## Auditor's Management Report

for the

## Borough of Metuchen School District

in the

County of Middlesex New Jersey

for the

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

## AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS-FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditor's Report Scope of Audit	1 2
Administrative Practices and Procedures Insurance Official Bonds Health Benefit Data – Chapter 44	2 2 2
Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting Examination of Claims Payroll Account Position Control Roster Reserve for Encumbrances Liability (Current) and Accounts Payable Unemployment Compensation Insurance Trust Fund Classification of Expenditures Board Secretary's Records Treasurer's Records Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.) as Amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Other Special Federal and State Projects T.P.A.F. Reimbursement	2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4
School Purchasing Programs Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids School Food Service Fund Student Body Activities Application for State School Aid Pupil Transportation Facilities and Capital Assets Testing for Lead of all Drinking Water in Educational Facilities Follow-Up on Prior Year's Findings Recommendations	5-6 7-8 8 8 8 8 8
Schedule of Audited Enrollments Excess Surplus Calculation	10-12 13

308 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090-2122
Telephone 908-789-9300 Fax 908-789-8535
E-mail info@scnco.com

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education Metuchen School District County of Middlesex Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

We have audited, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Borough of Metuchen School District in the County of Middlesex for the year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report dated January 24, 2024.

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

This report is intended solely for the information of the Borough of Metuchen School District, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Education and federal and state audit awarding agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT NO. 948

January 24, 2024

#### **SCOPE OF AUDIT**

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

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

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

Insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed in the District's A.C.F.R. (See Exhibit "J-20").

#### Official Bonds

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT OF BONDS
Rebecca Cuthbert	Treasurer of School Monies	\$280,000.00
Michael Harvier	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	50,000.00

Adequacy of insurance coverage is the responsibility of the Board of Education.

#### **Health Benefits-Chapter 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 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 Chapter 44 data was submitted timely.

#### 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.

#### Payroll Account (Continued)

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

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies.

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

#### **Position Control Roster**

The Position Control Roster was reviewed and compared to payroll records, employee benefit records and charges made to the general ledger to ensure proper and consistent financial reporting and that employee benefits are only offered to current employees.

#### Reserve for Encumbrances, Liability (Current) for Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding purchase orders was made as of June 30 for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable.

#### **Unemployment Compensation Insurance Trust Fund**

The Board has adopted the direct reimbursement method and has established an Unemployment Compensation Insurance Trust Fund.

#### 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 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 errors were noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

#### **Board Secretary's Records**

The records maintained by the Board Secretary were in satisfactory condition and appropriate balances matched to those prepared by the Treasurer of School Monies.

#### Treasurer's Records

The records maintained by the Treasurer of School Monies were in satisfactory condition and independently maintained from the Board Secretary/Board Administrator.

## 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 A.C.F.R.. This section of the A.C.F.R. documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Title I, II, and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

#### Other Special Federal and State Projects

The District's Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedule A and Schedule B located in the A.C.F.R.. 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 A.C.F.R.. This section of the A.C.F.R. documents the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

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

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

Our audit procedures also included a test of the reimbursement of the employer share of pensions, group life insurance, FICA and other benefits of the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund for TPAF members carrying out and paid from federally funded programs in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:66-90. The District filled out the required form and submitted prior to the end of the 90 day grant liquidation period required by the Office of Grants Management. Our test included verification of eligible employees to be included. The expenditure was reviewed subsequent to the reimbursement. No exceptions were noted.

#### SCHOOL PURCHASING PROGRAMS

#### Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

#### N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 States:

- "a. When the cost or price of any contract awarded by the purchasing agent in the aggregate, does not exceed in a contract year the total sum of \$44,000.00, 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 therefor, 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 \$44,000.00. 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.A. 18A:18A-2 and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000.00. 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 every 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.A. 18A:18A-5 may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months."
- N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 states, "Every contract 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 therefor, except as is provided otherwise in this chapter or specifically by any other law.

The board of education may, by resolution approve by the majority of the board of education and subject to subsections b. and c. of this section, disqualify a bidder who would otherwise be determined to be the lowest responsible bidder, if the board of education finds that it has had negative prior experience with the bidder."

Effective July 1, 2020 and thereafter, the bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a) became \$44,000.00. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18:39-3 is currently \$20,200.00.

#### SCHOOL PURCHASING PROGRAMS

#### Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

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.

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 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. 18A:18A-4.

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

#### SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE FUND

Therefore, 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 free and reduced price meal eligible students during the emergency.

The financial transactions and statistical records of the School Food Services were maintained in satisfactory condition. The financial accounts, meal count records and eligibility applications were reviewed on a test-check basis. No exceptions were noted.

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

We also inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the SFA's expenditures of school food service revenues were limited to allowable direct and indirect costs. No exceptions 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 inquired of management about the public health emergency procedures/practices that the SFA instituted to provide meals to all students, maintenance of all applicable production records; meal counts; noncompetitive procurements; modification of existing contracts and applicable financial records to document the specific costs applicable to the emergency operations. We also inquired if the FSMC received a loan in accordance with the Payroll Protection Plan and whether the funds were used to pay for costs applicable to the Food Service Programs. We also inquired if the PPP loan was subsequently forgiven and the FSMC refunded or credited the applicable amounts to the SFA.

#### STUDENT BODY ACTIVITIES

A cash receipts and disbursement record was maintained in satisfactory condition.

#### APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID

Our 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. We also performed a review of the district procedures related to its completion. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified without exception.

#### **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.

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. The bid specifications for the purchase of buses were in compliance with applicable statutes. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

#### **FACILITIES AND CAPITAL ASSETS**

Our procedures included review of transfers of local funds from the general fund or from the capital reserve account, awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction, and the District's capital assets ledger. No exceptions noted.

#### TESTING FOR LEAD OF ALL DRINKING WATER IN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Our procedures included examination and interviews regarding the district's compliance with N.J.A.C. 26-1.2 and 12.4 relating to the testing for lead in drinking water. 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). No exceptions were noted.

#### **FOLLOW-UP ON PRIOR YEAR'S FINDINGS**

There were no findings in prior year.

#### It is recommended that:

0 1000:::::	
1.	Administrative Practices and Procedures
	None
2.	Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting
	None
3.	School Purchasing Program
	None
4.	School Food Service
	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's Findings/Recommendations
	Not Applicable

METUCHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022

		2022-23	2022-23 Application for Stat	or State School Aid	ol Aid				Sample for Verification	arification			Priva	ite School fo	Private School for Handicapped	ed
	Reported	ğ	Reported on	no pe			Sample	ple	Verified per	per	Errors per	L	Reported	Sample		
	on A.S.S.A.	Ą.	Workpapers	apers			Selected from	Hrom I	Registers	9rs	Registers		on A.S.S.A.	for		
	as on Roll	oii.	on Roll	llo:	ΨŪ	Errors	Workpapers	apers	on Roll	7	on Roll		as Private	Verifi-	Sample	Sample
	Full	Shared	티카	Shared	Full	Shared	ᄪ	Shared	Full	Shared	Fu≝	Shared	Schools	cation	Verified	Errors
Half Day PreK 3 yrs	2	0	~	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Half Day PreK 4 yrs	S	0	ιΩ	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Day PreK 3 yrs.	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Φ	0	0	0	0
Full Day PreK 4 yrs.	2	0	2	0	0	0	-	0	****	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haff Day K	70	0	70	0	0	0	æ	0	œ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
One	142	0	142	0	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	O	0
Two	166	0	166	0	0	0	20	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Three	146	0	146	0	0	0	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Four	143	0	143	0	٥	0	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Five	174	٥	174	0	0	0	2	0	21	0	0	0	0	٥	0	0
Six	140	0	140	0	0	٥	17	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seven	166	0	166	0	0	0	20	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eight	161	0	161	0	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	o	0	0
Nine	144	0	144	0	0	0	17	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ten	151	0	151	0	0	0	18	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eleven	150	0	150	0	0	0	18	0	₩	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Twelve	161	٥	161	٥	٥	0	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	1,927	0	1,927	0	0	0	225	0	225	O	0	0	0	0	0	0
SpEd Elementary	156	0	156	0	0	0	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SpEd Middle School	94	0	94	0	0	0	#	0	<b>*</b>	0	0	0	4	-	<b>~</b>	0
SpEd High School	102	٥	102	٥	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	0	80	•	<b>*</b>	0
Subtotal	352	0	352	٥	0	0	42	0	42	0	0	0	12	2	2	0
Totals	2,279	0	2,279	0	٥	0	267	٥	267	0	0	٥	12	2	2	0
Percentage				fi.	0.00%	**************************************				11	0.00%					0.00%

METUCHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022

		Low Income		Sar	Sample for Verification	_	Resi	Resident LEP Low Income	me	Sa	Sample for Verification	ou
	Reported on	Reported on		Sample	Verified to		Reported on	Reported on		Sample	Verified to	
	A.S.S.A. as	Workpapers as		Selected	Application		A.S.S.A. as	Workpapers as		Selected	Application	
	Low	Low		from	and	Sample	LEP Low	LEP Low		from	and	Sample
	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	Register	Errors	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	Register	Errors
Half Day PreK 3 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Half Day PreK 4 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Day PreK 4 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Half Day K	-	-	0	-	-	0	٥	0	0	0	۵	0
One	10	10	0	-	-	0	s S	ಳು	0	-	•	0
Two	~	4.	0	-	-	0	€4	~	0	0	0	0
Three	80	80	0	-	-	0	₹~	•	0	0	0	0
Four	0	o	0	-	<b>e</b> in	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Five	13	13	0		***	0	2	2	0	-	-	0
Six	6	თ	0	1	***	0	-	-	0	0	0	0
Seven	e	eo	0		404	0	-	-	0	0	0	0
Eight	60	80	0	-	***	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nine	11	Ξ	0	-	<b>*-</b>	0	-	-	0	0	0	0
Ten	9	φ	0	-	-	c	0	0	0	0	C	٥
Eleven	-	Ξ	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Twelve	7	7	0	•	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	107	107	0	13	13	0	15	15	0	2	2	0
	ų	4	•	c	c	c	ď	(	c	•	c	•
Spea Elementary	<u>.</u>	<u>C</u> !	<b>-</b>	7	7	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
SpEd Middle School	15	15	0	2	5	0	C	0	0	0	0	0
SpEd High School	14	4	0	2	2	0	٥	٥	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	44	44	0	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	151	151	0	19	19	0	15	15	0	2	23	0
on a contract			%000			%0000			%00 o			, OO O
0.13 0.800.00.00			S. O.		-	200		-	20000			With the second
			Fransportation	ortation								
	Reported on DRTRS by	Reported on DRTRS by										
	DOE	District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors						
Reg. Public Schools, col. 1	27	27	0	æ	80	0						
Non Pub - All Col.3	76	92	0	23	73	0						
Reg SpEd, Col.4	o ;	0	0 (	0 ;	0 9	0 1						
Special Ed Spec, col.5	175	175	0	53	777							
	A 2 1			Schwarminus Wave								
Percentage Error			%00.0		•	0.00%						

# METUCHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022

	Reside	ent LEP NOT Low li	ncome	Sar	mple for Verificati	on
	Reported on	Reported on		Sample	Verified to	
	A.S.S.A. as	Workpapers as		Selected	Application	
	NOT Low	NOT Low		from	and	Sample
	Income	Income	Errors	Workpapers	Register	Errors
Half Day Preschool 3 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Half Day Preschool 4 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Day PreK 4 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Half Day Kindgergarten	3	3	0	0	0	0
One	4	4	0	1	1	0
Two	4	4	0	1	1	0
Three	3	3	0	0	0	0
Four	4	4	0	1	1	0
Five	3	3	0	0	0	0
Six	4	4	0	1	1	0
Seven	2	2	0	0	0	0
Eight	1	1	0	0	0	0
Nine	1	1	0	0	0	0
Ten	2	2	0	0	0	0
Eleven	0	0	0	0	0	0
Twelve	1	1	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	32	32	0	4	4	0
SpEd Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0
SpEd Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0
SpEd High School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	32	0	4	4	0
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

# BOROUGH OF METUCHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

#### SECTION 1

2% Calculation of Excess Surplus	
2022 - 2023 Total General Fund Expenditures 52,817,522. Increased by:	33_
Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund 2,200,000.  Decreased by:	00_
On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security 9,673,431.	
Adjusted 2022 - 2023 General Fund Expenditures	45,344,090.65
2% of Adjusted 2022 - 2023 General Fund Expenditures	906,881.81
Greater of line above or \$250,000.00	906,881.81
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment	537,548.00
Maximum Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance	1,444,429.81_
SECTION 2	
Total General Fund Balances @ 6-30-23	09
Decreased by: Year End Encumbrances 676,542.	59_
Legally Restricted-Excess Surplus-Designated For Subsequent Year's Expenditures 800,000.	00
Other Restricted Fund Balances (Capital Reserve,	00
Maintenance Reserve, Emergency Reserve, Unemployment) 9,185,700.	<u>69</u>
Total Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance for Excess Surplus Calculation	2,244,429.81
SECTION 3	
Restricted Fund Balance-Excess Surplus	800,000.00
Recapitulation of excess surplus as of June 30, 2023	
Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	800,000.00
Restricted Excess Surplus	800,000.00
Total	1,600,000.00
Detail of Allowable Adjustments	
Additional/Unbudgeted Extraordinary Aid	513,836.00
Additional/Unbudgeted Non-Public School Transportation Aid	23,712.00
	537,548.00