

***FREEDOM PREP CHARTER SCHOOL
AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021***

***Barre & Company LLC
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants***

FREEDOM PREP CHARTER SCHOOL

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

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BARRE & COMPANY LLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

2204 Morris Avenue, Suite 206
Union, New Jersey 07083
(908) 686-3484
FAX – (908) 686-6055

Report of Independent Auditors

Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Trustees
Freedom Prep Charter School
Camden, 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 Freedom Prep Charter School in the for the year ended June 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated February 8, 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 Freedom Prep 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.



Richard M. Barre
Licensed Public School Accountant
No. CS-O1181
Barre & Company, LLC, CPAs

February 8, 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 Treasurer of School Moneys, 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 CAFR.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Michael Falkowski	Board Secretary	\$160,000

There is a Public Employees' Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond with the NJSBA Insurance Group covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$500,000.

Tuition Charges

A review of financial statements indicated that the Charter School charged no tuition for any student attending the Charter School.

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, Employee's' payroll and employer's share of fringe benefits were deposited in the Payroll in the Payroll Agency Account.

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.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Payroll Account (continued)

Payrolls were delivered to the treasurer of school moneys with a warrant made to his order for the full amount of each payroll.

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 the all 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 the following exception:

Treasurer's Records

The following item was noted during our review of the records of the Treasurer as a finding:

Finding #2021-001 (ACFR Finding 2021-001)

The School accounts for interfund transactions as reconciling items in the bank reconciliations for the School's various bank accounts. This caused a significant misstatement of \$441,477 in Fund 10's operating account cash balance. While individual bank reconciliations were considered as incorrect, the differences netted to \$0 when including all bank accounts from all funds. The error is considered to be non-systematic and the result of improper understanding and application of interfund accounting.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Finding #2021-001 (ACFR Finding 2021-001) (Continued)

Recommendation:

Management should establish procedures and controls to ensure that financial reporting is reliable. In this case they should review their procedures for accounting for interfund transactions and preparing bank reconciliations and make changes where appropriate.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.)/Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

The E.S.E.A./NCLB financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the CAFR. This section of the CAFR documents the financial position pertaining to the projects under Titles I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

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 CAFR.

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 CAFR. This section of the CAFR documents the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

The study of compliance for the special projects indicated the following area of noncompliance:

Finding #2021-002 (ACFR Finding 2021-002)

The School transferred salary expenses from Fund 10 to Fund 20 and charged \$200,000 of salary expenses to the Education and Stabilization Funds (CARES) Grant. There is no evidence that the salary expenses directly address preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic situation as is the requirement of the grant. We questioned \$200,000 because the expenditures were not in compliance with grant requirements.

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 Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund. The following exception was noted.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Finding #2021-003 (ACFR Finding 2021-003)

NJSA 18A: 66-90 calls for the Charter School, within 90 days after the close of each next fiscal year reimburse the State the amount of such increased cost from funds allocated to the public employer from the Federal Government and involving members of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund. As of June 30, 2021 the school did not record a liability. The school later agreed to record a liability of \$49,336 which was recorded as of June 30, 2021 as an audit adjustment.

Recommendation:

Management should establish procedures and controls to ensure that compliance is maintained for all statutory requirements. A review of such requirements may be accomplished through seminars or review of the appropriate N.J.S.A. guidelines.

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.

Effective July 1, 2010 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 \$18,300. Effective July 1, 2013, the bidding threshold for public school student transportation was adjusted to \$18,300.

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 noted the no exceptions where 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.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

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 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 CFR 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 (new) 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 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 appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the School Food Authority (SFA) had any Child Nutrition Program reimbursement overclaims or underclaims. There were no exceptions 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.

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.

Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance

School Food Service (Continued)

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 of the ACFR.

No Exceptions Noted.

Student Body Activities

During our review of the student activity 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 16, 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

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year findings. The previous year finding has been corrected.

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.

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

FREEDOM PREP CHARTER SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID
ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF OCTOBER 16, 2020

Grades	Submission to													
	DOE Reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	Verified Signed Registration Forms	Errors	Verified # Days Enrolled	Errors	Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Errors	Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified Documentation	Errors
Kindergarten	40	40	40		40		1	1		1		13	13	
One	61	61	61		61		13	13		13		23	23	
Two	60	60	60		60		11	11		11		23	23	
Three	62	62	62		62		13	13		13		25	25	
Four	67	67	67		67		15	15		15		25	25	
Five	56	56	56		56		6	6		6		22	22	
Six	71	71	71		71		18	18		18		25	25	
Seven	58	58	58		58		14	14		14		22	22	
Eight	59	59	59		59		13	13		13		19	19	
Nine	69	69	69		69		12	12		12		25	25	
Ten	105	105	105		105		23	23		23		33	33	
Eleven	72	72	72		72		11	11		11		22	22	
Twelve	42	42	42		42		6	6		6		10	10	
Totals	822	822	822	-	822	-	156	156	-	156	-	287	287	-

Percentage 0.00% 0.00% 0.00% 0.00% 0.00%

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

FREEDOM PREP CHARTER SCHOOL
 APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID
 ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2021

Grades	Sample												Percentage	
	Submission to 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	37	69	69		69		2	2		2		16	16	
One	63	67	67		67		12	12		12		24	24	
Two	60	73	73		73		10	10		10		24	24	
Three	62	64	64		64		13	13		13		25	25	
Four	58	63	63		63		14	14		14		28	28	
Five	53	71	71		71		6	6		6		22	22	
Six	73	64	64		64		18	18		18		32	32	
Seven	57	65	65		65		13	13		13		24	24	
Eight	57	65	65		65		13	13		13		22	22	
Nine	63	65	65		65		12	12		12		24	24	
Ten	100	85	85		85		22	22		22		34	34	
Eleven	67	54	54		54		9	9		9		22	22	
Twelve	41	42	42		42		5	5		5		12	12	
Totals	791	847	847	-	847	-	149	149	-	149	-	309	309	-
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 4% for June 30, 2005 and thereafter. Pursuant to P.L. 2007, c.62, the minimum was raised from \$100,000 to \$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 audited excess surplus at June 30, 2018.

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

FREEDOM PREP CHARTER SCHOOL

SECTION 1

A. 4% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2020-21 Total General Fund Expenditures per the CAFR, Ex. C-1	\$	10,897,904	(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		(2,519,833)	(B2a)
Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases		-	(B2b)
Adjusted 2020-21 General Fund Expenditures		<u>8,378,071</u>	(B3)
4% of Adjusted 2020-21 General Fund Expenditures		<u>167,561</u>	(B4)
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000		250,000	(B5)
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment *		-	(K)
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance/Undesignated-Unreserved Fund Balance	\$	<u>250,000</u>	(M)

SECTION 2

Total General Fund - Fund Balance @ 6/30/2021 (Per CAFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	\$	6,739,479	(C)
Decrease by:			
Year-end Encumbrances		-	(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		-	(C5)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance		<u>6,739,479</u>	(U1)

SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus ***	\$	<u>6,489,479</u>	(E)
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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>6,489,479</u>	(E)
Total Excess Surplus		<u>6,489,479</u>	(D)

Footnotes:

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

FREEDOM PREP 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)

**FREEDOM PREP CHARTER SCHOOL
AUDIT RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021**

Findings and Recommendations:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures

NONE

2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Findings #2021-001, #2021-002 and #2021-003

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

**FREEDOM PREP CHARTER SCHOOL
AUDIT RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021**

Findings and Recommendations (Continued):

10. Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Finding #2020-001

Status: This was corrected.