WOOD-RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS -FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE JUNE 30, 2023

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DIETER P. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA GARY J. VINCI, CPA, RMA, PSA JEFFREY C. BLISS, CPA, RMA, PSA PAUL J. LERCH, CPA, RMA, PSA JULIUS B. CONSONI, CPA, PSA ANDREW D. PARENTE, CPA, RMA, PSA ELIZABETH A. SHICK, CPA, RMA, PSA ROBERT W. HAAG, CPA, RMA, PSA DEBRA GOLLE, CPA MARK SACO, CPA ROBERT LERCH, CPA, PSA CHRISTOPHER M. VINCI, CPA, PSA CHRISTINA CUIFFO, CPA, PSA JOHN CUIFFO, CPA, PSA

AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Honorable President and Members of the Board of Trustees Wood-Ridge Board of Education 540 Windsor Road Wood-Ridge, New Jersey 07075

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Wood-Ridge Board of Education as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated November 28, 2023.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Trustees, others within the District and the New Jersey State Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Gary J. Vinci Public School Accountant PSA Number CS00829

Fair Lawn, New Jersey November 28, 2023

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator and Chief School Administrator, the activities of the Board of Education and the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Board of Education.

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

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

Official Bonds

Name	Position	<u>Amount</u>
Jenine Murray	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	\$225,000

There is a Public Employees' Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond with School Alliance Insurance Fund covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$500,000.

Our audit procedures included an inquiry and subsequent review of health benefit date required per N.J.S.A. 18A:16-13.3 (Chapter 44) submitted for the year of audit. The Chapter 44 summary report was reviewed for reasonableness and timeliness.

The data 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 submitted the Chapter 44 data in a timely manner.

Tuition Charges

A comparison of tentative tuition charges and actual certified tuition charges was made.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

An examination of claims paid during the period under review did not indicate any significant 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 tested were approved by the Superintendent and were certified by the President of the Board, the Board Secretary/Business Administrator and the Chief School Administrator.

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies. Health benefits withholdings were transferred to the general fund.

The District did not file the required certification (ECERTI) of compliance with requirements for income tax on compensation of administrators with the NJ Department of Treasury by the March 15 due date.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Payroll Account (Continued)

The Board has implemented and maintains a personnel tracking and accounting (position control) system.

Finding 2023-1 – Our audit of payroll revealed the following:

- The required certification (ECERT1) of compliance was not filed with the NJ Department of Treasury by the due date.
- Certain employee health benefit contributions were not calculated in accordance with contractual agreements and Board policy.
- The District did not prepare and remit the 2nd Quarter 2023 NJ 927 quarterly report to the Division of Treasury.

Recommendation – Internal controls over payroll procedures be reviewed and revised to ensure employee health benefit contributions are properly calculated and payroll filings be remitted in a timely manner.

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, a sample of 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 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 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 transaction errors were noted and no additional testing was required to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary's Records

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

The prescribed contractual order system was followed.

Bids received were summarized in the minutes (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21).

Monthly Board Secretary's report and certifications were not always approved by the Board in a timely manner.

Finding 2023-2 – Our audit indicated that the June 2023 Board Secretary Report and Cash Report was not submitted to the County until October 2023. In addition, the June 2023 budget transfers were not submitted to the Board for approval by July 30, 2023.

Recommendation – The monthly financial and budget transfer reports of the Board Secretary be submitted to and approved by the County and Board in a timely manner.

Finding 2023-3 – Our audit revealed that detailed bills list approved by the Board were not available for audit.

Recommendation – Detailed bills list approved by the Board be retained and made available for audit.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

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

The E.S.E.A./ESSA financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Fund of the ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Title I, Title II, Title III and Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Our examination 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.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

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

Our examination 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 contained herein represent a true statement of the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF)

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

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 not made prior to the end of the 90 day grant liquidation period required by the Office of Grants Management. The District is in the process of completing and filing the TPAF reimbursement.

School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

N.J.S.A. 18A:18-4 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:39-3 are \$44,000 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$32,000 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public school transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is \$20,200 effective 2022-23. The Board has appointed the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator as the Qualified Purchasing Agent.

The board of education has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory thresholds within the fiscal year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the 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 goods or service, 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 no instances where 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 Purchasing Programs (Continued)

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

The system of records did not provide for an accumulation of purchases for which the school board used contracts entered into by the State Department of Purchase and Property pursuant to Ch. 114, P.L. 1977, therefore, the extent of such purchases could not reasonably be ascertained. Our examination did reveal, however, that the district purchased items through the use of State contracts.

• Finding 2023-04 – Our audit revealed certain vendors paid in excess of the bid threshold, that were contracted through a State contract or cooperative purchasing agreement, who were not approved by the Board and included in the District's official minutes.

Recommendation 2023-04 – Purchasing procedures be reviewed and revised to ensure contract awards are approved by the Board and included in the minutes in accordance with the Public Schools Contract Law.

Food Service Fund

School Food Authorities ("SFA") 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 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. Exceptions were not noted.

We also inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the SFA's expenditures of school food service revenues were limited to allowable direct and indirect costs. Exceptions were not noted.

The 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 Cost Reimbursable Fixed Price or Non-Competitive Emergency Procurement contract/addendum were reviewed and audited. The FSMC contract includes an operating results provision which guarantees that the food service program will return a profit of \$27,500. The operating results provision has not been met. 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.

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

The cash disbursements records reflected expenditures for program related goods and services. The appropriate revenue and expenditure records were maintained in order to substantiate the non-profit status of the school food service.

Net cash resources did exceed three months average expenditures. Management has developed a financial plan to eliminate the excess net cash resources. The plan will take more than one year to be fully implemented.

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.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position (ACFR Schedule B-5) does segregate program and non-program revenue and program and non-program cost of goods sold.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in the section entitled Enterprise Funds.

Student Activity Fund

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

Cash receipts and cash disbursements records were maintained in satisfactory condition. Supporting documentation was maintained for all cash disbursements tested. The financial transactions of this fund are reported in the Special Revenue Fund.

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, related services, low-income and bilingual. 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 immaterial exceptions. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified with minor exceptions noted. 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 has adequate written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

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 with no exceptions. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

Our procedures included a review of transportation-related contracts and purchases. Based on our review, the district complied with proper bidding procedures and award of contracts. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of the SDA grant agreements 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. No exceptions were noted.

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Education 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 education facilities.

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).

Suggestions to Management

• Reconciling items on the District's bank reconciliations be reviewed and cleared.

WOOD-RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE ENTERPRISE FUND NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED AND (OVER)/UNDERCLAIM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

SCHEDULE OF MEAL COUNT ACTIVITY

NOT APPLICABLE

WOOD-RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOOD SERVICE ENTERPRISE FUND CALCULATION OF NET CASH RESOURCES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Net Cash Resources

Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	152,608
Intergovernmental Receivable		37,236
Due from Other Funds		69,054
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Net Cash Resources	\$	258,898
Adjusted Total Operating Expense:		
Total Operating Expenses	\$	662,374
Less Depreciation		(6,804)
Adjusted Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$</u>	655,570
Average Monthly Operating Expenses:	\$	65,557
Three Times Monthly Average:	<u>\$</u>	196,671
Total Net Cash Resources	\$	258,898
Three Times Monthly Average Expenses		196,671
Excess (Deficit) Net Cash Resources	\$	62,227

WOOD RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	2023-2024 Application for State School Aid				Sample for Verification					Private Schools for Disabled						
	Reporte		Repor				Sam		Verifie		Errors		Reported on	Sample		
	A.S.S.		Work				Selecte		Regis		Regis		A.S.S.A. as	for		
	On Re		On			rors	Workp		On R		On F		Private	Verifi-	Sample	Sample
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Schools	cation	Verified	Errors
Half Day Kindegarten																
Full Day Kindergarten	96		96				96		96							
One	114		114				114		114							
Two	88		88				88		84		4					
Three	77		77				77		76		1					
Four	50		50				50		50							
Five	78		78				78		78							
Six	85		85				83		83							
Seven	67		67				67		66		1					
Eight	76		76				76		76							
Nine	79	1	79	1			79	1	78	1	1					
Ten	94	3	94	3			94	3	96	3	(2)					
Eleven	60	1	60	1			60	1	56	1	4					
Twelve	92		92			-	92		98		(6)	-				
Subtotal	1,056	5	1,056	5	<u> </u>	-	1,054	5	1,051	5	3					
Special Ed - Elementary	70		70				57		56		1		7	2	2	
Special Ed - Middle School	28		28				14		14		-		4	1	1	
Special Ed - High School	35		35		-	-	35		35		-	-	5	2	2	-
Subtotal	133	-	133	-	-	-	106	-	105		1	-	16	5	5	-
Totals	1,189	5	1,189	5	<u> </u>	-	1,160	5	1,156	5	4	-	16	5	5	
Percentage Error					0.00%	0.00%					0.34%	0.00%				0.00%

WOOD RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	Resident Low Income			Sample for Verification			Resident LEP Low Income			Sample for Verification		
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP low Income	Ептотs	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Score and Register	Sample Errors
Full Day Kindergarten	11	11		3	3		2	2		1	1	
One	6	6		2	2		2	2		1	1	
Two	7	7		2	2		2	2		1	1	
Three	5	5		1	1		1	1				
Four	3	3		1	1							
Five	10	10		3	3							
Six	9	9		2	1	1						
Seven	8	7	1	3	3		2	2				
Eight	6	6		2	2							
Nine	8	10	(2)	3	3							
Ten	11.5	13	(1.5)	2	1	1						
Eleven	5	6	(1)	1	1							
Twelve	3	3	-	2	2	-			-			-
Subtotal	93	96	(4)	27	25	2	9	9		3	3	
Special Ed - Elementary	16	12	4	5	5							
Special Ed - Middle	13	11	2	4	4							
Special Ed - High	8	7	1	3	3	-	-	-				
Subtotal	37	30	7	12	12						-	
Totals	130	126	4	39	37	2	9	9		3	3	-
Percentage Error			2.70%			5.13%			0.00%			0.00%

	Transportation							
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE/county	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors		
Reg Public Schools	58	58		17	17			
Reg - Special Education	8	10	(2)	3	3			
Special Education	35	35	-	10	10	-		
Totals	101	103	(2)	30				
Percentage Error			-1.98%			0.00%		

WOOD RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	Reside	ent LEP NOT Low I	ncome	Sample for Verification				
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as NOT Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as NOT Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors		
Full Day Kindergarten	8	8		3	3			
One	3	3		1	1			
Two	5	5		1	1			
Three	1	1		ľ	1			
Four	2	2		1	1			
Five	-	-		•	*			
Six	1	1						
Seven	-	-						
Eight	1	1						
Nine	1	1		1	1			
Ten	2	2		1	1			
Eleven	-	-						
Twelve	4	4	-	1	1	-		
Subtotal	28	28		9	9			
Special Ed - Elementary	2	2						
Special Ed - Middle	-							
Special Ed - High	-		-	-	-	-		
Subtotal	2	2			-	-		
Totals	30	30		9	9	_		
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%		

WOOD-RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

2022-2023 Total General Fund Budgetary Expenditures	\$28,294,740	
Decreased by: On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security	4,694,384	
Adjusted 2022-2023 General Fund Expenditures	<u>\$23,600,356</u>	
2% of Adjusted 2022-2023 General Fund Expenditures	\$472,007	
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment – Extraordinary Aid	498,186	
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance		<u>\$970,193</u>
Total General Fund – Fund Balance at June 30, 2023 (Budgetary Basis)	\$6,096,144	
Decreased by: Restricted Fund Balance Capital Reserve Maintenance Reserve Emergency Reserve Unemployment Compensation Assigned Fund Balance Encumbrances Designated for Subsequent Year's Budget	3,267,506 340,000 96,281 225,022 15,036 	
Total Unassigned Fund Balance		<u>\$ 969,116</u>
Fund Balance – Excess Surplus		<u>\$</u>

WOOD-RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Administrative Practices and Procedures

There are none.

II. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

It is recommended that:

- 1. Internal controls over payroll procedures be reviewed and revised to ensure employee health benefit contributions are properly calculated and payroll filings be remitted in a timely manner.
- 2. The monthly financial and budget transfer reports of the Board Secretary be submitted to and approved by the County and Board in a timely manner.
- 3. Detailed bills list approved by the Board be retained and made available for audit.

III. School Purchasing Program

* 4. It is recommended that purchasing procedures be reviewed and revised to ensure contract awards are approved by the Board and included in the minutes in accordance with the Public Schools Contract Law.

IV. School Food Services

There are none.

V. Student Body Activities

There are none.

VI. Application for State School Aid

There are none.

VII. Pupil Transportation

There are none.

VIII. Facilities and Capital Assets

There are none.

IX. Status of Prior Years' Audit Findings/Recommendations

Corrective action was taken on all prior year recommendations except those denoted with an asterisk (*).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the school district and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to us.