

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WARREN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**COUNTY OF WARREN**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS**

**FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

**JUNE 30, 2022**

**AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS-  
FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

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Anthony Ardito, CPA, RMA, CMFO, PSA

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Honorable President and  
Members of the Board of Education  
Warren County Special Services School District  
County of Warren, 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 Education of the Warren County Special Services School District in the County of Warren for the year ended June 30, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated January 20, 2023.

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 Warren County Special Services School District Board of Education's management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Date: January 20, 2023

*Anthony Ardito*

Licensed Public School Accountant No. 239  
ARDITO & COMPANY LLC

**ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS-FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

**Scope of Audit**

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

**Administrative Practices and Procedures**

**Insurance**

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

**Official Bonds**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
James Schlessinger	School Business Administrator/Board Secretary	\$130,000

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

**Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting**

**Examination of Claims**

The State purchase order system is fully operational in that purchase orders are issued for the financial transactions of the Board.

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.

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

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

The Board, at present, processes the payroll through an approved off-site computer system.

### **Reserve for Encumbrances 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 N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.2f 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 N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.3. As a result of the procedures performed, no transaction error rate was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

### **Board Secretary's/Treasurer's Records**

The financial records, books of accounts and minutes maintained by the Secretary were in very good condition. The bank reconciliation records were examined and were found to be in agreement with the records of the Secretary.

### **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 single audit section of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

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

### **T.P.A.F. Reimbursement**

Our audit procedures included a test of the biweekly reimbursements filed with the Department of Education for district school employees who are members of the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions were noted.

There were no TPAF employee salaries charged to federal award expenditures that would require reimbursement to the State of New Jersey for TPAF Pension or FICA paid on-behalf of the district.

## School Purchasing Programs

### Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

Effective April 17, 2000, *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A (Public School Contracts Law) was revised by P.L.1999,c.440 (originally known as Assembly Bill No. 3519). Rules and regulations pertaining to the amended law are to be promulgated by the Division of Local Government Services, with consultation from the Commissioner of Education.

### Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 is amended to read as follows:

- a. When the cost or price of any contract awarded by the purchasing agent in the aggregate, does not exceed in the 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. (pending before the Legislature as section 15 of this bill) of section 9 of P.L.1971,c.198(C.40A:11-9) the board of education may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$36,000. 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.*18A:18A-2(pending before the Legislature as section 50 of this bill), 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.

Any contract made pursuant to this section may be awarded for a period of 24 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of *N.J.S.*18A:18A-5 may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months.

N.J.S.A.18A:18A-4 (as amended) states, "Every contract or agreement 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.

Effective July 1, 2020 and thereafter 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 currently \$20,200.

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 Solicitor's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

Within the state budgeting structure and general ledger accounting system, payments for categories for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies are not accumulated by category type. As such, the results of such an accumulation could not reasonably be ascertained. Disbursements were reviewed, however, to determine whether any clear-cut violations existed.

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 provisions of N.J.S.A. 8A:18A-4.

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

Within the state budgeting structure and general ledger accounting system, payments are not accumulated for 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 the following purchases were made through the use of State contracts:

Furniture and Equipment  
Computer Equipment

### **Application for State School Aid**

Our audit procedures included a test of the information reported in the October 15, 2021, Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the handicapped, low-income and bilingual. 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 without exception. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

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

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

### **Pupil Transportation**

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported in the 2021-2022 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The information that was included on the DRTRS was verified to the DRTRS Eligibility Summary Report without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

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

**Enterprise Funds**

Effective June 30, 2018 management closed the school and ceased all unprofitable enterprise fund operations. Remaining operations include enterprise funds of transportation and managing the sourcing of professional therapists for area school districts.

The district experienced negative cash flow of \$191,980 during the year in the enterprise funds, with a negative cash flow of \$190,286 across all funds. The overall cash balance as of June 30, 2022 is (\$456,699). The district was negatively affected by the corona virus pandemic in the prior year with an enterprise fund loss of \$393,947, excluding the effects of GASB No. 68 pension accounting adjustments. In the current fiscal year, residual effects of the pandemic continued, however losses were reduced significantly to \$71,632.

The district collected 99% of the June 30, 2022 receivable balance of \$419,035 through August 29, 2022, which will partially liquidate the negative cash balance. The District anticipates generating approximately \$300,000 in profit from remaining operations on an annual basis assuming the effects of the pandemic recede.

**Follow-up on Prior Years' Findings**

In accordance with *government auditing standards*, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations. There were no prior year findings.

**Recommendations**

None

**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.



WARREN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT

APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY  
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2021

	<u>2022-2023 Application for State School Aid</u>						<u>Sample for Verification</u>				<u>On Roll-Related Services</u>			<u>Private Schools for Handicapped</u>				<u>Private Schools-Related Services</u>					
	Reported on A.S.S.A. On Roll		Reported on Workpapers On Roll		Errors		Sample Selected from Workpapers		Verified per Registers On Roll		Errors per Registers On Roll		Sample for Verifi- cation	Sample Verified	Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Private School	Sample for Verifi- cation	Sample Verified	Sample Errors	Sample for Verifi- cation	Sample Verified	Sample Errors	
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared											
Sp. Ed. Elementary	0		0					0		0													
Sp. Ed. Middle	0		0					0		0													
Sp. Ed. High	0		0					0		0													
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Percentage Error					<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>				<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>				<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>		<u>0.00%</u>

WARREN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT

APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY  
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2021

	<u>Low Income</u>			<u>Sample for Verification</u>			<u>Bilingual Education</u>			<u>Sample for Verification</u>					
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Low <u>Income</u>	Reported on Workpapers as Low <u>Income</u>	<u>Errors</u>	Sample Selected from <u>Workpapers</u>	Verified to Application and <u>Register</u>	Sample <u>Errors</u>	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Bilingual <u>Education</u>	Reported on Workpapers as Bilingual <u>Education</u>	<u>Errors</u>	Sample Selected from <u>Workpapers</u>	Verified to Test Score and <u>Register</u>	Sample <u>Errors</u>			
<b>Totals</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Bilingual Students			0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage Error			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>	Percentage Error			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>		

	<u>Transportation</u>					
	Reported on DRTRS by <u>DOE</u>	Reported on DRTRS by <u>District</u>	<u>Errors</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Verified</u>	<u>Errors</u>
<b>Totals</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage Error						<u>0.00%</u>

WARREN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Recommendations:

**1. Administrative Practices and Procedures**

None

**2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting**

None

**3. School Purchasing Programs**

None

**4. School Enterprise Funds**

None

**5. Student Body Activities**

None

**6. Application for State School Aid**

None

**7. Pupil Transportation**

None

**8. Facilities and Capital Assets**

None

**9. Miscellaneous**

None

**10. Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations**

A review was performed on the prior year recommendations. There were no prior year recommendations.