

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-
TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF WARREN
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF WARREN
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
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October 31, 2023

The Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Education
Warren County Vocational-Technical School District
County of Warren, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Board of Education of the Warren County Vocational-Technical School District in the County of Warren for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated October 31, 2023.

As part of our audit, we performed procedures required by the New Jersey Department of Education, and the findings and results thereof are disclosed on the following pages, as listed in the accompanying table of contents. This letter does not affect our report dated October 31, 2023, on the financial statements of the Board.

We will review the status of the comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed these comments and suggestions with various management personnel, and we will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the suggestions.

This report is intended for the information of the Warren County Vocational-Technical School District's Board of Education, management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Nisivoccia LLP
NISIVOCCIA LLP

Heidi A. Wohlleb

Heidi A. Wohlleb
Licensed Public School Accountant #2140
Certified Public Accountant

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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 Board of Education, the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Board of Education.

Administrative Practices and Procedures:

Insurance:

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

Officials in Office and Surety Bonds:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Coverage</u>
Nancy DeRiso	Treasurer of School Monies	\$200,000
Amy Barkman	School Business Administrator	200,000

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 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.

The data certification date does not reflect a submission date later than 60 days after the end of the enrollment period.

Tuition Charges:

A comparison of tuition charges and actual receipts and receivables was made. It appears, from our testing, that tuition charges appear to be valid revenues of the District.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting:

Examination of Claims:

An examination of claims paid on a test basis, during the period under review revealed overall compliance with respect to signatures, certification and supporting documentation.

Payroll Account and Position Control Roster:

The net salaries of 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. Salary withholdings were remitted to the proper agencies, including health benefit withholdings due to the General Fund. All payrolls were approved by the Superintendent and certified by the President of the Board, the School Business Administrator and the Superintendent.

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting: (Cont'd)

Payroll Account and Position Control Roster: (Cont'd)

The required certification (E-CERT1) of compliance with requirements for income tax on compensation of administrators (superintendent, assistant superintendent, and business administrator) to the NJ Department of Treasury was filed in a timely manner.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable:

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made on a test basis as of June 30, for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable.

Classification of Expenditures:

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.2(g) 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. Overall compliance was noted.

Board Secretary's Records:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the Board Secretary's records for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records. Based on these procedures, we have no comments.

Treasurer's Records:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the Treasurer's records for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records. Based on these procedures, we have no comments except as noted herein.

No Child Left Behind (N.C.L.B.) 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 herein within the Special Revenue Section of the District's ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Title I, Title II, and Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects:

The District's Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedules A and 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.

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting: (Cont'd)

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects: (Cont'd)

The financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement:

Our audit procedures included a test of the biweekly reimbursements filed with the Department of Education for district 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 T.P.A.F. Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures was remitted to the State of New Jersey prior to the required deadline of October 1, 2023. The reimbursement form was reviewed and no exceptions were noted.

School Purchasing Program:

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 \$17,500, the contract may be awarded by a purchasing agent when so authorized by resolution of the Board of Education without public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, except that the Board of Education may adopt a resolution to set a lower threshold for the receipt of public bids or the solicitation of competitive quotations. If the purchasing agent is qualified pursuant to subsection b. of section 9 of P.L.1971, c. 198 the Board of Education may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$25,000. Such authorization may be granted for each contract or by a general delegation of the power to negotiate and award such contracts pursuant to this section.

b. Commencing in the fifth year after the year in which P.L.1999, c. 440 takes effect and every five years thereafter, the Governor, in consultation with the Department of Treasury, shall adjust the threshold amount and the higher threshold amount which the Board of Education is permitted to establish as set forth in subsection a. of this section or the threshold amount resulting from any adjustment under this subsection, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the index rate as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2, and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000. The Governor shall notify all local school districts of the adjustment no later than June 1 of every fifth year. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of the year in which it is made"

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 therefore, except as is provided otherwise in this chapter or specifically by any other law"

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 \$20,200 for 2022-23.

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

School Purchasing Program: (Cont'd)

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Cont'd)

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 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. None were noted.

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 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.

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:

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 the 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 were noted.

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 if the FSMC received a PPP loan.

Non-program foods were purchased, prepared or offered for sale. The Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for the ACFR Schedule B-5 does separate program and non-program revenue and program and non-program cost of goods sold.

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

School Food Service: (Cont'd)

Finding 2023-001:

Net cash resources exceeded three months average expenditures by \$78,506. As the District already has plans in place to resolve the excess, no formal recommendation is judged to be warranted.

Finding 2023-002:

The September state and federal reimbursement voucher for breakfasts and lunches served was not filed in a timely manner. The District filed a request for reimbursement which may be reimbursed at a later date. As the District has already implemented procedures to ensure that reimbursement vouchers are filed in a timely manner, no formal recommendation is judged to be warranted.

Student Body Activities:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the Student Activities records for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records. Based on these procedures, we have no comments.

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 and low income students. We also performed a review of the District procedures related to its completion. The information on the A.S.S.A. was compared to the District workpapers without exception. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified on a test basis without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

The District maintained workpapers on the prescribed State forms or their equivalent. The District's procedures for the recording of student enrollment data appear to be adequate.

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. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

Facilities and Capital Assets:

The District has one active SDA grant, the Emergent and Capital Maintenance Needs grant.

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

Travel Expenses and Travel Reimbursement Policy

Travel regulations require each District to adopt a formal policy and procedure pertaining to travel and expense reimbursement for its employees and board members. The regulations include requirements for the District to establish a maximum travel amount for the year and to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded. The regulations also require that all travel must be preapproved by the Board of Education and Superintendent and that a brief report detailing the key issues addressed at the travel event must be submitted after the travel event has occurred. No exceptions were noted in our testing.

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

The District did submit the annual Statement of Assurance to the NJ Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g).

Management Suggestions

Reconciling Food Service Management Contractor's Operating Statement with District Records

It is suggested that the District reconcile the revenue and expenses per the Food Service Management Contractor's Operating Statement with the District's records on a monthly basis.

COVID-19 Federal Funding

It is likely that the District will undergo some review of its COVID-19 federal funding if only at a desk review level by state and/or federal agencies. We strongly suggest that the District ensures that these funds are utilized in accordance with the applicable federal requirements especially with respect to procurement. Additionally, we strongly suggest that the District ensures that these funds are accounted for in the state account numbers designated by the NJ Department of Education and that any applicable Board policies are current with respect to federal grant requirements.

Capital Assets Appraisal

As it has been a number of years since a formal reappraisal has been completed of the District's capital assets, consideration should be given to having a formal reappraisal of the District's capital assets.

Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

The prior year recommendation regarding every effort be made to ensure that the number of resident low income students reported on the A.S.S.A. is accurate was fully resolved.

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	2023-2024 Application for State School Aid				Sample for Verification					
	Reported on		Reported on		Sample		Verified per		Errors per	
	A.S.S.A. On Roll		Workpapers On Roll		Selected from Workpapers		Registers On Roll		Registers On Roll	
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
County Vocational - Regular	348		348		348		348			
Subtotal	348		348		348		348			
Special Ed - High School	63		63		6		6			
Subtotal	63		63		6		6			
Totals	411	-0-	411	-0-	354	-0-	354	-0-	-0-	-0-
					0.00%		0.00%		0.00%	0.00%

Percentage Error

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

		Resident Low Income				
	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
County Vocational- Regular	47	47		1	1	
Subtotal	47	47		1	1	
Special Ed - High School	9	9		5	5	
Subtotal	9	9		5	5	
Totals	56	56	-0-	6	6	-0-
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	Transportation					
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
Regular - Public Schools	336	336		21	21	
Regular - Special Education	61	61		4	4	
Totals	397	397	-0-	25	25	-0-
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

6% Calculation of Excess Surplus (2022-2023 Expenditures of \$100 million or less)

2022/2023 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR, Ex. C-1	<u>\$11,476,925</u> (B)	
Increased by:		
Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund	<u>\$ -0-</u> (B1a)	
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	<u>\$ -0-</u> (B1b)	
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Regular	<u>\$ -0-</u> (B1c)	
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Inclusion	<u>\$ -0-</u> (B1d)	
Decreased by:		
On-Behalf TPAF Pension and Social Security	<u>\$ 2,043,930</u> (B2a)	
Assets Acquired Under Leases and Financed Purchases	<u>\$ -0-</u> (B2b)	
 Adjusted 2022-2023 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1's)-(B2's)]	 <u>\$ 9,432,995</u> (B3)	
 6% of Adjusted 2022-2023 General Fund Expenditures [(B3) times .06]	 <u>\$ 565,979</u> (B4)	
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000	<u>\$ 565,979</u> (B5)	
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment	<u>\$ 93,196</u> (K)	
 Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]		 <u>\$ 659,175</u> (M)

Section 2 - All Districts

Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2023 (Per ACFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule/Statement)	<u>\$ 5,522,540</u> (C)	
Decreased by:		
Year End Encumbrances	<u>\$ 83,344</u> (C1)	
Legally Restricted - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ -0-</u> (C2)	
Restricted - Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ 800,000</u> (C3)	
Other Restricted Fund Balances	<u>\$ 3,480,021</u> (C4)	
Assigned Fund Balance - Unreserved - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ -0-</u> (C5)	
 Total Unassigned Fund Balance [(C)-(C1)-(C2)-(C3)-(C4)-(C5)]		 <u>\$ 1,159,175</u> (U)

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

6% Calculation of Excess Surplus (2022-2023 Expenditures of \$100 million or less)

Section 3 - All Districts

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus [(U)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE, ENTER -0- \$ 500,000 (E)

Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2023

Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures \$ 800,000 (C3)

Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)] \$ 500,000 (E)

Total [(C3)+(E)] \$ 1,300,000 (D)

Detail of Allowable Adjustments

Impact Aid \$ -0- (H)

Sale and Lease Back \$ -0- (I)

Extraordinary Aid \$ -0- (J1)

Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid \$ -0- (J2)

Current Year School Bus Advertising Revenue Recognized \$ -0- (J3)

Family Crisis Transportation Aid \$ -0- (J4)

Supplemental Stabilization Aid \$ 93,196 (J5)

Total Adjustments ((H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)+(J3)+(J4)) \$ 93,196 (K)

Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance

Statutory restrictions:

Approved unspent separate proposal \$ -0-

Sale/lease-back reserve \$ -0-

Capital reserve \$ 3,068,477

Emergency reserve \$ -0-

Maintenance reserve \$ 350,049

Unemployment Compensation \$ 61,495

Tuition reserve \$ -0-

School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve – current year \$ -0-

School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve – prior year \$ -0-

Impact Aid General Fund Reserve (Sections 8002 and 8003) \$ -0-

Impact Aid Capital Fund Reserve (Sections 8007 and 8008) \$ -0-

Other state/governmental mandated reserve \$ -0-

Total Other Restricted Fund Balance \$ 3,480,021 (C4)

WARREN COUNTY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

It is recommended that:

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. Travel Expenses and Travel Reimbursement Policy
None
10. Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

The prior year recommendation regarding every effort be made to ensure that the number of resident low income students reported on the A.S.S.A. is accurate was fully resolved.