SCHOOL DISTRICT

OF THE

TOWNSHIP OF DENNIS

Auditor's Management Report For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education Dennis Township School District County of Cape May, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with generally accepted audit standards and <u>Government Auditing</u> <u>Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Board of Education of the Township of Dennis School District in the County of Cape May for the year ended June 30, 2023 and have issued our report thereon dated January 12, 2024.

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 Dennis Township 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.

Ford, Scott & Associates, L.L.C. FORD, SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Leon P. Costello

Leon P. Costello Certified Public Accountant Licensed Public School Accountant No. 767

January 12, 2024

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

Name	Position	 Amount
Teri Weeks	Board Secretary / School Business Administrator	\$ 10,000.00
Kelly Brazelton	Treasurer	210,000.00

There is a Public Employees' Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond with the NJ School Insurance Group covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$100,000.

P.L.2020, c.44

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 on audit. The Chapter 44 summary report was reviewed for reasonableness and timeliness.

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

The school district certification was completed by the chief school administrator. The school district Chapter 44 data was submitted timely.

Tuition Charges

A comparison of tentative tuition charges and actual certified tuition charges was made. The actual costs were more than the estimated costs. The Board will make an adjustment to the billings of the sending districts for the increase in per pupil costs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:23-17.1(f) 3.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

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

Payroll Account

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

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

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including health benefit premium amounts withheld due to the general fund.

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

Employee Position Control Roster

An inquiry and subsequent review of the Position Control Roster found no inconsistencies between the payroll records, employee benefit records, the general ledger accounts to where wages are posted, and the Position Control Roster.

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 discrepancies were noted.

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, 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 zero was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary's Records

Our review of the financial and accounting records maintained by the Board Secretary disclosed the following items:

- The Board Secretary's records were in satisfactory condition.
- Bids received were summarized in the minutes (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21).
- Acknowledgement of the Board's receipt of the Board Secretary's and the Treasurer's monthly financial reports were included in the minutes.
- Budget appropriations were not greater than realized revenues and Board authorized use of surplus.
- No budgetary line accounts were over-expended during the fiscal year end at June 30 (*N.J.A.C.* 6A:23A-16.10)
- Payments made to vendors were not made until the receipt of goods.

- The district is maximizing its efforts under the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for obtaining federal funding for special education services.
- Budget transfers were approved by two-thirds affirmative vote of the authorized membership of the school board (*N.J.A.C.* 6A:23A-13.3(f))
- Purchase orders were charged to the appropriate line accounts in accordance with State prescribed <u>Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts (Handbook 2R2)</u>, for New Jersey Public Schools.
- Capital asset records were updated for the additions and disposals of capital assets made during the year.

Treasurer's Records

The following items were noted during our review of the records of the Treasurer:

- The Treasurer's records were in satisfactory condition.
- All required reconciliations were performed.
- Cash receipts were promptly deposited. (*N.J.A.C.* 18A:17-34, 18A:17-9.1)
- The Treasurer's records agreed with those of the Board Secretary.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.) as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

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

The study of compliance for E.S.E.A. revealed no areas of noncompliance and/or questionable costs.

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 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.

The study of compliance for Special Federal and/or State Projects revealed no instances of noncompliance.

TPAF Reimbursement

Our audit procedures included a test of the biweekly 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.

TPAF Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

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.

Nonpublic State Aid

Project completion reports were finalized and transmitted to the department by the due date.

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. Dennis Township Board of Education has a Qualified Purchasing Agent therefore the bid threshold was \$44,000 for fiscal year 2023. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is \$20,200 for 2022-23.

The board of education 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 my examination, I did not note any individual payments, contracts, or agreements were 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 with the provision of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A-4.

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

School Food Service

The school food service program was not selected as a major federal or State program. However, the program expenditures exceeded \$100,000 in federal and State support. Accordingly, we inquired of the School Business Administrator, as to whether the SFA had any Child Nutrition Program reimbursement overclaims or underclaims. No exceptions were noted.

We also inquired of the School Business Administrator, 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.

We also inquired of management about the public health emergency procedures/practices that the district instituted to provide meals to eligible 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. No exceptions noted.

The financial transactions and statistical records of the school food services were reviewed. The financial accounts, meal count records and eligibility applications were reviewed on a test-check basis. No exceptions noted.

Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed for timely deposit. No exceptions noted.

The school 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. Provisions of the FSMC contract were reviewed and audited. All vendor discounts, rebates, and credits from vendors and/or the FSMC were tracked and credited to the Food Service Account and reconciled to supporting documentation at least annually.

Expenditures were separately recorded as food, labor and other costs. Vendor invoices were reviewed and costs verified. Inventory records on food supply items were currently maintained and properly applied in determining the cost of food and supplies used. No exceptions noted.

The cash disbursement 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. No exceptions noted.

The district recorded and maintained separate supporting documentation for additional costs (food, supplies, transportation, etc.) applicable to the implementation of the COVID-19 meal service under SSO program requirements. No exceptions noted.

Net cash resources did exceed three months' average expenditures. No finding deemed necessary.

Time sheets were reviewed and labor costs verified. Payroll records were maintained on all School Food Service employees authorized by the board of education. No exceptions noted.

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 submitted and certified in a timely manner. No exceptions noted.

Applications for free and reduced price meals were reviewed for completeness and accuracy. The number of free and reduced price meals claimed was compared to the number of valid applications on file and/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. The required verification procedures for free and reduced price applications were completed and available for review. No exceptions noted.

USDA Food Distribution Program commodities were received and a separate inventory was maintained on a first-in, first-out basis. No exceptions were noted.

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

Community Education Program

The records of the Community Education Program were in satisfactory condition.

Student Body Activities

The records of the Student Activity Fund were in satisfactory condition.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 15, 2022 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 ASSA was compared to the district workpapers without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments. No finding deemed necessary

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

The district written procedures appear to be adequate for the recording of student enrollment data.

Pupil Transportation

Our audit procedures included a test of on roll status reported in the 2022-23 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. No finding deemed necessary.

Our procedures also include a review of transportation related contracts and purchases. Based on our review, the district complied with proper 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 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, where applicable. No exceptions were noted.

Miscellaneous

• Testing for Lead of all Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

The school district adhered to all the 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 did submit the annual Statement of Assurance to the Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12(g).

Follow-Up on Prior Year Findings

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations. Corrective action has been taken on all prior year recommendations.

Suggestions to Management

The District has accumulated Excess Cash Net Resources in the Food Service Fund due to the influx of additional Federal and State Funding related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The State of New Jersey Department of Agriculture has issued a letter dated October 4, 2023, to all School Districts indicating that these excess funds may be retained by the District and, that the District must develop a plan which projects how excess funds will be expended in support of the program during the upcoming school year. We suggest that the district develop a plan to utilize the excess funds on allowable expenses that support the Federal Child Nutrition Program, such as improving the nutritional quality of food or purchasing equipment for the kitchens and cafeterias as outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations, 7 CFR 210.14(a).

Acknowledgment

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.

Ford, Scott & Associates, L.L.C. FORD, SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Leon P. Costello

Leon P. Costello Certified Public Accountant Licensed Public School Accountant No. 767

January 12, 2024

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DENNIS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

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DENNIS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

REGULAR DISTRICT

SECTION 1

A. <u>2% Calculation of Excess Surplus</u>

2022-23 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR, Ex. C-1 Increased by:	\$ <u>16,987,022.24</u> (B)
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	\$ 236,286.00 (B1c)
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Inclusion	\$(B1d)
Decreased By:	
On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security	\$ 2,500,494.29 (B2a)
Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases	\$(B2b)
Adjusted 2022-23 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1's)-(B2's)]	\$ <u>14,722,813.95</u> (B3)
2% of Adjusted 2022-23 General Fund Expenditures [(B3) times .02]	\$ 294,456.28 (B4)
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000	\$ 294,456.28 (B5)
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment*	\$ <u>1,193,413.00</u> (K)
Maximum Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]	\$ <u>1,487,869.28</u> (M)

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DENNIS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

SECTION 2

Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 06/30/23 (Per ACFR Budgetary Comparison schedule/statement C-1)	\$_	4,810,591.99	(C)
Decreased by:			
Year-end Encumbrances	\$	880,843.19	(C1)
Legally Restricted-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$		(C2)
Legally Restricted-Excess Surplus - Designated for	_		
Subsequent Year's Expenditures **	\$	153,328.00	(C3)
Other Restricted Fund Balances ****	\$	1,720,327.15	(C4)
Assigned Fund Balance-Unreserved Designated for	_		
Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$	1,206,594.00	(C5)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance [(C)-(C1)-(C2)-(C3)-(C4)-(C5)-(C6)]		\$	849,499.65 (U1)
SECTION 3			
Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus *** [(U1)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE ENTER - 0 -		\$	(E)
<u>Recapitualtion of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2023:</u>			
Reserved Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures ** Reserved Excess Surplus ***		\$ \$	<u> </u>
Total [(C3) + (E)]		\$	153,328.00 (D)

* This adjustment line (as detailed below) is to be utilized for Impact Aid (when applicable), Sale and Lease-back (Refer to the Audit Program Section II, Chapter 10), and Extraordinary Aid, Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid and Unbudgeted TPAF Wage Freeze Grant Funding. (Refer to the Audit Program Section II, Chapter 10 for restrictions on the inclusion Extraordinary Aid and Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid.)

Detail of Allowable Adjustment

Impact Aid	\$ (H)
Sale & Lease-back	\$ (I)
Extraordinary Aid	\$ 238,063.00 (J1)
Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid	\$ 3,518.00 (J2)
Current Year School Bus Advertising Revenue Recognized	\$ (J3)
Family Crisis Transportation Aid	\$ (J4)
Supplemental Stabilization Aid received April 2023 &	
Maintenance of Equity Aid received July 2023	\$ 951,832.00 (J5)
Total Adjustments [(H)+(I)+(J1) + (J2)]	\$ 1,193,413.00 (K)

- ** This amount represents the June 30, 2023 Excess Surplus (C3 above) and must be included in the Audit Summary Worksheet Line 90031.
- *** Amounts must agree to the June 30, 2023 ACFR and the sum of the two lines must agree to Audit Summary Worksheet Line 90030.

DENNIS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**** 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 Finance prior to September 30.

Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance

Statutory restrictions: Approved unspent separate proposal Capital outlay for a district with a capital outlay cap waiver Sale/lease-back reserve Capital reserve Maintenance reserve Emergency reserve Tuition reserve School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - CY School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - CY School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - PY Impact Aid General Fund Reserve (Sec. 8002 and 8003) Impact Aid General Fund Reserve (Sec. 8007 and 8008) Other state/government mandated reserve	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	614,304.15 921,171.56 184,851.44	
Other state/government mandated reserve Reserve for Unemployment Fund	\$_ \$		
[Other Restricted Fund Balance not noted above]****	\$_	_	
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$	1,720,327.15	(C4)

AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 DENNIS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. <u>Administrative Practices and Procedures</u> None
- 2. <u>Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting</u> None
- 3. <u>School Purchasing Program</u> None
- 4. <u>School Food Service</u> None
- 5. <u>Community Education Program</u> None
- 6. <u>Student Body Activities</u> None
- 7. <u>Application for State School Aid</u> None
- 8. <u>Pupil Transportation</u> None
- 9. <u>Facilities and Capital Assets</u> None
- 10. <u>Miscellaneous</u> None
- 11. <u>Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations</u> There were four prior year findings noted, corrective action has been taken on all prior year recommendations.

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