HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT <u>COUNTY OF HUNTERDON</u> <u>AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON</u> <u>ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,</u> <u>COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE</u> <u>YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021</u>

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT <u>COUNTY OF HUNTERDON</u> <u>AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE</u> <u>FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,</u> <u>COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE</u> <u>YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021</u> <u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>

Page

Cover Letter	1
General Comments:	2
Scope of Audit	2
Administrative Practices and Procedures:	2
Insurance	2
Officials in Office and Surety Bonds	2
Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting:	2
Examination of Claims	2
Payroll Account and Position Control Roster	2
Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable	2
Classification of Expenditures	3
Board Secretary's Records	3
Treasurer's Records	3
Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.) as	
amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act	3
Other Special Federal and/or State Projects	3
T.P.A.F. Reimbursement	3
School Purchasing Programs:	4
Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids	4
School Food Service Fund	5
Student Body Activities	5
Application for State School Aid	5
Pupil Transportation	5
Facilities and Capital Assets	6
Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy	6
Testing of Lead of all Drinking Water in Educational Facilities	6
Management Suggestions	6
Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations	6
Schedule of Meal Count Activity (Not Applicable)	
Schedule of Net Cash Resources (Not Applicable)	
Schedule of Audited Enrollments	7
Excess Surplus Calculation	12
Summary of Recommendations	14



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Independent Member BKR International

December 7, 2021

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, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated December 7, 2021.

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, 2021, 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 Nisiwoccia 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, 2021

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	Coverage
John Jennings	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	\$ 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.

<u>HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT</u> <u>ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE</u> <u>AND PERFORMANCE</u> <u>YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021</u> (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, 2021. The reimbursement form was reviewed and no exceptions were noted.

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE <u>AND PERFORMANCE</u> <u>YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021</u> (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"

The bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 and 18A:18A-3(a) are \$44,000 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$32,000 (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 \$19,600 for 2020-2021.

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 <u>ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE</u> <u>AND PERFORMANCE</u> <u>YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021</u> (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 not purchased, prepared or offered for sale.

We inquired of management about the public health emergency procedures/practices that the SFA instituted to provide meals to all 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. We also inquired if the FSMC received a loan in accordance with the Payroll Protection Plan and whether the funds were used to pay for costs applicable to the Food Service Programs. We also inquired if the PPP Loan was subsequently forgiven and the FSMC refunded or credited the applicable amounts to the SFA if the FSMC received a PPP loan.

Student Body Activities

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the Student Activities 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.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of enrollments and related services reported in the December 7, 2020 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 that was included on the workpapers was verified on a test basis with a minor exception. The information on the A.S.S.A. was compared to the District workpapers with a minor exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

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

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

Pupil Transportation:

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported in the 2020-2021 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.

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT <u>ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE</u> <u>AND PERFORMANCE</u> <u>YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021</u> (Continued)

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.

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

GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, is effective for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. Under this statement, the District will be required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use asset for each lease agreement with a lease term in excess of 12 months. This statement will enhance the comparability of financial statements among governments by requiring the reporting of leases under a single model. Additionally, certain leases that are currently not reported will be under this statement.

COVID-19 Federal Funding

It is likely that the District will undergo some review of its COVID-19 federal funding if only at a desk review level by state and/or federal agencies. We strongly suggest that the District ensures that these funds are utilized in accordance with the applicable federal requirements especially with respect to procurement. Additionally, we strongly suggest that the District ensures that these funds are accounted for in the state account numbers designated by the NJ Department of Education and that any applicable Board policies are current with respect to federal grant requirements.

Sick and Vacation Leave

It is suggested that the District consult with its attorney to ensure that its negotiated labor contracts, individual employee agreements and employee policies, as applicable, are in accordance with New Jersey statutes regarding unused sick and vacation leave.

Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

There were no prior year findings or recommendations.

		2021-2022	2 Application	Application for State School Aid	ool Aid				Sample for	Sample for Verification		
	Reported on A.S.S.A.	ted on S.A.	Repor Workt	Reported on Workpapers			Selecto	Sample Selected from	Verif Regi	Verified per Registers	Erroi Regi	Errors per Registers
	On Roll	Roll	On Roll	Roll	Em	Errors	Work	Workpapers	0n	On Roll	On Roll	Roll
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
Half Day Preschool 3 Yrs	15		15				15		15			
Half Day Preschool 4 Yrs	18		18				18		18			
Full Day Kindegarten	35		35				35		35			
Grade One	26		25		-		26		25		1	
Grade Two	27		27				27		27			
Grade Three	23		23				23		23			
Grade Four	31		31				31		31			
Grade Five	24		24				24		24			
Grade Six	37		37				37		37			
Grade Seven	33		33				33		33			
Grade Eight	30		30				30		30			
Subtotal	299		298		-		299		298		-	
Special Ed - Elementary	43		43				S		S			
Special Ed - Middle School	25		25				З		ю			
Subtotal	68		68				8		8			
Totals	367		366		-		307		306		-	
Percentage Error	•				0.27%	0.00%					0.33%	0.00%

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2020

	. 1	Private Schools for Disabled	for Disabled				Resident Lo	Resident Low Income		
	Reported on				Reported on	Reported on		Sample		
	A.S.S.A. as	Sample			A.S.S.A.	Workpapers		Selected	Verified to	
	Private	for	Sample	Sample	as Low	as Low		from	Application	Sample
	Schools	Verification	Verified	Errors	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	and Register	Errors
Full Day Kindegarten					4	4		1	1	
Grade One					4	4		1	1	
Grade Two					9	9		1	1	
Grade Three					1	1		1	1	
Grade Four					С	ю				
Grade Five					С	3		1	1	
Grade Six					4	4		2	2	
Grade Seven					ω	ю		1	1	
Grade Eight					5	5		2	2	
Subtotal					33	33		10	10	
Special Ed - Elementary					14	14		ŝ	ŝ	
Special Ed - Middle School					7	7		7	2	
Subtotal					21	21		5	5	
Totals	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	54	54	-0-	15	15	-0-
Percentage Error	·			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2020 HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2020

	.o ss, on Sample ter Errore				0.00%
	Verified to Test Scores, Application			1	
Resident LEP Low Income	Sample Selected from	w orkpapers			
Resident LE	Засата Н	L110IS			0.00%
	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Low			1	
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP Low Income		-		
					Percentage Error

Grade Six Subtotal

Totals

	ed to ores Sample gister Errors		0.00%
	Verified to Test Scores and Register		7
Resident LEP Not Low Income	Sample Selected from Workpapers		7
Resident LEI	Errors		0.00%
	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Not Low Income		4
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP Not Low Income		or 4
			Percentage Error
		Grade One Grade Two Grade Three Grade Six	Totals

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLLMENT APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2020

			Transpo	ortation		
	Reported	Reported				
	on DRTRS by DOE	on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
Regular - Special Education	6	6		1	1	
AIL - Non Public	13	13		3	3	
Special Needs - Public	1	1		1	1	
Totals	20	20		5	5	
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

		Re-
	Reported	calculated
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, 2021

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

\$ 8,825,151 (B)
\$(B1a)
\$ -0- (B1b)
\$ -0- (B1c)
<u>\$ 26,914</u> (B1d)
\$ 1,632,465 (B2a)
<u>\$ -0-</u> (B2b)
\$ 7,219,600 (B3)
[] \$ 288,784 (B4)
\$ 288,784 (B5)
\$ 273,784 (K)
<u>\$ 562,568</u> (M)
\$ 3,877,084 (C)
\$ 105,851 (C1)
\$ -0- (C2)
\$ 427,590 (C3)
\$ 2,419,049 (C4)
<u>\$ -0- (C5)</u>
<u>\$ 924,594</u> (U1)

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

Section 3	
Restricted Fund Balance-Excess Surplus [(U2)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE, ENTER -0-	\$ 362,026
Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2021	
	
Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)]	<u>\$ -0-</u> \$ 362,026
	ф <u>502,020</u>
Total[(C3)+(E)+(F)]	\$ 362,026
Defect of Allowed to Addressed	
Detail of Allowable Adjustments	
Impact Aid	\$ -0-
Sale and Lease Back	\$ -0-
Extraordinary Aid	\$ 270,014
Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid	\$ 3,770
Total Adjustments [(H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)]	\$ 273,784
Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance	
Statutory Restrictions:	\$ -0-
Approved Unspent Separate Proposal	\$ -0-
Sale/Lease-Back Reserve	\$ -0-
Capital Reserve	\$ 1,808,390
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 434,049
Tuition Reserve	\$ -0-
Other State/Governmental Mandated Reserve	\$ -0-
Other Reserved Fund Balance not Noted Above	\$ -0-
Unemployment Compensation	\$ 176,610
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$ 2,419,049

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

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>Miscellaneous</u>

None

10. <u>Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations</u>

There were no prior year findings or recommendations.