CARLSTADT-EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE JUNE 30, 2023

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DIETER P. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA GARY J. VINCI, CPA, RMA, PSA JEFFREY C. BLISS, CPA, RMA, PSA PAUL J. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA JULIUS B. CONSONI, CPA, PSA ANDREW D. PARENTE, CPA, RMA, PSA ELIZABETH A. SHICK, CPA, RMA, PSA ROBERT W. HAAG, CPA, RMA, PSA

DEBRA GOLLE, CPA MARK SACO, CPA ROBERT LERCH, CPA, PSA CHRISTOPHER M. VINCI, CPA, PSA CHRISTINA CUIFFO, CPA, PSA JOHN CUIFFO, CPA, PSA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education East Rutherford, New Jersey

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated February 22, 2024.

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 Education, 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, Viver & Bliss, CCP

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

Jeffrey C. Bliss

Public School Accountant PSA Number CS00932

Fair Lawn, New Jersey February 22, 2024

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator and Treasurer of School Moneys, 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

Fire insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on the Insurance Schedule (Exhibit J-20) contained in the district's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

Official Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jessenia Kan	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	\$225,000
Domenic Giancaspro	Treasurer of School Monies	225,000

There is an Employee Dishonesty and Faithful Performance coverage with the Great American Insurance Group covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$100,000 per employee and \$500,000 per loss.

P.L. 2020, c44

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 did appear to 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 Chapter 44 was not submitted timely.

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, 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 payroll taxes were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account.

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

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including the health benefit withholdings due to the General Fund.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Payroll Account (Continued)

The District maintains a personnel tracking and accounting (position control) system.

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

Reserve 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 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 expenditures included in our compliance and single audit testing procedures. In addition to randomly selecting a test sample, we also selected administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with NJAC 6A:23A-8.3. As a result of the procedures we noted immaterial instances of incorrect budget charges. Therefore we determined no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classifications.

Board Secretary's Records

The financial records, books of account and minutes maintained by the Board Secretary were in satisfactory condition.

Acknowledgement of the Board's receipt of the Board Secretary's monthly financial reports was included in the minutes with exception.

The prescribed contractual order system was followed.

• **Finding 2023-001** – Our audit revealed that the additional appropriation of unassigned fund balance from prior year unbudgeted Extraordinary Aid to the 2022-2023 general fund original budget was not approved by Board resolution.

Recommendation – The additional appropriation of unassigned fund balance to the original budget be approved by Board resolution.

Treasurer's Records

The Treasurer did perform cash reconciliations for all District accounts.

The Treasurer's records were in agreement with the Board Secretary's records.

Acknowledgement of the Board's receipt of the Treasurer's monthly financial reports was included in the minutes with exception as noted above.

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 projects under Title I, II, and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

Our examination of the E.S.E.A./ESSA 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.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

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

T.P.A.F Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

The amount of the expenditure charged to the current year's Final Reports 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. 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) 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.

If the purchasing agent is qualified pursuant to subsection b 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 \$44,000. 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. The Board has designated the School Business Administrator as the qualified purchasing agent.

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.

The results of our examination did indicate individual payments, contracts, or agreements which were made "for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies," in excess of statutory thresholds where there had been no advertising for bids in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4, as amended.

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

School Purchasing Programs (Continued)

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

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.

- Finding 2023-002 Our audit of compliance with purchasing and contract award procedures revealed the following:
 - A change order increasing a contract in excess of 20% of the original contract award amount was not approved by Board Resolution, did not have written certification justifying the circumstances to necessitate issuance of the change order and a notice was not advertised in the District's official newspaper of a change orders award exceeding 20% of the original contract award.
 - We noted certain cooperative purchasing program contract award information was not on file in the District and not being reviewed for certain purchases to ensure amounts invoiced were for goods or services awarded and prices paid in accordance with the cooperative purchasing program award.
 - Exceptions were noted for vendors who were paid in excess of the bid threshold and rendered all like-kind services that were not approved by Board resolution.
 - We noted an instance where competitive quotes were not obtained for purchases in excess of the quote threshold.
 - We noted several instances of New Jersey business registration certificates and political contribution disclosure forms not being obtained and on file in the District.

Recommendation — Continued efforts be made over purchasing procedures to ensure purchases and contract awards are procured and approved in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law and State procurement regulations.

Food Service Fund

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 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 student during the emergency.

The school food service program was not selected as a major federal or State program. However, the program expenditures exceeded \$100,000 in federal 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. Exceptions were not 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. Exceptions were not 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.

Food Service Fund (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 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 noted the FSMC refunded or credited the applicable amounts to the SFA.

Expenditures were separately recorded as food, labor and other costs. Vendor invoices were reviewed, and costs verified. Inventory records on food and supply items were currently maintained and properly applied in determining the cost of food and supplies used.

Net cash resources did not exceed three months average expenditures.

The district utilized 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 contract were reviewed and audited. The FSMC contract does not include an operating results provision.

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.

Applications for free and reduced price meals were reviewed for completeness and accuracy as part of our audit of the Application for State School Aid ("ASSA").

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in the section entitled Fund Financial Statements Exhibits B-4 to B-6 of the ACFR.

Student Body Activities

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

The accounting records were maintained in good condition.

Receipts tested were deposited in a timely manner.

Disbursements tested had proper supporting documentation.

Application for State School Aid

Audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 14, 2022 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the handicapped, low-income and bilingual. A review was performed of the district procedures related to its completion. The information on the A.S.S.A. was compared to the district workpapers with exceptions noted. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified with exceptions noted. The results of these 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 written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

• Finding 2023-003 – Our audit of low income students reported on the ASSA report did not agree to the amounts reported in the District workpapers and the respective supporting documentation.

Recommendation – Procedures over ASSA reporting be reviewed to ensure low income students reported on the ASSA agree to District workpapers and supporting documentation.

Pupil Transportation

Our audit procedures included a test of on roll status reported in the 2022-2023 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 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 audit procedures included a review of the transfer of local funds from the General Fund or from the capital reserve accounts, and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction.

Testing for Lead of all Drinking Water in Educational 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.

Follow-up on Prior Year Findings

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations.

Suggestions to Management

- Balances in the net payroll and payroll agency accounts be reviewed and any excess balances be cleared of record.
- Employee compensated absences liability be prepared timely at year-end.

CARLSTADT-EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE FUND NUMBER OF MILKS SERVED AND (OVER)/UNDERCLAIM ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOT APPLICABLE

NET CASH RESOURCES SCHEDULE

Proprietary Funds - Food Service FYE 2023

Net Cash Resources:			Food Service <u>B - 4/5</u>		
ACFR * B-4 B-4 B-4	Current Assets Cash & Cash Equiv. Due from Other Gov'ts Other Accounts Receivable	\$	4,508 173,182 1,689		
B-4 B-4 B-4	Current Liabilities Less Accounts Payable Less Due to Other Funds Less Deferred Revenue		(7,426) (20) (5,749)		
	Net Cash Resources	\$	166,184	(A)	
Net Adj. Total Operating B-5	Expense: Tot. Operating Exp.		772,979		
B-5	Less Depreciation		(18,956)		
	Adj. Tot. Oper. Exp.	\$	754,023	(B)	
Average Monthly Operat	ing Expense:				
	B / 10	\$	75,402	(C)	
Three times monthly Ave	Three times monthly Average:				
	3 x C	\$	226,207	(D)	
TOTAL IN BOX A	\$ 166,184				

Net cash resources	do not exceed 3	X average monthly	operating expenses.

226,207 **(60,023)**

LESS TOTAL IN BOX D

NET

CARLSTADT-EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022 SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

		2023-2024	Application	n for State S	School Aid		Sample for Verification						Private Schools for Disabled						
_	Repor	ted on	Repor	ted on			Sa	mple	Verifi	ed per	Error	s per	Reported on	Sample					
	A.S.	S.A.	Work	papers			Selec	ted from	Reg	ister	Regi	sters	A.S.S.A. as	for					
	<u>On</u>	<u>Roll</u>	On :	<u>Roll</u>	Err		Wor	kpapers		Roll	On l		Private	Verifi-	Sample	Sample			
<u>-</u>	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Schools	cation	Verified	Errors			
Grade 9	192	1.5	193	0.5	(1)	1	192	1.5	193	0.5	(1)	1							
Grade 10	188	0.5	187	0.5	1	-	187	0.5	187	0.5	-	-							
Grade 11	157	0.5	157	0.5	-	-	157	0.5	157	0.5	-	-							
Grade 12	105		105		-		105		105		-								
Subtotal	642	2.5	642	1.5	-	1	641	3	642	1.5	(1)	1							
Spec Ed - High School	116	1.5	114	0.5	2	1	35		34		1	(1)	10	4	3	1			
Subtotal	116	1.5	114	0.5	2	1	35	-	34	-	1	(1)	10	4	3	1			
Totals _	758	4.0	756	2.0	2	2	676	3	676	1.5	_	-	10	4	3	1			
Percentage Error				=	0.26%	50.00%				=	0.00%	0.00%				10.00%			

CARLSTADT-EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022 SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

_	Resid	ent Low Income		Sample	for Verification	1	Reside	ent LEP Low In	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 ASSA	Reported on Workpapers	Errors	Sample Selected	Sample Verified	Errors	
Grade 9	49	58	(9)	22	20	2	2	3	(1)	1		1	
Grade 10	31	50	(19)	12	. 6	6	5	3.5	1.5	1	1	-	
Grade 11	41	45.5	(4.5)	19	14	5		2	(2)	1	1	-	
Grade 12	28	27	1	10	5	5_	2	2		1		1	
Subtotal	149	180.5	(31.5)	63	45	18	9	10.5	(1.5)	4	2	2	
Spec Ed - High School	35	47	(12)						-			_	
Subtotal	35	47	(12)	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	
Totals	184	228	(44)	63	45	18	9	11	(2)	4	2	2.0	
Percentage Error		:	-23.64%		-	28.57%		=	-16.67%		=	50.00%	

_			Trans	portation			
_	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors		Tested	Verified	Errors
Regular - Public Schools	50	50	-		14	14	
Transported - Non-Public			-				-
Regular - Spec. Ed.	5	5	-		2	2	-
Special Needs - Public	25	25	-		8	8	
Totals =	80	80			24	24	
Percentage Error		:	0.00%				0.00%

CARLSTADT-EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022 SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

	Resident	t LEP Not Low In-	come	Sample for Verification
	Reported on	Reported on		
	A.S.S.A as	Workpapers as		Sample Verified to
	Not Low	Not Low		Selected from Application Sample
	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers and Register Errors
Grade 9	2	. 3	(1)	1 1 -
Grade 10	3	8	(5)	3 -
Grade 11	4	7	(3)	2 -
Grade 12	6	3	3	1 1 -
Subtotal	15	21	(6)	7 7 -
Spec Ed - High School	1	1		1 1 -
Subtotal	1	1	-	1 1 -
Totals	16	22	(6)	8 8 -
Percentage Error		:	-37.50%	0.00%

CARLSTADT-EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

SECTION 1 - Two Percent (2%) - Calculation of Excess Surplus					
2022-2023 Total General Fund Expenditures			\$ 22,389,271		
Increased by: Transfer to Special Revenue Fund			50,000		
Decreased by: On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases	\$	(3,173,971) (30,460)	(3,204,431)		
Adjusted 2022-2023 General Fund Expenditures			 19,234,840		
2% of Adjusted 2022-2023 General Fund Expenditures			 384,697		
Enter Greater of 2% of Adjusted 2022-2023 General Fund Expenditures, or \$250	,000		384,697		
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment			 220,474		
Maximum Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance				\$	605,171
SECTION 2					
Total General Fund - Fund Balance at June 30, 2023			\$ 5,186,952		
Decreased by: Year-End Encumbrances Capital Reserve Capital Reserve - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Maintenance Reserve Maintenance Reserve - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$	162,343 2,543,134 345,000 200,000 280,000 300,000 751,304	 4,581,781		
Total Unassigned Fund Balance for Excess Surplus Calculation				\$	605,171
SECTION 3					
Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus				<u>\$</u>	0
Detail of Allowable Adjustments Extraordinary Aid				<u>\$</u>	220,474
Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2023					
Reserved Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures				\$	300,000
Reserved Excess Surplus					0
Total Excess Surplus				\$	300,000

I. Administrative Practices and Procedures

There are none.

II. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

It is recommended that:

1. The additional appropriation of unassigned fund balance to the original budget be approved by Board resolution.

III. School Purchasing Program

* 2. It is recommended that continued efforts be made over purchasing procedures to ensure purchases and contract awards are procured and approved in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law and State procurement regulations.

IV. Enterprise Funds

There are none.

V. Student Body Activities

There are none.

VI. Application for State School Aid

* 3. It is recommended that procedures over ASSA reporting be reviewed to ensure low income students reported on the ASSA agree to District workpapers and supporting documentation.

VII. Transportation

There are none.

VIII. Facilities and Capital Assets

There are none.

VIII. Miscellaneous

There are none.

IX. Status of Prior Years' Audit Findings/Recommendations

A review was performed on all prior years' recommendations. Corrective action was taken on all prior year recommendations, except those denoted with an asterisk (*).

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.

Respectfully submitted,

LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP

Jeffrey C. Bliss

Certified Public Accountant Public School Accountant