PARAMUS BOARD OF EDUCATION AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS -FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE JUNE 30, 2022

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AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education Paramus Board of Education 145 Spring Valley Road Paramus, New Jersey 07652

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and <u>Government</u> <u>Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Paramus Board of Education as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated February 3, 2023.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Trustees, others within the District and the New Jersey State Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP Certified Public Accountants Public School Accountants

Gary J. Viffci Public School Accountant PSA Number CS00829

Fair Lawn, New Jersey February 3, 2023

> 17-17 ROUTE 208 • FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410 • TELEPHONE (201) 791-7100 • FACSIMILE (201) 791-3035 WWW.LVBCPA.COM

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator and Assistant 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

Fire insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on the Insurance Schedule contained in the district's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (the "ACFR").

Official Bonds

Name	Position	Amount
Brooke Bartley	Business Administrator (8/29/21-6/30/22)	\$500,000
Steven Cea	Interim Business Administrator (7/1/21-8/28/21)	\$500,000

There is a public employee dishonesty coverage for all other employees with coverage of \$100,000 per employee and \$500,000 per loss with deductibles of \$5,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

<u>P.L. 2020, c44</u>

Our audit procedures included an inquiry and subsequent review of health benefit data required per N.J.S.A. 18A:16-13.3 (Chapter 44) submitted for the year of audit. The Chapter 44 summary report was reviewed for reasonableness and timeliness.

The data submitted did include all health benefit plans offered by the school district.

The school district data certification was completed by the Chief School Administrator. The school district submitted the Chapter 44 data in a timely manner.

Tuition Charges

A comparison of tentative tuition charges and actual certified tuition charges was made. The Board made a proper adjustment to the billings to sending districts for the adjustment in per pupil costs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A23-3.1(f)3.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

An examination of claims paid during the period under review did not reveal any material discrepancies with respect to signatures, certifications and proper itemization.

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.

All payrolls tested were certified by the President of the Board, the Board Secretary/Business Administrator and the Chief School Administrator.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Payroll Account (Continued)

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

The School Business Administrator completed and filed the required Certification of Compliance with Federal and State Law respecting the reporting of compensation for certain employees.

The District maintains a personnel tracking and accounting (Position Control) system.

Year-End for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made as of June 30, for goods not yet received or services not yet rendered and it was determined that no blanket purchase orders were included in the balance of the reserves for encumbrances. Also, unpaid purchase orders included in the balance of accounts payable were reviewed for propriety and to determine that goods were received and services were rendered, as of June 30.

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 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, our sample selection specifically targeted administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with the New Jersey Administrative Code.

Board Secretary's Records

The financial records, books of account and minutes maintained were in very good condition.

Finding – Certain budget appropriations were overexpended at June 30, 2022. This is a result of audit adjustments; thus a recommendation is not warranted.

Finding – The audit indicated that the District did not receive \$3,466,918 of its 2021/22 tax levy as of June 30, 2022. No recommendation is warranted since the amount was subsequently received by the District in July 2022.

The prescribed contractual order system was followed.

Board Designee - Bank Reconciliations

The Board has appointed the assistant school business administrator as the designee to perform cash reconciliations.

The Board designee did perform cash reconciliations for all District accounts (N.J.S.A. 18A:17-36).

The monthly records pertaining to cash reconciliations were in agreement with the records of the Board Secretary.

Unemployment Compensation Insurance

The Board has adopted the direct reimbursement method. The financial transactions of this fund are reported in the General Fund.

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./ESSA financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue section of the ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Titles I, II, III and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Our examination 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.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The district's Special Projects were approved as listed on Exhibits K-3 and K-4 located in the ACFR.

Our examination 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 contained herein represent a true statement of the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursements

Our audit procedures included a test of the semi-monthly reimbursement forms filed with the Department of Education for district employees who are members of the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions were noted. The amount of the expenditure charged to the current year's Final Report for all federal awards for the school district to reimburse the State for the TPAF/FICA payments made by the State on-behalf of the school district for those employees whose salaries are identified as being paid from federal funds was made prior to the end of the 90 day grant liquidation period required by the Office of Grants Management. The expenditure was reviewed subsequent to the reimbursement and no exceptions were noted.

School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

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 - "QPA") 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 currently \$20,200.

The District's Board Secretary/Business Administrator is a Qualified Purchasing Agent and the Board has designated her as the QPA with a bid threshold of \$44,000.

The Board of Education has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory thresholds within the fiscal year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the Board 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.

School Purchasing Programs (Continued)

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

The results of our examination indicated 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 <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:18A-4. Resolutions were adopted authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services" per <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 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. Our examination did reveal, however, that purchases were made through the use of State contracts.

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 Free and Reduced Price eligible students during the period of school closures. Governor Murphy's emergency declaration ended June 4, 2021; however, the United States Department of Agriculture's federal waiver continued through June 30, 2022. Food Service Agencies operated under this federal waiver.

During 2021/22 the public health emergency was still applicable. As a result, School Food Authorities (SFA's) were required to provide meals in accordance with the regulations governing the National School Nutrition Seamless Summer Option (SSO). SFAs could also choose to participate in the National School Lunch Program utilizing standard counting and claiming practices.

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 all children throughout the age of 18, as well as persons age 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 free and reduced price meal eligible students during the emergency.

The financial transactions and records of the school food service fund were reviewed. The financial accounts, meal count records were reviewed on a test-check basis. Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed for timely deposit.

The district 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. Provision of the FSMC Cost Reimbursable contract/addendum were reviewed and audited. The FSMC contract includes an operating results provision.

Expenditures should be separately recorded as food, labor and other costs. Inventory records on food and supply items were currently maintained and applied in determining the cost of food and supplies used.

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 FSMC did not apply for and/or receive a loan in accordance with the Payroll Protection Plan.

School Food Service (Continued)

Net cash resources did exceed three months average expenses.

Finding – The Food Service Fund net cash resources exceeded the maximum amount permitted by the New Jersey State Department of Education. Management is aware and has implemented a multi-year plan to reduce available net cash resources. Therefore, an audit recommendation is not warranted.

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/were not submitted/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.

USDA Food Distribution Program (food and/or commodities) were received and a single inventory was maintained on a first-in, first-out basis. No exception 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.

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

Student Body Activities

The Board has a policy which clearly establishes the regulation of student activity funds.

Receipts tested were promptly deposited.

All cash disbursements tested had proper supporting documentation.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 15, 2021 Application for State School Aid (ASSA) for on-roll, private schools for the disabled, related services, low income and bilingual. We also performed a review of the District procedures related to its completion. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

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

The District has adequate written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

Pupil Transportation

Our audit procedures included a test of on roll status reported in the 2021-22 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The information that was included on the DRTRS was verified to the DRTRS Eligibility Summary Report with no exceptions. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

Our procedures also included a review of transportation related contracts and purchases. Based on our review, the District complied with proper bidding procedures and award of contracts. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of the transfer of local funds from the Capital Reserve Account and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction. No exceptions were noted. Capital assets financial records were prepared by a third party service provider and were properly maintained.

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Testing for Lead of all Drinking Water in Education Facilities

The school district adhered to all requirements of N.J.A.C. 26-1.2 and 12.4 related to the testing for lead of all drinking water in educational facilities.

The school district submitted the annual Statement of Assurance to the Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g).

PARAMUS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE FUND SCHEDULE OF MEAL COUNT ACTIVITY NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED AND (OVER)/UNDERCLAIM ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Program	Meals <u>Category</u>	Meals <u>Claimed</u>	Meals <u>Tested</u>	Meals <u>Verified</u>
National School Lunch (Regular Rate)				
	Free	372,511	139,589	139,589
		372,511	139,589	139,589
State Lunch Program (Regular Rate)				
	Free	372,511	139,589	139,589
		372,511	139,589	139,589

PARAMUS BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE ENTERPRISE FUND CALCULATION OF NET CASH RESOURCES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Net Cash Resources

Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	441,003
Intergovernmental Receivable		193,362
Current Liabilities		
Less:		
Accounts Payable		(121,515)
Net Cash Resources	\$	512,850
Adjusted Total Operating Expense		
Total Operating Expenses	\$	1,650,999
Less Depreciation	<u></u>	(18,503)
Adjusted Total Operating Expense	\$	1,632,496
Average Monthly Operating Expense:	\$	163,250
Three Times Monthly Average:	\$	489,749
Total Net Cash Resources	\$	512,850
Three Times Monthly Average Expenditures		489,749
Excess in Net Cash Resources	<u>\$</u>	23,101

PARAMUS BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2021 SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

	2022-2023 Application for State School Aid					Sample for Verification					Private Schools for Disabled					
	Report	ted on	Repor	ted on			Sam	nple	Verifi	ed per	Erro	rs per	Reported on	Sample		
	A.S.	S.A.	Work	papers			Selecte	d from	Reg	ister	Reg	isters	A.S.S.A. as	from		
	On l	Roll	On	Roll	En	rors	Workj	papers	On	Roll	On	Roll	Private	Work-	Sample	Sample
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Schools	papers	Verfiied	Errors
Half Day Preschool 3 yrs	9.0	-	9.0				9.0	-	9.0							
Half Day Preschool 4 yrs	4.0		4.0				4.0		4.0							
Full Day Preschool 3 yrs	21.0		21.0				21.0		21.0							
Full Day Preschool 4 yrs	35.0		35.0				35.0		35.0							
Half Day Kindergarten																
Full Day Kindergarten	231.0		231.0				62.0		62.0							
Grade 1	207.0		207.0				34.0		34.0							
Grade 2	195.0		195.0				55.0		55.0							
Grade 3	239.0		239.0				28.0		28.0							
Grade 4	212.0		212.0				44.0		44.0							
Grade 5	211.0		211.0				107.0		107.0							
Grade 6	253.0		253.0				123.0		123.0							
Grade 7	218.0		218.0				93.0		93.0							
Grade 8	237.0		237.0				126.0		126.0							
Grade 9	206.0	1.0	206.0	1.0			206.0	1.0	206.0	1.0						
Grade 10	210.0	3.0	210.0	3.0			210.0	3.0	210.0	3.0						
Grade 11	221.0	1.0	221.0	1.0			221.0	1.0	221.0	1.0						
Grade 12	274.0	-	274.0	-			274.0	-	274.0	-						
Adult School			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	2,983.0	5.0	2,983.0	5.0	-		1,652.0	5.0	1,652.0	5.0	<u>.</u>	-	-	-	-	
Special Ed - Elementary	216.0		216.0				20.0		20.0				4.0	3.0	3.0	
Special Ed - Middle	182.0		182.0				83.0		83.0				3.0	3.0	3.0	
Special Ed - High	243.0	2.0	243.0	2.0	-	-	243.0	2.0	243.0	2.0	-	-	9.0	8.0	8.0	-
Subtotal	641.0	2.0	641.0	2.0	-		346.0	2.0	346.0	2.0	-		16.0	14.0	14.0	-
Totals	3,624.0	7.0	3,624.0	7.0	-		- 1,998.0	7.0	1,998.0	7.0	-	-	16.0	14.0	14.0	
Percentage Error				_	0.00%	0.00%				-	0.00%	0.00%				0.00%

PARAMUS BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2021 SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

	Resident Low Income			Sample for Verification			Resident LEP Low Income			Sample for Verification		
	Reported on A.S.S.A as Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A as LEP Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Worpapers	Verified to Test Score and Register	Errors
Full Day Kindergarten	32.0	32.0		6	6		5.0	5.0		5	5	
Grade 1	14.0	14.0		2	2		1.0	1.0		1	1	
Grade 2	13.0	13.0		2	2		5.0	5.0		5	5	
Grade 3	19.0	19.0		3	3		2.0	2.0		2	2	
Grade 4	16.0	16.0		3	3		1.0	1.0		1	1	
Grade 5	12.0	12.0		2	2		1.0	1.0		1	1	
Grade 6	21.0	21.0		4	4							
Grade 7	21.0	21.0		4	4							
Grade 8	22.0	22.0		4	4							
Grade 9	18.5	18.5		3	3.0							
Grade 10	21.5	21.5		4.0	4.0		1.0	1.0		1.0	1.0	
Grade 11	20.0	20.0		3.0	3.0							
Grade 12	16.0	16.0	-	3.0	3.0	-	-	-	-			-
Subtotal	246.0	246.0		43.0	43.0	-	16.0	16.0		16.0	16.0	
Special Ed - Elementary	34.0	33.0	1	6.0	6.0	-	1.0	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	-
Special Ed - Middle	36,0	36.0	-	6.0	6.0	-	-	-	-			-
Special Ed - High	27.5	27.5		5.0	5.0	-		-	<u> </u>			
Subtotal	98	97		17	17		1	1		1	1	
Other	1	1						-	-	-	-	-
Totals	344.5	343.5	1.0	60.0	60.0	-	17.0	17.0	-	17.0	17.0	-
Percentage Erro	or	=	0.29%		=	0.00%		=	0.00%		=	0.00%

	Transportation							
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE/County	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors		
Reg Public Schools	796.0	796.0	-	56.0	56.0	-		
Transported - Non - Public	30.0	30.0	-	2.0	2.0	-		
Special Ed Public	19.0	19.0	-	1.0	1.0	-		
Special Needs - Public	126.0	126.0	-	9.0	9.0	-		
	971.0	971.0	-	68.0	68.0	-		

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PARAMUS BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2021 SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

	Residen	t LEP NOT Low Inc	ome	Sample for Verification			
-	Reported on	Reported on					
	A.S.S.A as	Workpapers as		Sample	Verified to		
	NOT Low	NOT Low		Selected from	Application		
	Income	Income	Errors	Worpapers	and Register	Errors	
Full Day Kindergarten	21.0	21.0		10.0	10.0		
Grade 1	13.0	13.0		6.0	6.0		
Grade 2	9.0	9.0		4.0	4.0		
Grade 3	7.0	7.0		3.0	3.0		
Grade 4	9.0	9.0		4.0	4.0		
Grade 5	6.0	6.0		3.0	3.0		
Grade 6	4.0	4.0		2.0	2.0		
Grade 7	3.0	3.0		2.0	2.0		
Grade 8	7.0	7.0		3.0	3.0		
Grade 9	6.0	6.0		3.0	3.0		
Grade 10	8.0	8.0		4.0	4.0		
Grade 11	3.0	3.0		2.0	2.0		
Grade 12	2.0	2.0		1.0	1.0		
Adult School							
Subtotal	98.0	98.0	-	47.0	47.0	-	
Special Ed - Elementary	1.0	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	-	
Special Ed - Middle	-	-	-			-	
Special Ed - High	1.0	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	-	
Subtotal	2.0	2.0	-	2.0	2.0		
Totals	100.0	100.0		49.0	49.0		
Percentage Error		=	0.00%		=	0.00%	

PARAMUS BOARD OF EDUCATION CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

2021-2022 Total General Fund Expenditures per the CAFR	\$	102,894,974
Decreased by: On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security		(18,285,404)
Adjusted 2021-2022 General Fund Expenditures	\$	84,609,570
4% of Adjusted 2021-2022 General Fund Expenditures	\$	3,384,383
Allowable Adjustments		
Extraordinary Aid \$	630,521	
Nonpublic Transportation Aid	67,280	697,801
		077,001
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance	\$	4,082,184
SECTION 2		
Total General Fund - Fund Balance at June 30, 2022	\$	43,087,990
Decreased by:		
Year End Encumbrances		4,780,296
Capital Reserve		27,968,216
Maintenance Reserve		3,934,953
Emergency Reserve		855,750
Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Budget		600,000
Unemployment Compensation Reserve		266,591
Total Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>\$</u>	4,682,184
Fund Balance - Excess Surplus	<u>\$</u>	600,000
Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2022		
Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Budget Excess Surplus	\$	600,000 600,000
Total Excess Surplus	<u>\$</u>	1,200,000

PARAMUS BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Administrative Practice and Procedures

There are none.

II. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

There are none.

III. School Purchasing Program

There are none.

IV. School Food Service Program

There are none.

V. Student Body Activities

There are none.

VI. Application for State School

There are none.

VII. **Pupil Transportation**

There are none.

VIII. Facilities and Capital Assets

There are none.

IX. Miscellaneous

There are none.

X. Status of Prior Years' Audit Findings/Recommendations

The recommendation reported in the prior year was corrected.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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