

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020
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200 Valley Road, Suite 300
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856
973.298.8500

11 Lawrence Road
Newton, NJ 07860
973.383.6699

nisivoccia.com

Independent Member
BKR International

December 7, 2020

The Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Education
High Bridge School District
County of Hunterdon, 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 High Bridge School District in the County of Hunterdon for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated December 7, 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 7, 2020, on the financial statements of the Board.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the High Bridge 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

Francis Jones of Nisivoccia LLP
Francis Jones
Licensed Public School Accountant #1154
Certified Public Accountant

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Coverage</u>
Christopher Jones	Business Administrator/Board Secretary (Through 12/31/2019)	\$ 200,000
John Jennings	Business Administrator/Board Secretary (Starting 1/1/2020)	\$ 200,000
Judy Favino	Treasurer of School Monies	\$ 200,000

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

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.

All payrolls were approved by the Superintendent and certified by the President of the Board, the School 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.

The required certification (E-CERT 1) of compliance with all documentation prepared for income tax related purposes of administrators (superintendent, assistant superintendents and business administrator) complying with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations, was completed and submitted to the New Jersey Department of Treasury by due March 15.

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.

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020
(Continued)

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6:23A-16.2(f)* 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, we reviewed administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.2*. As a result of the procedures performed, a transaction error rate of 0% was 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 below.

Treasurer's Records

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement 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 upon 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

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 II, and Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

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

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020
(Continued)

School 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 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 2019-2020.

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, 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.

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020
(Continued)

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 School Food Authority (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.

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.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of enrollments and related services reported in the December 7, 2019 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the handicapped, low income and bilingual 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 without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

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

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

Pupil Transportation:

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported 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 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

Our procedures included a review transfer of local funds from the General Fund or from the Capital Reserve Account, and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction. Based on these procedures, we have no comments.

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020
(Continued)

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 account that the maximum is not exceeded. The regulations also require that all travel be approved prior by the Board of Education and that the approval must be itemized by event, event total cost, and individuals attending. During the course of our testing, we have noted that the travel expenses and reimbursements for employees and board members were in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the State of New Jersey.

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.

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 Districts routinely review 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 findings or recommendations.

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

	2020-2021 Application for State School Aid						Sample for Verification										
	Reported on			Reported on			Sample			Verified per			Errors per				
	A.S.S.A.			Workpapers			Selected from			Registers			Registers				
	On Roll	Shared	Full	On Roll	Shared	Full	Errors	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	On Roll	Shared	Full	On Roll	Shared
Half Day Preschool 3 Yrs	12		12							12			12				
Half Day Preschool 4 Yrs	10		10							10			10				
Full Day Kindergarten	28		28							28			28				
Grade One	26		26							26			26				
Grade Two	24		24							24			24				
Grade Three	37		36		1					36			36				
Grade Four	26		26							26			26				
Grade Five	33		32		1					32			32				
Grade Six	31		31							31			31				
Grade Seven	30		30							30			30				
Grade Eight	42		42							42			42				
Subtotal	299		297			2				297			297			0	
Special Ed - Elementary	39		39							5			5				
Special Ed - Middle School	28		28							5			5				
Subtotal	67		67							10			10				
Totals	366		364			2				307			307			0	
Percentage Error						0.55%							0.00%			0.00%	

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

	Private Schools for Disabled			Resident Low Income					
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Private Schools	Sample for Verification	Sample Verified	Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Low Income	Workpapers as Low Income	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors
Full Day Kindergarten					2	2	1	1	
Grade One					5	5			
Grade Two					1	1	1	1	
Grade Three					4	4	1	1	
Grade Four					3	3			
Grade Five					3	2	1	1	
Grade Six					2	2	2	2	
Grade Seven					3	3	1	1	
Grade Eight					7	7	2	2	
Subtotal					30	29	9	9	
Special Ed - Elementary					14	15	3	3	
Special Ed - Middle School					6	6	1	1	
Subtotal					20	21	4	4	
Totals					50	50	13	13	
Percentage Error					0.00%	4.00%	0.00%		

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

	Resident LEP Low Income					
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Scores, Application and Register	Sample Errors
Grade Six	1	1		1	1	
Subtotal	1	1		1	1	
Totals	1	1		1	1	
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

	Resident LEP Not Low Income					
	Reported on A.S.A. as LEP Not Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Not Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Scores and Register	Sample Errors
Grade Three	1	1				
Grade Seven	1	1		1	1	
Subtotal	2	2		1	1	
Totals	2	2		1	1	
			0.00%			0.00%

Percentage Error

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

Transportation

	<u>Reported on DRTRS by DOE</u>	<u>Reported on DRTRS by District</u>	<u>Errors</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Verified</u>	<u>Errors</u>
Regular - Special Education	8	8		5	5	
AIL - Non Public	13	13		4	4	
Special Needs - Public	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
Totals	<u><u>22</u></u>	<u><u>22</u></u>		<u><u>10</u></u>	<u><u>10</u></u>	
Percentage Error			<u><u>0.00%</u></u>			<u><u>0.00%</u></u>

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Re- calculated</u>
Average Mileage - Regular Including Grade PK Students	7.9	7.9
Average Mileage - Regular Excluding Grade PK Students	7.9	7.9
Average Mileage - Special Education with Special Needs	3.9	3.9

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

Section 1 - REGULAR DISTRICT

2% Calculation of Excess Surplus:

2019-2020 Total General Fund Expenditures per the CAFR	<u>\$ 8,554,643</u> (B)	
Increased by:		
Transfer to Food Service Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ -0-</u> (B1a)	
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	<u>\$ -0-</u> (B1b)	
Transfer to Special Revenue Fund for Pre-K Regular	<u>\$ -0-</u> (B1c)	
Transfer to Special Revenue Fund for Pre-K Inclusion	<u>\$ 18,294</u> (B1d)	
Decreased by:		
On-Behalf TPAF Pension and Social Security	<u>\$ 1,344,673</u> (B2a)	
Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases	<u>\$ -0-</u> (B2b)	
Adjusted 2019-2020 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1's)-(B2's)]	<u>\$ 7,209,970</u> (B3)	
2% of Adjusted 2019-2020 General Fund Expenditures [(B3) times .03]	<u>\$ 144,199</u> (B4)	
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000	<u>\$ 250,000</u> (B5)	
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment	<u>\$ 43,915</u> (K)	
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]		<u>\$ 293,915</u> (M)

Section 2

Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2020 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	<u>\$ 2,621,724</u> (C)	
Decreased by:		
Year-End Encumbrances	<u>\$ 105,717</u> (C1)	
Legally Restricted:		
Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ -0-</u> (C2)	
Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ -0-</u> (C3)	
Other Restricted Fund Balances	<u>\$ 1,466,175</u> (C4)	
Assigned Fund Balance:		
Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ 328,327</u> (C5)	
Additional Assigned Fund Balance - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures July 1, 2020 - August 1, 2020	<u>\$ -0-</u> (C6)	
Total Unassigned Fund Balance [(C)-(C1)-(C2)-(C3)-(C4)-(C5)]		<u>\$ 721,505</u> (U1)

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Section 3

Restricted Fund Balance-Excess Surplus [(U2)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE, ENTER -0- \$ 427,590

Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2020

Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures \$ 328,327

Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)] \$ 427,590

Total [(C3)+(E)+(F)] \$ 755,917

Detail of Allowable Adjustments

Impact Aid \$ -0-

Sale and Lease Back \$ -0-

Extraordinary Aid \$ 43,915

Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid \$ -0-

Total Adjustments [(H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)] \$ 43,915

Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance

Statutory Restrictions: \$ -0-

Approved Unspent Separate Proposal \$ -0-

Sale/Lease-Back Reserve \$ -0-

Capital Reserve \$ 1,132,399

Maintenance Reserve \$ 333,776

Tuition Reserve \$ -0-

Other State/Governmental Mandated Reserve \$ -0-

Other Reserved Fund Balance not Noted Above \$ -0-

Total Other Restricted Fund Balance \$ 1,466,175

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

It is recommended that:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures
None
2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting
None
3. School Purchasing Program
None
4. School Food Service
None
5. Student Body Activities
None
6. Application for State School Aid
None
7. Pupil Transportation
None
8. Facilities and Capital Assets
None
9. Miscellaneous
None
10. Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations
There were no prior year findings or recommendations.