

**HOPE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL  
AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**HOPE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

**COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS—  
FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

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

**Meshinsky & Associates LLC**  
**Certified Public Accountants, Consultants & Independent Trustees**

HOPE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

REVISED AUDITOR’S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE  
FINDINGS FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

Table of Contents

	<u>Page No.</u>
Report of Independent Auditors.....	1
Scope of Audit.....	2
Administrative Practices and Procedures .....	2
Insurance .....	2
Official Bonds.....	2
Tuition Charges.....	2
Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting .....	2
Examination of Claims.....	2
Payroll Account .....	3
Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable .....	3
Classification of Expenditures .....	3
▪ General Classifications.....	3
▪ Administrative Classifications .....	3
Board Secretary’s Records .....	3
Treasurer’s Records (if the charter school has a treasurer). * .....	3
Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.)/Improving America’s Schools Act (ISA) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 .....	3
Other Special Federal and/or State Projects.....	4
T.P.A.F. Reimbursement.....	4
School Purchasing Programs.....	4
Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids .....	4
School Food Service.....	5
Enrollment Counts and Submissions to the Department.....	6
Testing for Lead of all Drinking Water on Educational Facilities.....	6
Effect of Internal Controls Due to COVID-19.....	6
Follow-up on Prior Year Findings .....	6
Acknowledgment.....	6
Schedule of Meal Count Activity.....	N/A
Net Cash Resource Schedule .....	N/A
Schedule of Audited Enrollments.....	7
Excess Surplus Calculation.....	9
Audit Recommendations Summary.....	12



# MESHINSKY & ASSOCIATES LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS,  
CONSULTANTS & INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES

## Report of Independent Auditors

Honorable President and  
Members of the Board of Trustees  
Hope Academy Charter School  
County of Monmouth, 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 financial statements of the Board of Trustees of the Hope Academy Charter School in the County of Monmouth for the year ended June 30, 2023. We have issued our report thereon dated December 5, 2023.

As part of our audit, we performed procedures required by the New Jersey Department of Education. The findings and results thereof are disclosed on the following pages, as listed in the accompanying table of contents. This letter doesn't affect our report dated December 5, 2023, on the Board's financial statement.

This report is intended for the information of the Hope Academy Charter School Board of Trustees' management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

Philip T. Meshinsky  
Licensed Public School Accountant  
No. CS00233400  
Meshinsky & Associates LLC, CPAs  
Union, New Jersey

December 5, 2023

## **Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance**

### **Scope of Audit**

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

### **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 Charter School's ACFR.

#### **Official Bonds (N.J.S.A. 18A:17-26, 18A:17-32, 18A:13-13)**

Felicia Kennedy	School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	\$300,000
Linda Mambelli	Accountant/Treasurer	\$300,000

The adequacy of the treasurer's surety bond was verified as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:17-32.

#### **Tuition Charges**

A review of financial statements indicated that the Charter School charged no tuition for any student attending the Charter School.

### **Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting**

#### **Examination of Claims**

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

#### **Payroll Account**

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

All payrolls were approved by the designee in the Charter School 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, including health benefits withholding due to the general fund.

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

## **Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance**

### **Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)**

#### 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. No exceptions were noted during our review.

#### 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 the all expenditures included in our compliance and single audit testing procedures. In addition to randomly selecting a test sample, our sample selection specifically targeted administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.3*. As a result of the procedures performed, a transaction error rate of less than 1.90% overall was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

##### **A. General Classification Findings**

No exceptions or discrepancies were noted in the general classification of expenditures.

##### **B. Administrative Classification Findings**

No exceptions or discrepancies were noted in the administrative classification of expenditures.

#### Board Secretary's Records

Our review of the financial and accounting records maintained by the business office disclosed no exceptions or discrepancies.

#### Treasurer's Records

There were no items noted during our review of the records of the Treasurer.

#### Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.)/As amended by the every student succeeds act (E.S.S.A.).

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 Title I and II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

The study of compliance for E.S.E.A. did not indicate any areas of noncompliance and/or questionable cost.

## **Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance**

### **Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)**

#### Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The Charter School'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 the obligations and expenditures were incurred during the fiscal year or project period for which the project was approved.

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

The study of compliance for the special projects did not indicate any areas of noncompliance.

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

Our audit procedures included a test of the semi-monthly reimbursements (electronic, but Charter Schools can print out the DOENET screen for an auditor) filed with the Department of Education for Charter School employees who are members of the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions were noted.

#### TPAF Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

The amount of the expenditure charged to the current year's Final Report(s) for all federal awards for the charter school to reimburse the State for the TPAF/FICA payments made by the State on behalf of the charter school for those employees whose salaries are identified as being paid from federal funds was made prior to the end of the 90-day grant liquidation period required by the Office of Grants Management. The expenditure was reviewed subsequent to the reimbursement and no exceptions were noted.

### **School Purchasing Programs**

#### Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

*N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.* (Public School Contracts Law), the associated rules and related information on the statute, and school contracts in general, is available on the NJ local agency procurement laws website: <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/lpcl.html>.

Current statute is posted on the New Jersey Legislature website at: <http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us>

Auditors should refer to Section I, Chapter 5, Bids & Contracts/Purchasing for highlights of *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3* and 4.

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 \$19,600.

## **Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance**

### **School Purchasing Programs (Continued)**

The Charter School board of trustees has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory thresholds within the contract year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the Solicitor's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

Based on the results of our examination, we did not note any individual payments, contracts, or agreements made for the performance of any work or goods or services, in excess of the statutory thresholds where there had been no advertising for bids in accordance with the provision of *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4*.

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

### **School Food Service**

The financial transactions and statistical records of the school food service fund were reviewed. The financial accounts, meal count records and eligibility applications were reviewed on a test-check basis.

Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed for timely deposit.

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 not exceed three months average expenditures.

The number of meals claimed for reimbursement was compared to sales and meal count records. As part of the claims review process that Edit Check Worksheet was completed. Reimbursement claims were submitted/certified in a timely manner.

Applications for free and reduced price meals were reviewed for completeness and accuracy. The number of free and reduced price meals claimed as served was compared to the number of valid applications and/or to the list of directly certified students on file, times the number of operating days, on a school by school basis. The free and reduced price meal and free milk policy was reviewed for uniform administration throughout the school system. The required verification procedures for free and reduced-price applications were completed and available for review.

Non-program foods were not purchased, prepared, sold, or offered for sale.

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

We also inquired of management about the emergency COVID-19 procedures/practices that the SFA instituted to provide meals to eligible students, maintenance of all applicable production records, meal counts, noncompetitive procurements, modification of existing contracts and applicable financial records to document the specific costs applicable to the emergency operations.



## **Administrative Findings – Financial, Compliance and Performance**

### **Enrollment Counts and Submissions to the Department**

Our audit procedures included a test of enrollment information reported on October 15, 2022 and the last day of the school for on-roll, special education, bilingual and low income.

### **Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities**

The charter school did submit the annual statement of assurance to the Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(a).

### **Effect on Internal Controls due to COVID-19**

With the increase in employees working remotely due to COVID-19 especially those in the Business Office it is vital that the School routinely reviews the internal controls in place especially with respect to security of passwords as well as access rights to accounting software and bank information including bank wire transfers and the timely back-up of records.

### **Follow-up on Prior Year Findings**

Not Applicable.

### **Acknowledgment**

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the Charter School and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to the members of the audit team.

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

**HOPE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
 APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID  
 ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

Grades	Submission to DOE Reported on Roll	Sample												
		Reported on Workpapers	Verified Signed Registration Forms	Errors	Verified # Days Enrolled	Errors	Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Errors	Verified # of Days Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified Documentation	Errors
Kindergarten	32	16	16		16		5	5		5		14	14	
One	34	17	17		17		4	4		4		23	23	
Two	30	15	15		15		5	5		5		23	23	
Three	37	19	19		19		5	5		5		31	31	
Four	44	22	22		22		9	9		9		32	32	
Five	32	16	16		16		1	1		1		22	22	
Six	23	12	12		12		6	6		6		18	18	
Seven	23	11	11		11		5	5		5		18	18	
Eight	23	11	11		11		2	2		2		18	18	
Totals	278	139	139	-	139	-	42	42	-	42	-	199	199	-

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

**HOPE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID**  
**ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2023**

Grades	Submission to DOE Reported on Roll	Sample												
		Reported on Workpapers	Verified Signed Registration Forms	Errors	Verified # Days Enrolled	Errors	Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Errors	Verified # of Days Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified Documentation	Errors
Kindergarten	32	16	16		16		4	4		4		20	20	
One	37	19	19		19		4	4		4		28	28	
Two	29	15	15		15		5	5		5		25	25	
Three	38	19	19		19		5	5		5		31	31	-
Four	44	22	22		22		10	10		10		33	33	
Five	32	16	16		16		2	2		2		23	23	
Six	23	12	12		12		6	6		6		19	19	
Seven	23	11	11		11		5	5		5		18	18	-
Eight	23	11	11		11		2	2		2		15	15	
Totals	281	141	141	-	141	-	43	43	-	43	-	212	212	-

## EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-7 requires that excess surplus for regular school districts and charter schools is calculated using 2% for June 30, 2005 and thereafter. Pursuant to P.L. 2007, c.62, the minimum is \$250,000, effective with the year ending June 30, 2007.

Charter schools are not subject to the excess surplus limitations. Charter school auditors are required to document the calculation of excess surplus pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-7 solely for the purpose of adherence to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-22.4(e), which provides that a district board of education may petition the Commissioner to pay a lower per-pupil rate if the charter school spends "significantly less than budgeted and has accumulated a sizable surplus."

### **CALCULATION:**

Complete Sections 1 and 2. If the total of Section 2 is **greater** than the applicable portion of Section 1, enter the difference in Section 3. If the difference results in a negative, enter a zero in Section 3. The applicable sections are to be submitted as part of the Auditor's Management Report.

Note that beginning with the excess surplus calculation for the year ending June 30, 2012 the transfer to food services is not an allowable adjustment (increase) to total general fund expenditures.

**EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION**

**HOPE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

**SECTION 1**

**A. 2% Calculation of Excess Surplus**

2022-23 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR, Ex. C-1	\$	5,291,024	(B)	
Increased by:				
Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund		-	(B1a)	
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund		-	(B1b)	
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Regular		-	(B1c)	
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK-Inclusion		-	(B1d)	
Decreased by:				
Oh-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security		(907,452)	(B2a)	
Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases		-	(B2b)	
Adjusted 2022-23 General Fund Expenditures	\$	<u>4,383,572</u>	(B3)	
2% of Adjusted 2022-23 General Fund Expenditures	\$	87,671	(B4)	
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000		250,000	(B5)	
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment *		-	(K)	
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance/Undesignated-Unreserved Fund Balance				<u>\$ 250,000 (M)</u>

**SECTION 2**

Total General Fund - Fund Balance @ 6/30/2023 (Per ACFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	\$	4,084,218	(C)	
Decrease by:				
Year-end Encumbrances		-	(C1)	
Legally Restricted - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures		-	(C2)	
Legally Restricted - Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures **		-	(C3)	
Other Restricted Fund Balances ****		-	(C4)	
Assigned Fund Balance - Unreserved - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures		-	(C5)	
Total Unassigned Fund Balance				<u>4,084,218 (U1)</u>

**SECTION 3**

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus ***	\$	<u>3,834,218</u>	(E)	
--	----	------------------	-----	--

***Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2023***

Reserved Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures **	\$	-	(C3)	
Reserved Excess Surplus ***		<u>3,834,218</u>	(E)	
Total Excess Surplus	\$	<u>3,834,218</u>	(D)	

**EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION**

**HOPE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

**Footnotes:**

- \* Allowable adjustment to expenditures on line K must be detailed as follows. This adjustment line (as detailed below) is to be utilized when applicable for:
  - (H) Federal Impact Aid. The passage of P.L. 2015, c.46 amended N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-41 to permit a board of education to appropriate federal impact aid fund to establish or supplement a federal impact aid legal reserve in the general fund. Accordingly, effective for the year ending June 30, 2015 the Federal Impact Aid adjustment to expenditures is limited to the portion of Federal Impact Aid Section 8002 and Section 8003 received during the fiscal year and recognized as revenue on the General Fund Budgetary Comparison Schedule, but not transferred to the Federal Impact Aid Reserve - General (8002 or 8003) by board resolution during June 1 to June 30 of the fiscal year under audit. Amounts transferred to the reserve are captured on line (C4);
  - (I) Sale and Lease-back (Refer to the Audit Program Section II, Chapter 10);
  - (J1) Extraordinary Aid;
  - (J2) Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid;
  - (J3) Recognized current year School Bus Advertising Revenue; and
  - (J4) Family Crisis Transportation Aid.

Notes to auditor: Refer to the Audit Program Section II, Chapter 10 for restrictions on the inclusion of Extraordinary Aid, Family Crisis Transportation Aid, and Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid.

**Detail of Allowable Adjustments**

Impact Aid	\$	-	(H)
Sale & Lease-back		-	(I)
Extraordinary Aid		-	(J1)
Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid		-	(J2)
Current Year School Bus Advertising Revenue Recognized		-	(J3)
Family Crisis Transportation Aid		-	(J4)
		<u>          </u>	
Total Adjustments	\$	<u>          </u>	(K)

\*\* This amount represents the June 30, 2023 Excess Surplus (C3 above) and must be included in the Audit Summary Worksheet Line 90031.

\*\*\* Amounts must agree to the June 30, 2023 ACFR and must agree to Audit Summary Worksheet Line 90030.

\*\*\*\* Amount for Other Reserved Fund Balances must be detailed for each source. Use in the excess surplus calculation of any legal reserve that is not state mandated or that is not legally imposed by an other type of government, such as the judicial branch of government, must have departmental approval. District requests should be submitted to the Division of Finance prior to September 30.

**Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance**

Statutory restrictions:			
Approved unspent separate proposal	\$	-	
Sale/lease-back reserve		-	
Capital reserve		-	
Maintenance reserve		-	
Emergency reserve		-	
Tuition reserve		-	
School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - current year		-	
School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - prior year		-	
Impact Aid General Fund Reserve (Sections 8002 and 8003)		-	
Impact Aid Capital Fund Reserve (Sections 8007 and 8008)		-	
Other state/government mandated reserve		-	
[Other Restricted Fund Balance not noted above] ****		<u>          </u>	
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$	<u>          </u>	(C4)

**HOPE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL  
601 GRAND AVENUE  
ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY 07712**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

Recommendations:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures  
None
2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting  
None
3. School Purchasing Programs  
None
4. School Food Service  
None
5. Student Body Activities  
None
6. Application for State School Aid  
None
7. Charter School Enrollment System(CHE)  
None
8. Pupil Transportation  
None
9. Facilities and Capital Assets  
None
10. Miscellaneous  
None
11. Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations  
None