

PATERSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

Barre & Company LLC
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

PATERSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

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

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Report of Independent Auditors


Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Trustees
Paterson Arts and Science Charter School
County of Passaic
Fair Lawn, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with generally accepted audit standards and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Board of Trustees of the Paterson Arts and Science Charter School in the County of Passaic for the year ended June 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated February 9, 2022.

As part of our audit, we performed procedures required by the New Jersey Department of Education, and the findings and results thereof are disclosed on the following pages, as listed in the accompanying table of contents.

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


BARRE & COMPANY LLC
Certified Public Accountants
Public School Accountants


Richard M. Barre
Public School Accountant
PSA Number CS-O1181

Union, New Jersey
February 9, 2022

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Scope of Audit

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

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

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

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mustafa Coban	School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	\$161,000
Christopher Lessard	Treasurer	\$170,000

Tuition Charges

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

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

An examination of claims paid during the period under review did not indicate any discrepancies with respect to signatures, certification or supporting documentation.

Payroll Account

The net salaries of all employees of the Board were deposited in the Payroll Account. Employees' payroll deductions and employer's share of fringe benefits were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

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

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

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

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

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

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(f)* as part of our test of transactions of randomly selected expenditure items. We also reviewed the coding of all the expenditures included in our compliance and single audit testing procedures. In addition to randomly selecting a test sample, our sample selection specifically targeted administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.3*. As a result of the procedures performed, a transaction error rate of 1.90% overall was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

A. General Classification Findings

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

B. Administrative Classification Findings

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

Board Secretary's Records

Our review of the financial and accounting records maintained by the business office disclosed no exceptions or discrepancies.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

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 within the Special Revenue Section of the ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to the projects under Titles I and VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

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

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The Charter School's Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedule A and Schedule B located in the ACFR.

Our audit of the federal and state funds on a test basis, indicated the obligations and expenditures were incurred during the fiscal year or project period for which the project was approved.

The financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

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

Finding #2021-001: The School transferred rent expenses from Fund 10 to Fund 20 and charged \$438,540 to the Education and Stabilization Fund (CARES ACT) Grant. These are rent expenses from leases that had been in effect prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are no incremental costs charged to the School for any renovations or improvements by landlord that directly address preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Therefore the School incurred no costs that should be charged to the grant.

Recommendation: Management should establish procedures and controls to ensure that grant compliance requirements are carefully reviewed and understood prior to submitting expenditures for reimbursement.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement

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

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. (Public School Contracts Law), the associated rules and related information on the statute, and school contracts in general (as of June 2007) is available on the website: <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/lpcl.html>.

Current statute is posted on the New Jersey Legislature website at:
http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=1319801&depth=2&expandheadings=off&headingswithhits=on&infobase=statutes.nfo&softpage=TOC_Frame_Pg42

Auditors should refer to Section I, Chapter 5, Bids & Contracts/Purchasing for highlights of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A-3 and 4.

The bid thresholds in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A-2 and 18A:18A-3(a) are \$40,000 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$29,000 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under *N.J.S.A.* 18A:39-3 is \$19,000 for 2020-2021.

The Charter School board of trustees has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory thresholds within the contract year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the Solicitor's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

Based on the results of our examination, we did not note any individual payments, contracts, or agreements made for the performance of any work or goods or services, in excess of the statutory thresholds where there had been no advertising for bids in accordance of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A-4, amended.

Resolutions were adopted authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services" per *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A-5.

School Food Service

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

In accordance with the Governor's Declaration of Emergency pertaining to the public health emergency all Public, Charter, Non-Public schools were ordered to close effective as of March 18, 2020 for an undetermined period to limit the spread of the virus. As a result, School Food Authorities (SFA) were required to institute alternate procedures to provide meals to eligible students during the period of school closures. During SY 2020-2021 the public health emergency was still applicable. As a result, School Food Authorities (SFAs) were required to provide meals in accordance with the regulations governing the National School Nutrition Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

School Food Service (Continued)

the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) option.

SFAs were authorized to solicit and award emergency noncompetitive procurements and contracts with Food Service Management Companies in accordance with 2 CF 200.320 and N.J.S.A.18A:18A-7. The SFAs were also authorized to submit contract modifications to their existing Cost Reimbursable or Fixed Price contracts as necessary to ensure the feeding of all children throughout the age of 18, as well as persons over 18 with disabilities as defined in the regulations.

SFAs were notified of the requirement to maintain and report separate meal count records and financial records of all applicable costs incurred in providing meals to all students during the emergency.

The school food service program was selected as a major federal program. The financial transactions and statistical records of the school food service fund were reviewed. The financial accounts, meal count records were reviewed on a test-check basis. The charter school utilizes a food service management company (FSMC) and is depositing and expending program monies in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17- 34, and 19-1 through 19-4.1. Provisions of the FSMC Cost Reimbursable Fixed Price or Urgency Procurement contract/addendum were reviewed and audited.

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. Exceptions were not noted.

All vendor discounts, rebates, and credits from vendors and/or the FSMC were June 30, 2021 tracked and credited to the Food Service Account and reconciled to supporting documentation at least annually. Expenditures should be separately recorded as food, labor and other costs.

Vendor invoices were reviewed, and costs verified. The cash disbursements records reflected expenditures for program related goods and services. The appropriate revenue and expenditure records were maintained in order to substantiate the non-profit status of the school food service. The SFA recorded and maintained separate supporting documentation for additional costs (food, supplies, transportation, etc.) applicable to the implementation of the COVID-19 meal service under SSO or SFSP program requirements. Net cash resources did exceed three months average expenditures. The number of meals claimed for reimbursement was compared to sales and meal count records. As part of the claims review process the Edit Check Worksheet was completed. Reimbursement claims were certified in a timely manner. Applications for free and reduced price meals were reviewed for completeness and accuracy. The number of free and reduced price meals claimed as served was compared to the number of valid applications or to the list of directly certified students on file, times the number of operating days, on a school-by-school basis. The free and reduced price meal and free milk policy was reviewed for uniform administration throughout the school system. No exceptions were noted.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

School Food Service (Continued)

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Assets (ACFR Schedule B-5) does separate program and non-program revenue and program and non-program cost of goods sold.

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.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in the section entitled Enterprise Funds, Section G on the ACFR.

No exceptions were noted.

Student Body Activities

During our review of the student activities funds, there were no items noted.

Enrollment Counts and Submissions to the Department

Our audit procedures included a test of enrollment information reported on October 15, 2020 and the last day of school for on-roll, special education, bilingual and low-income.

Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of the SDA grant agreement for consistency with recording SDA revenue, transfer of local funds from the general fund or from the capital reserve account, and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction.

Follow-up on Prior Year Findings

Not Applicable.

Acknowledgment

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

School Food Service

SCHEDULE OF MEAL COUNT ACTIVITY
PATERSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL
FOOD SERVICE FUND
NUMBER FOR MEALS SERVED AND (OVER) UNDERCLAIM - FEDERAL
ENTERPRISE FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

<u>Program</u>	<u>Meal Category</u>	<u>Meals Claimed</u>	<u>Meals Tested</u>	<u>Meals Verified</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>(Over) Under Claim</u>
National School Lunch (Regular Rate)	Paid	229,427	137,656	137,656	-	0.33	\$ -
	Reduced	-	-	-	-		-
	Free	-	-	-	-		-
	TOTAL	<u>229,427</u>	<u>137,656</u>	<u>137,656</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
School Breakfast (Severe Need Rate)	Paid	223,397	134,038	134,038	-	32.00	\$ -
	Reduced	-	-	-	-		-
	Free	-	-	-	-		-
	TOTAL	<u>223,397</u>	<u>134,038</u>	<u>134,038</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>\$ -</u>
After School Snacks	Paid	-	-	-	-		\$ -
	Reduced	-	-	-	-		-
	Free (Area Eligible)	-	-	-	-		-
	TOTAL	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>\$ -</u>
TOTAL NET OVERCLAIM							<u>\$ -</u>

School Food Service

SCHEDULE OF MEAL COUNT ACTIVITY
PATERSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL
FOOD SERVICE FUND
NUMBER FOR MEALS SERVED AND (OVER) UNDERCLAIM - STATE
ENTERPRISE FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

<u>Program</u>	<u>Meal Category</u>	<u>Meals Claimed</u>	<u>Meals Tested</u>	<u>Meals Verified</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>(Over) Under Claim</u>
State Reimbursement	Paid	229,427	137,656	137,656	-	0.050	\$ -
National School Lunch	Reduced	-	-	-	-		-
(Regular Rate)	Free	-	-	-	-		-
	TOTAL	<u>229,427</u>	<u>137,656</u>	<u>137,656</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
TOTAL NET OVERCLAIM							<u>\$ -</u>

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

PATERSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL
 APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID
 ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2020

Grades	Submission to											Percentage		
	DOE Reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	Verified Signed Registration Forms	Errors	Verified # Days Enrolled	Errors	Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Errors	Verified # of Days Service Provided	Errors		Low Income	Verified Documentation
Kindergarten	72	36	36		36		3	3		3		33	33	
One	74	32	32		32		2	2		2		29	29	
Two	74	32	32		32		1	1		1		32	32	
Three	78	39	39		39		3	3		3		32	32	
Four	75	38	38		38		4	4		4		33	33	
Five	74	32	32		32		4	4		4		29	29	
Six	74	32	32		32		3	3		3		30	30	
Seven	73	32	32		32		2	2		2		26	26	
Eight	71	31	31		31		6	6		6		28	28	
Nine	66	33	33		33		6	6		6		24	24	
Ten	59	24	24		24		7	7		7		23	23	
Eleven	56	28	28		28		3	3		3		20	20	
Totals	846	389	389	-	389	-	44	44	-	44	-	339	339	-
Percentage				0.00%		0.00%			0.00%		0.00%			0.00%

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

PATERSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL
 APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID
 ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2021

Grades	Submission to											Errors	Percentage	
	DOE Reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	Verified Signed Registration Forms	Errors	Verified # Days Enrolled	Errors	Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Errors	Verified # of Days Service Provided	Errors			Low Income
Kindergarten	72	36	36		36		3	3		3		32	32	
One	74	32	32		32		1	1		1		28	28	
Two	74	32	32		32		1	1		1		32	32	
Three	78	39	39		39		3	3		3		32	32	
Four	75	37	37		37		4	4		4		33	33	
Five	74	32	32		32		4	4		4		29	29	
Six	74	32	32		32		3	3		3		30	30	
Seven	73	31	31		31		2	2		2		26	26	
Eight	71	30	30		30		5	5		5		27	27	
Nine	66	33	33		33		6	6		6		23	23	
Ten	59	24	24		24		7	7		7		23	23	
Eleven	56	28	28		28		2	2		2		20	20	
Totals	846	386	386	-	386	-	41	41	-	41	-	335	335	-
Percentage				0.00%		0.00%			0.00%		0.00%			0.00%

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

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

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

CALCULATION:

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

Note that beginning with the excess surplus calculation for the year ending June 30, 2012 the transfer to food services is no longer an adjustment (increase) to total general fund expenditures. This was first introduced in supporting documentation item 9 on page 123 of the 2011-12 Budget Guidelines and continues to apply to audit excess surplus at June 30, 2021.

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

PATERSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

SECTION 1

A. 4% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2020-21 Total General Fund Expenditures per the CAFR, Ex. C-1	\$ 11,261,422 (B)
Increased by:	
Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund	- (B1a)
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	- (B1b)
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Regular	- (B1c)
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Inclusion	- (B1d)
Decreased by:	
Oh-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security	(1,427,101) (B2a)
Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases	<u>- (B2b)</u>
Adjusted 2020-21 General Fund Expenditures	<u>9,834,321 (B3)</u>
4% of Adjusted 2020-21 General Fund Expenditures	<u>196,686 (B4)</u>
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000	250,000 (B5)
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment *	<u>- (K)</u>
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance/Undesignated-Unreserved Fund Balance	<u>\$ 250,000 (M)</u>

SECTION 2

Total General Fund - Fund Balance @ 6/30/2021 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	\$ 5,012,457 (C)
Decrease by:	
Year-end Encumbrances	(48,620) (C1)
Legally Restricted - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	- (C2)
Legally Restricted - Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures **	- (C3)
Other Restricted Fund Balances ****	- (C4)
Assigned Fund Balance - Unreserved - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>- (C5)</u>
Total Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>4,963,837 (U1)</u>

SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus ***	<u>\$ 4,713,837 (E)</u>
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Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2021

Reserved Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures **	\$ - (C3)
Reserved Excess Surplus ***	<u>4,713,837 (E)</u>
Total Excess Surplus	<u>4,713,837 (D)</u>

Footnotes:

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

PATERSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

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

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

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

(J1) Extraordinary Aid;

(J2) Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid;

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

(J4) Family Crisis Transportation Aid.

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

Detail of Allowable Adjustments

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

** This amount represents the June 30, 2021 Excess Surplus (C3 above) and must be included in the Audit Summary Worksheet Line 90031.

*** Amounts must agree to the June 30, 2021 CAFR and must agree to Audit Summary Worksheet Line 90030.

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

Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance

Statutory restrictions:			
Approved unspent separate proposal	\$	-	
Sale/lease-back reserve		-	
Capital reserve		-	
Maintenance reserve		-	
Emergency reserve		-	
Tuition reserve		-	
School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - current year		-	
School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - prior year		-	
Impact Aid General Fund Reserve (Sections 8002 and 8003)		-	
Impact Aid Capital Fund Reserve (Sections 8007 and 8008)		-	
Other state/government mandated reserve		-	
[Other Restricted Fund Balance not noted above] ****		-	
		<hr/>	
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$	-	(C4)

**PATERSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL
AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021**

Findings and Recommendations:

1. Administrative practices and Procedures

None

2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Finding #2021-001

3. School Purchasing Programs

None

4. School Food Service

None

5. Student Body Activities

None

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

None

7. Pupil Transportation

None

8. Facilities and Capital Assets

None

9. Miscellaneous

None

10. Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations

None