BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT <u>COUNTY OF SOMERSET</u> <u>AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON</u> <u>ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,</u> <u>COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE</u> FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

# BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT <u>COUNTY OF SOMERSET</u> AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE <u>FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,</u> <u>COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE</u> <u>FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020</u> <u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>

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Independent Member BKR International

December 16, 2020

The Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education Branchburg Township School District County of Somerset, New Jersey

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 Branchburg Township School District in the County of Somerset for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated December 16, 2020.

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 letter does not affect our report dated December 16, 2020, on the financial statements of the Board.

We will review the status of our suggestions and comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed the suggestions and any comments 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 or comments.

This report is intended for the information of the Branchburg Township 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

NISIVOCCIA, LLP

Kathryn L. Mantell

Kathryn L. Mantell Licensed Public School Accountant #884 Certified Public Accountant

## Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, 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	 overage	
Theresa Elizabeth Linskey	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	\$ 350,000	

## 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:23-3.1(f)3.

#### Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

#### Examination of Claims

An examination of claims paid on a test basis, during the period under review did not indicate any discrepancies 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 health benefits withholding due to the General Fund.

All payrolls tested were approved by the Chief School Administrator and certified by the President of the Board and the School Business Administrator and the Chief School Administrator.

The required certification (E-CERT1) of compliance with requirements for income tax on compensation of administrators (superintendents, assistant superintendents and business administrator) to the New Jersey Department of Treasury was filed by March 15<sup>th</sup> due date.

#### 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.

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

#### Classification of General and Administrative Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.2(g) as part of our test of transactions of randomly selected expenditure items. In addition to randomly selecting a test sample, we also reviewed administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.2. We also reviewed the coding of all expenditures included in our compliance and single audit testing procedures. As a result of the procedures performed, no transaction errors were noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

#### 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 except as noted herein.

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

The E.S.E.A. financial exhibits are contained 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, Title IIA, Title III Immigrant and Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

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

## Other Special Federal and/or State 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.

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.

#### 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 of 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, 2020. The reimbursement form was reviewed and no exceptions were noted.

(Continued)

## 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 ....."

Effective July 1, 2015, the bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 and 40A:11-4 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 2019-20.

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. General compliance was noted.

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.

## School Purchasing Programs (Cont'd)

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

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. However, the program expenditures exceeded \$100,000 in federal and/or State support. Accordingly, 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.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in the section entitled Proprietary Funds, Section G of the District's CAFR.

We also inquired of management about the emergency COVID-19 procedures/practices that the SFA instituted to provide meals to eligible students, maintenance of all applicable production records, meal counts, noncompetitive procurements, modification of existing contracts and applicable financial records to document the specific costs applicable to the emergency operations.

#### 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. Based on these procedures, we have no comments except as noted herein.

#### Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of enrollments and related services reported in the October 15, 2019 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the handicapped, bilingual and low income. 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 one exception. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified on a test check basis with no exceptions. 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 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 2019-2020 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The information that was included on the DRTRS was verified to the DRTRS Eligibility Summary Report with one 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. The bid specifications for the purchase of buses were in compliance with applicable statutes.

## Facilities and Capital Assets

There were no active facilities projects funded with SDA grants during the current fiscal year.

## 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 require the District to establish a maximum travel amount for the year and to ensure that the maximum is not exceeded. The regulations also require that all travel be preapproved by the Board of Education and that a brief report which details the key topics addressed at the travel event must be submitted after the travel event has occurred.

Our review of the travel policies and records revealed that the District is in general compliance with the travel regulations.

#### 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 Suggestions

#### Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements

Due to COVID-19, the GASB postponed the implementation of GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, until the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. Based on guidance from the NJ Department of Education and GASB, the activity for student activities, payroll agency, unemployment compensation trust, flexible spending trust and private purpose scholarship trust funds will no longer be reported in the Fiduciary Fund financial statements. This activity will now be reported in the General (payroll agency, flexible spending and unemployment compensation) and Special Revenue (student activities and scholarship) Funds.

Management Suggestions (Cont'd)

## Effect on Internal Controls due to COVID-19

With the increase in employees working remotely due to COVID-19 especially those in the Business Office it is vital that the District routinely reviews the internal controls in place especially with respect to security of passwords as well as access rights to accounting software and bank information including bank wire transfers and the timely back-up of records.

## Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

There were no prior year recommendations.

# BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF MEAL COUNT ACTIVITY FOOD SERVICE FUND NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED ENTERPRISE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020 (MEMORANDUM ONLY)

# NOT APPLICABLE

# BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF NET CASH RESOURCES FOOD SERVICE FUND ENTERPRISE FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020 (MEMORANDUM ONLY)

# NOT APPLICABLE

	[] 	Shared																	- () -	0.00%
_	Ц Т	Full																	- () -	0.00%
rerification	d per ters	Shared																	- () -	
Sample for Verification	Verified per Registers	Full	5	5	123	134	125	142	113	114	150	144	129	1,184		12	8	20	1,204	
Sa	ole 1 from	Shared																	- 0 -	
	Sample Selected from	W ULKP Full	5	5	123	134	125	142	113	114	150	144	129	1,184		12	8	20	1,204	
		Shared																	- 0 -	0.00%
chool Aid		Full																	- 0 -	0.00%
Application for State School Aid	ed on apers	Shared																	- () -	I
Applicatio	Reported on Workpapers	Full	5	5	123	134	125	142	113	114	150	144	129	1,184		117	81	198	1,382	
2020-2021	ed on ASSA	Shared																	- 0 -	
	Reported on Revised ASSA	Full	5	5	123	134	125	142	113	114	150	144	129	1,184		117	81	198	1,382	
			Half Day Preschool - 3 Yrs Old	Half Day Preschool - 4 Yrs Old	Full Day Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three	Grade Four	Grade Five	Grade Six	Grade Seven	Grade Eight	Subtotal	Special Education:	Elementary	Middle	Subtotal	Totals	Percentage Error

	Pri	Private Schools for Disabled	or Disabled				Resident I	Resident Low Income		
	Reported on ASSA as Private	Sample for	Sample	Sample	Reported on ASSA as Low	Reported on Workpapers as Low		Sample Selected from	Verified to Application and	Sample
	Schools	Verficiation	Verified	Errors	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	Register	Errors
Full Day Kindergarten					9	9		1	1	
Grade One					6	6		2	2	
Grade Two					7	L		1	1	
Grade Three					8	8		1	1	
Grade Four					6	6		2	2	
Grade Five					L	L		1	1	
Grade Six					9	9		1	1	
Grade Seven					9	9		1	1	
Grade Eight					4	4		1	1	
Subtotal					62	62		11	11	
Special Education:										
Elementary School	4	1	1		6	6		2	2	
Middle School	2	1	-		8	8		2	2	
Subtotal	9	2	2		17	17		4	4	
Totals	9	2	2	- () -	62	61	-0-	15	15	-0- -
Percentage Error				0.00%			0.00%			0.00%

			Resident L	EP Low Income		
	Reported on	Reported on		Sample	Verified to	
	ASSA as	Workpapers		Selected	Test Scores,	
	LEP Low	as LEP Low		from	Application	Sample
	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	and Register	Errors
		1				
Full Day Kindergarten	1	1		1	1	
Grade One	2	2		1	1	
Grade Two	1	1		1	1	
Grade Four	1	1		1	1	
Grade Five	1	1		1	1	
Grade Seven	1	1		1	1	
Grade Eight	2	2		1	1	
Subtotal	9	9		7	7	
Totals	9	9	-0-	7	7	-0-
Percentage Error			0.00%		-	0.00%

	Resident LEP Not Low Income								
	Reported on	Reported on		Sample					
	ASSA as	Workpapers		Selected	Verified to				
	LEP Not	as LEP Not		from	Test Scores	Sample			
	Low Income	Low Income	Errors	Workpapers	and Register	Errors			
Eull Der Kindenserten	1	2	1	1	1				
Full Day Kindergarten	1	2	1	1	1				
Grade Two	3	3		1	1				
Grade Three	1	1		1	1				
Grade Four	1	1		1	1				
Grade Five	1	1		1	1				
Grade Seven	1	1		1	1				
Subtotal	8	9	1	6	6				
Special Education:									
Elementary School	1	1		1	1				
Subtotal	1	1		1	1				
Totals	9	10	1	7	7	- 0 -			
Percentage Error			10.00%			0.00%			

	Transportation									
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors				
Regular - Public Schools	1,225	1,225		25	25					
Regular - Special Education	301	301		25	24	(1)				
AIL - Non Public	122	122		12	12					
Special Needs - Public	55	55		6	6					
Special Needs - Private	14	14		3	3					
Totals	1,717	1,717	- 0 -	71	70	(1)				
Percentage Error			0.00%			-1.41%				

		Re-
	Reported	calculated
Average Mileage - Regular Including Grade PK Students	5.4	5.4
Average Mileage - Regular Excluding Grade PK Students	5.4	5.4
Average Mileage - Special Education with Special Needs	7.8	7.8

# BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

## Section 1 - REGULAR DISTRICT

2019-20 Total General Fund Expenditures per the CAFR Increased by: Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund Decreased by: On-Behalf TPAF Pension and Social Security Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Adjusted 2019-2020 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1's)-(B2's)]	<u>\$ 43,147,460</u> (B3)
2% of Adjusted 2019-20 General Fund Expenditures [(B5) times .02] Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000 Increased by: Allowable Adjustment	\$         862,949         (B4)           \$         862,949         (B5)           \$         468,601         (K)
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]	<u>\$ 1,331,550</u> (M)
Section 2	
Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/20 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1) Decreased by:	<u>\$ 12,270,170</u> (C)
Assigned - Year End Encumbrances	<u>\$ 372,675</u> (C1)
Legally Restricted - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Other Restricted Fund Balances	\$ 600,000 (C3) \$ 9,228,875 (C4)
Assigned - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ -0-</u> (C5)
Additional Assigned Fund Balance - Designated for Subsequent	
Year's Expenditures July 1, 2020- August 1, 2020	<u>\$ 137,070</u> (C6)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance [(C)-(C1)-(C2)-(C3)-(C4)-(C5)-(C6)]	<u>\$ 1,931,550</u> (U1)
Section 3	

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus [(U1)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE, ENTER -0- \$ 600,000 (E)

# BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Section 3

# Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2020

Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)]	\$ 600,000 (C3) \$ 600,000 (E)
Total $[(C3)+(E)+(F)]$	\$ 1,200,000 (D)
Detail of Allowable Adjustments	
Impact Aid Sale and Lease Back	\$-0-(H) \$-0-(I)
Extraordinary Aid	\$ 468,601 (J1)
Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid	\$ -0- (J2)
	ф <u>(</u> (32)
Total Adjustments [(H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)]	<u>\$ 468,601</u> (K)
Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balances	
Statutory Restrictions:	
Approved Unspent Separate Proposal	\$ -0-
Sale/Lease-Back Reserve	\$ -0-
Capital Reserve	\$ 7,185,075
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 123,800
Emergency Reserve	\$ 120,000
Tuition Reserve	\$ 1,800,000
Other State/Governmental Mandated Reserve	\$ -0-
Other Restricted Fund Balance not Noted Above	\$ -0-
Total Other Restricted Fund Balances	\$ 9,228,875

# BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

It is recommended that:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures

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>

None

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>Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy</u>

None

- 10. <u>Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities</u> None
- 11. <u>Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations</u>

There were no prior year recommendations.