grade 11	258	258		4	4		30	30		4	4	
Grade 12	246	246		4	4		38	38		4	4	
Subtotal	3,859	3,859		60	60		544	542	2	61	61	
Special Ed - Elementary	337	335	2	5	5		15	14	1	1	1	
Special Ed - Middle	174	174		3	3		8	8		1	1	
Special Ed - High	226	223	3	4	4		4	4		1	1	
Subtotal	737	732	5	12	12	-	27	26	1	3	3	-
Totals	4,596	4,591	5	72	72		571	568	3	64	64	
Percentage Error		-	0.11%			0.00%			0.53%		=	0.00%

			Transporta	tion		
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE/County	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
Reg Public Schools	766	766		153.0	153.0	
Special Ed Public	169	169		34.0	34.0	
Special Needs - Public	79	79		16.0	16.0	
•	1,014	1,014	-	203.0	203.0	-
Percentage Error		=	0.00%		:	0.00%

NORTH BERGEN BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2018 SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

	Resident L	EP NOT Low Incon	ne	Sample for Verification				
_	Reported on	Reported on						
	A.S.S.A as	Workpapers as		Sample	Sample			
	NOT Low	NOT Low		Selected from	Verified to			
	Income	Income	Errors	Worpapers	Register	Errors		
-						····		
Full Day Kindergarten	6.0	6.0		3.0	3.0			
Grade 1	5.0	5.0		2.0	2.0			
Grade 2	10.0	10.0		4.0	4.0			
Grade 3	3.0	3.0		1.0	1.0			
Grade 4	5.0	5.0		2.0	2.0			
Grade 5	4.0	4.0		2.0	2.0			
Grade 6	3.0	3.0		1.0	1.0			
Grade 7	9.0	9.0		4.0	4.0			
Grade 8	7.0	7.0		3.0	3.0			
Grade 9	10.0	10.0		4.0	4.0			
Grade 10	15.0	15.0		7.0	7.0			
Grade 11	14.0	16.0	(2.0)	7.0	7.0			
Grade 12	14.0	15.0	(1.0)	7.0	7.0			
Subtotal	105.0	108.0	(3.0)	47.0	47.0	-		
Suototal	105.0	100.0	(3.0)	17.0	17.0			
Special Ed - Elementary	2.0	2.0	-	1.0	1.0			
Special Ed - Middle								
Special Ed - High	2.0	2.0	-	1.0	1.0			
Subtotal	4.0	4.0	_	2.0	2.0			
Total	109.0	112.0	(3.0)	49.0	49.0	_		

Percentage Error -2.75% 0.00%

NORTH BERGEN BOARD OF EDUCATION CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

2018-2019 Total General Fund Expenditures		\$	133,767,464	
Increased by: Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects			4,958,000	
			138,725,464	
Decreased by: On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security			(19,565,524)	
Adjusted 2018-2019 General Fund Expenditures		<u>\$</u>	119,159,940	
2% of Adjusted 2018-2019 General Fund Expenditures		\$	2,383,199	
Increased by: Allowable Adjustments		-	312,962	
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance				\$ 2,696,161
Total General Fund - Fund Balance at June 30, 2019 (Budgetary Basis)		\$	23,966,127	
Decreased by: Encumbrances Capital Reserve Maintenance Reserve Emergency Reserve Excess Surplus Designated for Subsequent Year's Budget Designated for Subsequent Year's Budget Nonspendable - Prepaids Total Unassigned Fund Balance Excess Surplus, June 30, 2019 Analysis of Excess Surplus	\$ 3,201,490 8,655,216 1,300,000 598,500 1,104,475 4,903,089 398,500		20,161,270	3,804,857 \$ 1,108,696
Excess Surplus Designed for Subsequent Year's Budget Excess Surplus				\$ 1,104,475
				\$ 2,213,171
Allowable Adjustments Unbudgeted Extraordinary Aid Non Public Transportation Aid				\$ 219,582 93,380 \$ 312,962

NORTH BERGEN BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Administrative Practices and Procedures

There are none.

II. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

It is recommended that:

- * 1. The District calculate the payment to employees who are opting out of health benefits in accordance with Chapter 78 P.L. 2011.
 - 2. The transportation account transactions be included in the District's monthly financial reports and the excess cash balance be refunded to the Board's General Account.

III. School Purchasing Program

There are none.

IV. School Food Services

It is recommended that:

- * 1. The District review the operations of its Food Service Enterprise Fund to ensure that the net cash resources do not exceed the three months average expenses.
- * 2. The District review the FSMC operating statement on a monthly basis to ensure that the meals claimed for reimbursement agree with the reimbursement requests submitted to the Department of Agriculture.

V. Student Body Activities

* It is recommended that account balances in the High School Activity account be reviewed and in agreement with the monthly bank reconciliations.

VI. Application for State School Aid

There are none.

VII. Pupil Transportation

There are none.

VIII. Facilities and Capital Assets

There are none.

IX. Miscellaneous

There are none.

NORTH BERGEN BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

X. Status of Prior Years' Audit Findings/Recommendations

A review was performed on all prior years' recommendations and corrective action was taken on all prior year recommendations, except those denoted with an asterisk (*).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the school District and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to us.

Respectfully submitted,

LERCH, VINCI & HIGGINS, LLP

Certified Public Accountant

Public School Accountant