SOUTH HACKENSACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

COUNTY OF BERGEN

AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON

ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,

COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

$\frac{\text{SOUTH HACKENSACK SCHOOL DISTRICT}}{\text{COUNTY OF BERGEN}}$

AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE

FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,

COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	1 agc
Cover Letter	1
General Comments:	2
Scope of Audit	2
Administrative Practices and Procedures:	2
Insurance	2
Officials in Office and Surety Bonds	2
Tuition Charges	2
Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting:	2
Examination of Claims	2
Payroll Account	2
Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable	3
Classification of Expenditures - General and Administrative Classifications	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	4
School Purchasing Programs:	4
Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids	4
School Food Service Fund	5
After School Program	5
Student Body Activities	5
Application for State School Aid	6
Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities	6
Pupil Transportation	6
Facilities and Capital Assets (Not Applicable)	6
Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy	6
Management Suggestions	7
Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations	7
Schedule of Meal Count Activity (Not Applicable)	
Schedule of Net Cash Resources (NotApplicable)	
Schedule of Audited Enrollments	8
Excess Surplus Calculation	13
Summary of Recommendations	15



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 1, 2021

The Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education South Hackensack School District County of Bergen, 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 South Hackensack School District in the County of Bergen for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated December 1, 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 1, 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 for the information of the South Hackensack 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

Raymond Sarinelli

Licensed Public School Accountant #2549

Raymond A Sarinelli

Certified Public Accountant

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator and Treasurer of School Monies, 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	<u>Position</u>	Coverage
Jason Chirichella	Acting Chief School Administrator	\$ 225,000
Dina Messery	Business Administrator	225,000

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:23A-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 approved by the Chief School Administrator and were certified by the President of the Board, the Chief School Administrator and the School Business Administrator.

The required certification (ECERT1) of compliance with requirements for income tax on compensation of administrators (superintendent, assistant superintendents and business administrators) to the NJ Department of Treasury was filed by the required due date.

(Continued)

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders as of June 30 was made on a test basis for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances or accounts payable.

Classification of General and Administrative 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. 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. 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 significant 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.

Treasurer's Records

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements 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 on these procedures, we have no comments.

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

The E.S.E.A.. financial exhibits are contained herein 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, II and III Immigrant of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The study of compliance for the E.S.E.A. 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.

(Continued)

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.

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"

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 2020-21.

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.

(Continued)

School Purchasing Programs

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

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.

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. 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.

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.

After School Program

Our audit procedures included a review of the financial transactions of the After School Program. Based on these procedures, we have no comments except as noted herein.

Student Body Activities

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of Student records for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records.

(Continued)

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 15, 2020 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the disabled, 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 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's written procedures appear to be adequate for the recording of student enrollment data.

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).

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 on a test basis 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

There were no active SDA Grants.

<u>Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy</u>

Travel regulations require each District to adopt a formal policy and procedures pertaining to travel and expense reimbursements for its employee 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 the Superintendent and that the approval must be itemized by event, event total cost, and individuals attending.

A review of the District's travel expenses was made on a test basis for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 and overall compliance was noted.

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 recommendations.

	2021-2022	Application	2021-2022 Application for State School Aid	School Ai	p			sample for	Sample for Verification	n	
Repo Revise	Reported on Revised ASSA	Repo Work	Reported on Workpapers			San Selecto	Sample Selected from	Verifi Regi	Verified per Registers		
O	On Roll	On	On Roll	Em	Errors	Work	Workpapers	On	On Roll	Errors	ors
Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
14		14				14		14			
26		26				26		76			
27		27				27		27			
20		20				20		20			
23		23				23		23			
31		31				31		31			
29		29				29		29			
22		22				22		22			
29		29				29		29			
22		22				22		22			
243		243				243		243			
10		10				2		7			
19		19				3		3			
29		29				5		5			
272	-0-	272	o [†]	0	o [†]	248	o	248	0-	o [†]	0-
				0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	0.00%

	Pri	Private Schools for	or Disabled				Resident]	Resident Low Income		
	Reported on ASSA	Sample			Reported on ASSA	Reported on Workpapers		Sample Selected	Verified to Application	
	as Private	for	Sample	Sample	as Low	as Low		from	and	Sample
	Schools	Verficiation	Verified	Errors	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	Register	Errors
Full Day Kindergarten					9	9				
Grade One					5	5		1	1	
Grade Two					∞	&				
Grade Three					7	7		1	1	
Grade Four					7	7				
Grade Five					7	7				
Grade Six					S	5		1	1	
Grade Seven					7	9	-	1	1	
Grade Eight					9	9		1	1	
Subtotal					58	57	-1	5	5	
Special Education:										
Elementary School					ю	3		1	1	
Middle School					5	4	-1	1	1	
Subtotal					8	7	-1	2	2	
Totals	-0-	-0-	0	0	99	64	-2	7	7	-0-
Percentage Error				0.00%			-3.03%			0.00%

Resident	LEP I	_ow l	lncome
----------	-------	-------	--------

_	Reported on	D . 1				
	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
Full Day Kindergarten	1	1				
Grade Two	2	2				
Grade Three	1	1		1	1	
Grade Five	1	1		1	1	
Subtotal	5	5		2	2	
Totals =	5	5	-0-	2	2	-0-
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

Resident	LEP	Not I	ow	Income

		100	DIGGIN EEL 1	ot Low meome		
	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
Full Day Kindergarten	10	10		2	2	
Grade One	6	6				
Grade Two	4	4				
Grade Three	1	1				
Grade Four	4	4		1	1	
Grade Five	2	2		1	1	
Grade Six	3	3				
Grade Seven	2	2				
Grade Eight	1	1		1	1	
Subtotal	33	33		5	5	
Special Education:						
Elementary School	5	5		2	2	
Subtotal	5	5		2	2	
T 4 1	20	20				
Totals	38	38	-0-	7	7	-0-
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

			Trans	sportation		
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
Regular - Public Schools	22	22		3	3	
Regular - Special Education	6	6				
Transported - Non Public	1	1				
AIL - Non Public	13	13		2	2	
Special Needs - Public	12	12		1	1	
Special Needs - Private	2	2				
Totals	56	56	-0-	6	6	-0-
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

	Reported	Recalculated
Average Mileage - Regular Including Grade PK Students	7.3	7.3
Average Mileage - Regular Excluding Grade PK Students	7.3	7.3
Average Mileage - Special Education with Special Needs	6.0	6.0

SOUTH HACKENSACK SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

REGULAR DISTRICT

SECTION 1

4% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2020-21 Total General Fund Expenditures per the CAFR, Ex. C-1 Increased by: Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	\$ 8,833,467 (B) \$ -0- (B1a) \$ -0- (B1b)
Decreased by: On-Behalf TPAF Pension and Social Security Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases	\$ 1,000,394 (B2a) \$ -0- (B2b)
Adjusted 2020-21 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1's)-(B2's)]	\$ 7,833,073 (B3)
4% of Adjusted 2020-21 General Fund Expenditures [(B3) times .04] Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000 Increased by: Allowable Adjustments	\$ 313,323 (B4) \$ 313,323 (B5) \$ 94,892 (K)
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]	\$ 408,215 (M)
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)] SECTION 2	\$ 408,215 (M)
	<u>\$ 408,215</u> (M)
SECTION 2	\$ 408,215 (M) \$ 2,888,574 (C)
SECTION 2 Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2021	
SECTION 2 Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2021 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	
SECTION 2 Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2021 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1) Decreased by:	\$ 2,888,574 (C)
SECTION 2 Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2021 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1) Decreased by: Year-End Encumbrances Legally Restricted: Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 2,888,574 (C) \$ 33,654 (C1) \$ -0- (C2)
SECTION 2 Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2021 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1) Decreased by: Year-End Encumbrances Legally Restricted: Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 2,888,574 (C) \$ 33,654 (C1)
SECTION 2 Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2021 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1) Decreased by: Year-End Encumbrances Legally Restricted: Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$ 2,888,574 (C) \$ 33,654 (C1) \$ -0- (C2)
SECTION 2 Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2021 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1) Decreased by: Year-End Encumbrances Legally Restricted: Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 2,888,574 (C) \$ 33,654 (C1) \$ -0- (C2) \$ 379,517 (C3)
SECTION 2 Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2021 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1) Decreased by: Year-End Encumbrances Legally Restricted: Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$ 2,888,574 (C) \$ 33,654 (C1) \$ -0- (C2) \$ 379,517 (C3)

SOUTH HACKENSACK SCHOOL DISTRICT EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021 (Continued)

SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus [(U1)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE, ENTER -0-	\$ 236,730 (E)
Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2021	
Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)]	\$ 379,517 (C3) \$ 236,730 (E)
Total [(C3)+(E)]	\$ 616,247 (D)
Detail of Allowable Adjustments	
Impact Aid Sale & Lease-back Extraordinary Aid Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid Total Adjustments [(H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)]	\$ -0- (H) \$ -0- (I) \$ 91,122 (J1) \$ 3,770 (J2) \$ 94,892 (K)
Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance	
Statutory Restrictions: Approved Unspent Separate Proposal Sale/Lease-back Reserve Capital Reserve Maintenance Reserve Emergency Reserve Tuition Reserve Other State/Government Mandated Reserve Unemployment Compensation Other Restricted Fund Balance Not Noted Above	\$ -0- \$ -0- \$ 1,417,000 \$ 354,726 \$ -0- \$ -0- \$ 23,644 \$ -0-
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$ 1,795,370 (C4)

SOUTH HACKENSACK SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

It is recommended that:

1.

	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.	Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations
	There were no prior year recommendations.

Administrative Practices and Procedures