

PACE CHARTER SCHOOL OF HAMILTON

AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

Barre & Company LLC
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

PACE CHARTER SCHOOL OF HAMILTON

**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS
FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

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BARRE & COMPANY LLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

2204 Morris Avenue, Suite 206
Union, New Jersey 07083
(908) 686-3484
FAX – (908) 686-6055

Report of Independent Auditors

Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Trustees
Pace Charter School of Hamilton
County of Mercer, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with generally accepted audit standards and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Board of Trustees of the Pace Charter School of Hamilton in the County of Mercer for the year ended June 30, 2019, and have issued our report thereon dated December 12, 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.

This report is intended for the information of the Pace Charter School of Hamilton Board of Trustees' management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.



Richard M. Barre
Licensed Public School Accountant
No. CS-O1181
Barre & Company, CPAs

December 12, 2019

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Scope of Audit

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

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

Fire insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on Exhibit J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the Charter School's CAFR.

Official Bonds (N.J.S.A. 18A:17-26, 18A:17-32, 18A:13-13)

There was no Public Employees' Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond.

Tuition Charges

A review of financial statements indicated that the Charter School charged no tuition for any student attending the Charter School and all proceeds for a before/after school program were accounted for in an Enterprise Fund.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

An examination of claims paid during the period under review did not indicate any discrepancies with respect to signatures, 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 fringe benefits were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account.

All payrolls were approved by the designee in the Charter School and were certified by the President of the Board, the Board Secretary/Business Administrator, and the Chief School Administrator.

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including health benefits withholding due to the general fund.

Current statute is posted on the New Jersey Legislature website at: Payrolls were delivered to the treasurer of school moneys with a warrant made to his order for the full amount of each payroll.

Payrolls were delivered to the secretary of the board who then deposited with warrants in separate bank accounts for net payroll and withholdings.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made as of June 30 for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable. No exceptions were noted during our review.

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(f)* as part of our test of transactions of randomly selected expenditure items. We also reviewed the coding of the 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-8.3*. As a result of the procedures performed, a transaction error rate of 1.90% overall was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

A. General Classification Findings

No exceptions or discrepancies were noted in the general classification of expenditures.

B. Administrative Classification Findings

No exceptions or discrepancies were noted in the administrative classification of expenditures.

Board Secretary's Records

Finding Item #2019-001 (CAFR Finding #2019-001):

There were three instances where invoices were approved for payment by the Board that should not have been approved because of either lack of proper documentation or payment instructions by the vendor that disagreed with the invoice.

Recommendations:

The Board should be properly trained in the statutory requirements for purchases of goods and services by charter schools and should properly review and question disbursements, especially where statutory requirements are not being properly met.

Finding Item #2019-002 (CAFR Finding #2019-002):

The BA did not attend or participate in any board meetings during the school year.

Recommendations:

The BA should have his responsibilities expanded which would include attendance at each board meeting, presentation of all financial documents, with an active role in monitoring and oversight of all financial activities.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Board Secretary's Records (continued)

Finding Item #2019-003 (CAFR Finding #2019-003):

In several instances it was found that the purchase order either did not match the invoice or was prepared and signed after the invoice was received. In some cases the purchase order was not signed by the BA or was signed by facsimile signature without the knowledge of the BA.

Recommendations:

The Board should approve purchasing procedures that include controls that would segregate the duties of requisitioning the purchase, preparing and approving the purchase order, selecting a vendor, approving payment, and signing the check for payment. Duties and responsibilities should be clearly communicated to each person involved in the process.

Treasurer's Records

There were no items noted during our review of the records of the Treasurer.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.)/Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

The E.S.E.A./NCLB financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the CAFR. This section of the CAFR documents the financial position pertaining to the projects under Titles I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

The study of compliance for E.S.E.A. did not indicate any areas of noncompliance and/or questionable cost.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The Charter School'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 the 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.

The study of compliance for the special projects did not indicate any areas of noncompliance.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement

Our audit procedures included a test of the biweekly reimbursements (electronic, but Charter Schools can print out the DOENET screen for an auditor) filed with the Department of Education for Charter School employees who are members of the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions were noted.

School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. (Public School Contracts Law), the associated rules and related information on the statute, and school contracts in general (as of June 2007) is available on the website: <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/lpcl.html>. http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=1319801&depth=2&expandheadings=off&headingswithhits=on&infobase=statutes.nfo&softpage=TOC_Frame_Pg42 Auditors should refer to Section I, Chapter 5, Bids & Contracts/Purchasing for highlights of *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3* and 4.

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 \$18,800

The Charter School board of trustees 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 Solicitor's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

Based on the results of our examination, we did not note any individual payments, contracts, or agreements made 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 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*.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

School Purchasing Programs (Continued)

School Food Service

The financial transactions and statistical records of the school food service fund 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 Charter School utilizes a food service management company (FSMC) 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 FSMC contract/addendum were reviewed and audited. .

Expenditures should be separately recorded as food. Vendor invoices were reviewed and costs verified.

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.

The number of meals claimed for reimbursement was compared to sales and meal count records. As part of the claims review process that Edit Check Worksheet was completed. Reimbursement claims were submitted/certified in a timely manner.

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 and/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 free milk policy was reviewed for uniform administration throughout the school system. Sites approved to participate in Provisions I and II were examined for compliance with all counting and claiming requirements. The required verification procedures for free and reduced price applications were completed and available for review.

No Exceptions Noted.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Enrollment Counts and Submissions to the Department

Our audit procedures included a test of enrollment information reported on October 16, 2018 and the last day of school for on-roll, special education, bilingual and low-income.

Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of the SDA grant agreement 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.

Miscellaneous

Finding Item #2019-004 (CAFR Finding #2019-004):

There were two instances where 1099's should have been submitted to independent contractors but were not in violation of federal and state tax laws.

Recommendations:

The Board should approve written procedures that would include controls for ensuring that proper training is provided to those involved in purchasing activities. This would include training in understanding the rules and regulations for identifying independent contractors that require a Form 1099 as well as obtaining the knowledge necessary to maintain the proper documentation required of all independent contractors.

Follow-up on Prior Year Findings

None

Acknowledgment

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the Charter School and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to the members of the audit team.

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

PACE CHARTER SCHOOL OF HAMILTON
APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID
ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF OCTOBER 16, 2018

Grades	Submission to DOE Reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	Verified Signed Registration Forms	Errors	Verified # Days Enrolled	Errors	Sample				Errors	Percentage	
							Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Verified # of Days Service Provided	Low Income			Verified Documentation
Kindergarten	45	45	45	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	17	17	
One	48	48	48	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	18	18	
Two	45	45	45	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	15	15	
Three	45	45	45	-	45	1	1	1	1	1	17	17	
Four	44	44	44	-	44	1	1	1	1	1	19	19	
Five	45	45	45	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	20	20	
Six	42	42	42	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	17	17	
Seven	27	27	27	-	27	2	2	2	2	2	12	12	
Totals	341	341	341	-	341	4	4	4	4	4	135	135	-
Percentage				0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

PACE CHARTER SCHOOL OF HAMILTON
 APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID
 ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2019

Grades	Submission to DOE Reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	Verified Signed Registration Forms	Errors	Verified # Days Enrolled	Special Ed/		Verified		Verified # of Days Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified Documentation	Errors
						Bilingual	Documentation	Documentation	Documentation					
Kindergarten	46	46	46	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17	-
One	48	48	48	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	19	-
Two	45	45	45	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15	-
Three	44	44	44	-	44	2	2	2	2	2	-	17	17	-
Four	44	44	44	-	44	1	1	1	1	1	-	19	19	-
Five	45	45	45	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	21	-
Six	42	42	42	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	18	-
Seven	27	27	27	-	27	2	2	2	2	2	-	13	13	-
Totals	341	341	341	-	341	5	5	5	5	5	-	139	139	-

Percentage 0.00% 0.00% 0.00% 0.00% 0.00%

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-7 requires that excess surplus for regular school districts and charter schools is calculated using 2% for June 30, 2005 and thereafter. Pursuant to P.L. 2007, c.62, the minimum was raised from \$100,000 to \$250,000, effective beginning with the year ending June 30, 2007.

Charter schools are not subject to the excess surplus limitations. Charter school auditors are required to document the calculation of excess surplus pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-7 solely for the purpose of adherence to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-22.4(e), which provides that a district board of education may petition the Commissioner to pay a lower per-pupil rate if the charter school spends "significantly less than budgeted and has accumulated a sizable surplus."

CALCULATION:

Complete Sections 1 and 2. If the total of Section 2 is **greater** than the applicable portion of Section 1, enter the difference in Section 3. If the difference results in a negative, enter a zero in Section 3. The applicable sections are to be submitted as part of the Auditor's Management Report.

Note that beginning with the excess surplus calculation for the year ending June 30, 2012 the transfer to food services is no longer an adjustment (increase) to total general fund expenditures. This was first introduced in supporting documentation item 9 on page 123 of the 2011-12 Budget Guidelines and continues to apply to audited excess surplus at June 30, 2018.

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

PACE CHARTER SCHOOL OF HAMILTON

SECTION 1

A. 2% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2018-19 Total General Fund Expenditures per the CAFR, Ex. C-1	\$	4,485,402	(B)
Increased by:			
Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund		-	(B1a)
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund		-	(B1b)
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Regular		-	(B1c)
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Inclusion		-	(B1d)
Decreased by:			
Oh-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security		(555,778)	(B2a)
Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases		-	(B2b)
Adjusted 2018-19 General Fund Expenditures		<u>3,929,624</u>	(B3)
2% of Adjusted 2018-19 General Fund Expenditures		<u>78,592</u>	(B4)
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000		250,000	(B5)
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment *		-	(K)
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance/Undesignated-Unreserved Fund Balance			<u>\$ 250,000</u> (M)

SECTION 2

Total General Fund - Fund Balance @ 6/30/2019 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	\$	647,499	(C)
Decrease by:			
Year-end Encumbrances		-	(C1)
Legally Restricted - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures		-	(C2)
Legally Restricted - Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures **		-	(C3)
Other Restricted Fund Balances ****		-	(C4)
Assigned Fund Balance - Unreserved - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures		-	(C5)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance			<u>647,499</u> (U1)

SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus ***			<u>\$ 397,499</u> (E)
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Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2019

Reserved Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures **	\$	-	(C3)
Reserved Excess Surplus ***		<u>397,499</u>	(E)
Total Excess Surplus		<u>397,499</u>	(D)

Footnotes:

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

PAGE CHARTER SCHOOL OF HAMILTON

* Allowable adjustment to expenditures on line K must be detailed as follows. This adjustment line (as detailed below) is to be utilized when applicable for:

(H) Federal Impact Aid. The passage of P.L. 2015, c.46 amended N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-41 to permit a board of education to appropriate federal impact aid funds to establish or supplement a federal impact aid legal reserve in the general fund. Accordingly, the Federal Impact Aid adjustment to expenditures is limited to the portion of Federal Impact Aid Section 8002 and Section 8003 received during the fiscal year and recognized as revenue on the General Fund Budgetary Comparison Schedule, but not transferred to the Federal Impact Aid Reserve - General (8002 or 8003) by board resolution during June 1 to June 30 of the fiscal year under audit. Amounts transferred to the reserve are captured on line (C4);

(I) Sale and Lease-Back (Refer to the Audit Program Section II, Chapter 10);

(J1) Extraordinary Aid;

(J2) Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid;

(J3) Recognized Current Year School Bus Advertising Revenue; and

(J4) Family Crisis Transportation Aid.

Notes to auditor: Refer to the Audit Program Section II, Chapter 10 for restrictions on the inclusion of Extraordinary Aid, Family Crisis Transportation Aid, and Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid.

Detail of Allowable Adjustments

Impact Aid	\$	-	(H)
Sale & Lease-Back		-	(I)
Extraordinary Aid		-	(J1)
Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid		-	(J2)
Current Year School Bus Advertising Revenue Recognized		-	(J3)
Family Crisis Transportation Aid		-	(J4)
		<hr/>	
Total Adjustments	\$	-	(K)

** This amount represents the June 30, 2019 Excess Surplus (C3 above) and must be included in the Audit Summary Worksheet Line 90031.

*** Amounts must agree to the June 30, 2019 CAFR and must agree to Audit Summary Worksheet Line 90030.

**** Amount for Other Reserved Fund Balances must be detailed for each source. Use in the excess surplus calculation of any legal reserve that is not state mandated or that is not legally imposed by an other type of government, such as the judicial branch of government, must have departmental approval. District requests should be submitted to the Division of Administration and Finance prior to September 30.

Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance

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/government mandated reserve		-	
[Other Restricted Fund Balance not noted above] ****		-	
		<hr/>	
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$	-	(C4)

**PACE CHARTER SCHOOL OF HAMILTON
AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JUNE 30, 2019**

Findings and Recommendations:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures

None

2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

There are three exceptions noted as items #2019-001, #2019-002 and #2019-003.

3. School Purchasing Programs

None

4. School Food Service

None

5. Student Body Activities

None

6. Application for State School Aid/Charter School Enrollment System/Charter School Aid

None

7. Pupil Transplantation

None

8. Facilities and Capital Assets

None

9. Miscellaneous

There is one exception noted as Item #2019-004

10. Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations including findings. Corrective action has been taken on all prior year findings.