Auditor's Management Report

for the

# Borough of South Bound Brook School District

in the

County of Somerset New Jersey

for the

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

# AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE <u>FINDINGS – FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE</u>

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SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

308 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090-2122

Telephone 908-789-9300 F

Fax 908-789-8535

E-mail info@scnco.com

#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Honorable President and Members of the Board of Education Borough of South Bound Brook County of Somerset South Bound Brook, New Jersey 08880

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 South Bound Brook School District in the County of Somerset for the year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report dated January 11, 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 South Bound Brook School District, County of Somerset, 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.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT NO. 948

January 11, 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 South Bound Brook - Board of Education, 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 ACFR. (See Exhibit J-20).

#### **Official Bonds**

<u>Name</u>	Position	of Bonds
Joseph Marra	Treasurer of School Monies	\$200,000.00
Beverly Vlietstra	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	200,000.00
All Employees	All Employee Faithful Position Bond	500,000.00

Amount

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

#### 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 did include all health benefit plans offered by school district. The school district data 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 differed from the estimated costs. The Board made a proper adjustment to the billings to sending Districts for the difference in per pupil costs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A-23A-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 Accounts

The net salaries of all employees of the Board were deposited in the Net 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/Business Administrator.

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

Payrolls were delivered to the treasurer of school moneys with a warrant made to his 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 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 reserve 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, 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 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 agreement with the records maintained by the Treasurer of School Monies.

**<u>Finding 2023-002-</u>** The District did not collect its final levy payment from the Borough prior to June 30, 2023.

**<u>Recommendation 2023-002-</u>** The District should request the remittance of all tax levy balances prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

#### Treasurer's Records

The records maintained by the Treasurer of School Monies were in satisfactory condition and were in agreement with the records maintained by the Board Secretary/Business Administrator.

# 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 the projects under Titles I through IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

# 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.

#### 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.

The amount of the expenditure charged to the current year's Final Report(s) 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. 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 \$32,000.00, 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 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 or 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) are \$44,000.00 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent), \$32,000.00 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18:39-3 is currently \$20,200.00.

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.

# **School Purchasing Programs (Continued)**

# Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

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. Our audit did reveal however, that the District did make purchases under State contracts and cooperative purchasing agreements.

#### School Food Service

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 students during the emergency.

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 SFA had any Child Nutrition Program reimbursement overclaims or underclaims. No exceptions were noted.

The statement of revenues, expenses and charges in fund net position (ACFR exhibit B-5) does separate program and non-program revenue and program and non-program costs of goods sold.

We 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 were noted.

# **School Food Service (Continued)**

We also 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 verified the FSMC refunded or credited the applicable amounts to the SFA.

Finding 2023-003- Net cash resources exceeded three months average expenditures.

**<u>Recommendation 2023-003-</u>** That appropriate action be taken to ensure that net cash resources of the Food Service Account do not exceed three (3) months average expenditures.

#### **Student Body Activities**

During our review of the student activity funds, the following items were noted.

#### **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, and low-income. 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 with exceptions. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified with exceptions. 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 had written procedures for the recording of student enrollment.

**Finding 2023-001**. The School District's workpapers and corresponding documentation on low income applications did not agree with the submitted A.S.S.A. report

**<u>Recommendation 2023-001-</u>** That the District only report eligible students as low income on the A.S.S.A. report.

# **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 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 a review of local funds from the general fund or from the capital reserve account and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction. No exceptions were noted.

# 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:26-12.4(g).

# Follow-Up Prior Year's Audit Findings

In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, our procedures included a review of the prior year audit recommendations. Corrective action had been taken on all prior year findings.

# **Recommendations**

# **Administrative Practices and Procedures**

None

# Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

**<u>Recommendation 2023-002-</u>** The District should request the remittance of all tax levy balances prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

# **School Purchasing Program**

None

# School Food Service

**Recommendation 2023-003-** That appropriate action be taken to ensure that net cash resources of the Food Service Account do not exceed three (3) months average expenditures.

# **Student Body Activities**

None

# Application for State School Aid

**Recommendation 2023-001-** That the District only report eligible students as low income on the A.S.S.A. report.

#### **Pupil Transportation**

None

**Facilities and Capital Assets** 

None

#### **Miscellaneous**

None

# **Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations**

None

		2023-24	Application	2023-24 Application for State School	ool Aid			55	Sample for	Sample for Verification			Priva	ate School f	Private School for Handicapped	bed
	Reported	rted	Reported on	ted on			Sample	ole	Verified per	ad per	Errors per	s per	Reported	Sample		
	on A.S.S.A.	S.A.	Workpapers	apers			Selected from	from	Regi	Registers	Registers	sters	on A.S.S.A.	for		
	as on Roll	Roll	on Roll	Roll	Errors	IS	Workpapers	pers	uo	on Roll	on Roll	Roll	as Private	Verifi-	Sample	Sample
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Schools	cation	Verified	Errors
Half/Full Day Preschool	23		23		0		10		10		0					
Full Day Kindergarten	41		41		0		19		19		0					
One	39		39		0		18		18		0					
Two	41		41		0		19		19		0					
Three	44		44		0		20		20		0					
Four	38		38		0		17		17		0					
Five	43		43		0		20		20		0					
Six	42		42		0		19		19		0					
Seven	39		39		0		18		18		0					
Eight	36		36		0		16		16		0					
Nine																
Ten																
Eleven																
Twelve																
Subtotal	386	0	386	0	0	0	176	0	176	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SpEd Elementary	35		35		0		16		16		0		0	0	0	0
SpEd Middle School	11		11		0		5		5		0		0	0	0	0
SpEd High School							0				0		4	4	4	0
Subtotal	46	0	46	0	0	0	21	0	21	0	0	0	4	4	4	0
Totals	432	0	432	0	0	0	197	0	197	0	0	0	4	4	4	0
Percentage					0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	0.00%				0.00%

BOROUGH OF SOUTH BOUND BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022

	Resident LEP Low Income	Reported on	A.S.S.A. as Workpapers as
HOOL DISTRICT MENTS 2 SUMMARY 4, 2022	Resi	Reported on	A.S.S.A. as
BOROUGH OF SOUTH BOUND BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022	Sample for Verification	Verified to	Application
BOROUGH O SCH APPLICA ENR	Š	Sample	Selected

	2023-24 App	2023-24 Application for State School Aid	School Aid	San	Sample for Verification	ç	Resi	Resident LEP Low Income	me	San	Sample for Verification	uo
	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 Preschool Half Day Kindernarten												
Full Day Kindergarten	18	18		10	10		e	ę		2	2	
One	17	17		10	6	(1)	2	2		0	7	
Two	21	20	-	11	10	(1)	2	2		2	2	
Three	19	19		11	10	(1)	80	80		7	7	
Four	23	22	-	12	12		9	9		5 2	5	
Five	29	29		17	15	(2)	80	80		7	7	
Six	22	22		13	11	(2)	2	2		2	2	
Seven	22	22		12	11	(1)	4	4		£	б	
Eight	14	14		80	7	(1)	e	С		7	7	
Nine	11											
Ten	10.5											
Eleven	1											
Twelve	13											
Subtotal	230.5	183	2	104	95	(6)	38	38		32	32	
i	į			c	1	Q		•		c	c	
SpEd Elementary	11	16	-	ית		(7)	-	-		7	N	
SpEd Middle School	ω	ø		S	2 C		7	2		2	7	
SpEd High School	80											
Subtotal	33	24	-	14	12	(2)	ε	ю 		4	4	
Totals	263.5	207	ę	118	107	(11)	41	41		36	36	
	0.004	54										
Percentage Error			1.14%		-	(9.32%)						
			Transp	Transportation								
	Reported on	Reported on										
	DRTRS by	DRTRS by	ı			I						
	DOE	District	Errors	lested	Verified	Errors						
Reg.Public Schools,col.1	48	48		36	36							
Transported - Non-Public, col.3												
Reg SpEd, Col.4	10	10		80	80							
Special Ed Spec, col.6	15	15		11	=							
Totals	73	73		55	55							
Percentage Error												
					•							

# BOROUGH OF SOUTH BOUND BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022

	2023-24 Ap	oplication for State	School Aid	Sar	nple for Verificatio	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			0			0
Full Day Kindergarten	5	5	0	4	4	0
One	3	3	0	3	3	0
Two		0	0	0	0	0
Three	4	4	0	3	3	0
Four	1	1	0	1	1	0
Five	1	1	0	1	1	0
Six	2	2	0	2	2	0
Seven	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eight	1	1	0	1	1	0
Nine						0
Ten						0
Eleven						0
Twelve						0
Subtotal	17	17	0	15	15	0
SpEd Elementary	0		0	0	0	0
SpEd Middle School			0			0
SpEd High School			0			0
Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	17	17	0	15	15	0
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

#### SOUTH BOUND BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### SCHEDULE OF CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS

#### FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

#### REGULAR DISTRICT

#### SECTION 1

#### 2% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2022 - 2023 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR, Ex. C-1 Increased by: Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Regular Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Inclusion Decreased by:	\$ <u>14,008,934.44</u> 	
On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security	\$1,826,039.25	
Assets acquired under Installment Purchase Contracts Adjusted 2022 - 2023 General Fund Expenditures		\$12,182,895.19_
2% of Adjusted 2022 - 2023 General Fund Expenditures		\$243,657.90
Greater of line above or \$250,000.00		\$250,000.00
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment		\$259,431.00
Maximum Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance		\$509,431.00
SECTION 2		
Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 06/30/2023	\$3,823,250.49	
Decreased by: Year-end Encumbrances	\$37,948.45_	
Legally Restricted-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$	
Legally Restricted-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures - Capital Reserve	\$	
Legally Restricted-Excess Surplus-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 374,016.00	
Other Restricted Fund Balances:		
Maintenance Reserve Capital Reserve	\$ <u>265,230.00</u> \$ <u>1,833,709.04</u>	
Assigned Fund Balance - Unreserved-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$427,916.00_	
Total Unassigned Fund Balance		\$884,431.00

# SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance-Excess Surplus	\$ 375,000.00
Recapitulation of excess surplus as of June 30, 2023	
Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 374,016.00
Restricted Excess Surplus	\$ 375,000.00
Total Excess Surplus	\$ 749,016.00
Detail of Allowable Adjustments	
Extraordinary Aid	\$ 259,431.00
	\$ 259,431.00