MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER SCHOOL

Auditors' Management Report On Administrative Findings Financial, Compliance And Performance June 30, 2023

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Report of Independent Auditors

Honorable President and Members of the Board of Trustees Marion P. Thomas Charter School County of Essex, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with 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 Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School in the County of Essex, for the year ended June 30, 2023, and 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 and the findings and results thereof are disclosed on the following pages, as listed in the accompanying table of contents.

This report is intended for the information of the Marion P. Thomas Charter School Board of Trustee's management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

OlugbengaOlabintan, CPA

December 5, 2023 Newark, New Jersey

OLUGBENGA OLABINTAN Certified Public Accountant/Consultant

Olugbenga Olabintan, CPA Licensed Public School Accountant No. 20CS00230200

Scope of Audit

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

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

Fire 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:17-32, 18A:13-13)

<u>Name</u>	Position	<u>Amount</u>
Joshua Solow	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	\$500,000

There is a Public Employee's Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond Policy covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$25,000.

School Leaders Errors and Omissions Liability insurance was carried for all members of the Board of Trustees with coverage for each wrongful act of \$3,000,000.

P.L.2020, Chapter 44

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

The Charter School data certification was completed by the Chief School Administrator. The Charter School's Chapter 44 data was submitted timely.

Tuition Charges

A review of the financial statements indicated that the charter school charged no tuition for any student attending the Charter School and all proceeds for the after school program were accounted for in an Enterprise Fund.

MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER SCHOOL Auditors' Management Report On Administrative Findings Financial, Compliance and Performance For the Year Ended June 30, 2023 Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

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

Payroll Account

The net salaries of all employees of the Charter School 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 of Trustees, the School Business Administrator and the Chief School Administrator.

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

Payrolls were delivered to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary who then made cash transfers from the Operating account to the separate bank accounts for net payroll and the withholdings.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchased orders was made as of June 30 for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable. No exceptions were noted.

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with NJAC 6A: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. 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:23 A-8.3. As a result of the procedures performed, no transaction error rate was noted.

Board Secretary's Records

We reviewed the financial and accounting records maintained by the Business Office and we noted no material findings.

Treasurer's Records

Our review of the treasurer's records disclosed that the Charter School is in compliance with the State requirements. All cash accounts were reconciled monthly and reporting requirements were met on time.

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

The E.S.E.A. financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to the projects under Titles I through VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

The study of compliance for E.S.E.A. indicated no areas of noncompliance and/or questionable costs.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The Charter School's Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedule A (K-3) and Schedule B (K-4) 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 reimbursements filed with the Department of Education for Charter School employees who are members of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions 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 Advertising 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. webpage: state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/lpcl.html.

Current statute is posted on the New Jersey Legislature (njleg.state.nj.us/) website.

Effective July 1, 2020 and thereafter the bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A 18A: 18A-3 (as amended) and 18A:39-3 is \$44,000 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$32,000 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public student transportation contract under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is currently \$20,200 for 2022-2023.

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 18A18A-4, amended.

Resolutions were adopted authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services" per N.J.S.A 18A:A8A-5.

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 program.

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

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 over-claims or under-claims. No exceptions noted.

We also inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the SFA's expenditures of school food service revenues were limited to allowable direct and indirect costs. No exceptions noted.

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

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 (PPP) 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.

Net cash resources did not exceed three months average expenditures.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in the section entitled Enterprise Funds, Section G of the ACFR.

Student Body Activities

Our audit revealed some student body activities during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 which were accounted for in separate bank accounts. Our review of the record of the Student Body Activities did not disclose any exceptions.

Enrollment Counts and Submission to the Department

Our audit procedures included test of information reported on the October 15, and the last day of school for on-roll, special education, English Language Learner (ELL) and low income. We also performed a review of the Charter School procedures related to its completion. The Charter School maintained adequate written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data. No exceptions were noted.

Miscellaneous

Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of policies and procedures adopted by the Charter School over its capital assets. We noted that acquisitions during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 met the capitalization threshold of \$2,000 set by the State of New Jersey's Department of Education for Charter Schools.

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

The Charter School 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 Charter School submitted the annual Statement of Assurance to the Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g)

Follow-up on Prior Year's Findings

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations including findings. The following findings were noted by the predecessor auditors in the prior year ended June 30, 2022:

Finding # 2022-001 – In their review of claims and the related supporting documents, the auditors noted four (4) of 60 claims did not have signed purchase orders.

Current status: This finding did not exist during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Finding # 2022-002 – The auditors noted the following:

- a. Prior year audit adjustments were not completely recorded in the Charter School's accounting system which resulted to various journal entries to correct beginning balances.
- b. All cash transactions of General Fund and Enterprise Fund are recorded in one General Fund general ledger account even if the general fund has four (4) general ledger cash accounts and the Enterprise Fund has its own cash account (and bank account).
- c. There is only one bank reconciliation for five (5) bank accounts. Four (4) bank accounts for the General Fund and one (1) bank account for the Enterprise Fund.

These issues were mainly due to several transition in the fiscal department during the fiscal year.

Current status: These issues were not noted during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The Charter School's accounting functions have been contracted to an outside company which has addressed all issues noted by the auditors.

Finding # 2022-003 – The auditors noted that five months of TPAF-FICA reimbursements (August-December 2021) were not submitted timely; and therefore, denied reimbursements. Approximately \$260,000 of missed revenues.

Current status: This finding did not exist during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Finding # 2022-004 –

During their audit of the food service program, the auditors noted the following:

- a. Meals served for the months of July-August 2021 of \$82,272 were denied by the NJ Department of Agriculture because it was submitted after the 60-day deadline.
- b. Differences between meals claimed and actual meals served for the months of September 2021, October 2021, November 2021, December 2021, January 2022, February 2022, March 2022, April 2022 and May 2022 which resulted to net underclaim of \$14,976.

Current status: These issues were not noted during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The Charter School's accounting functions have been contracted to an outside company which has addressed all issues noted by the auditors.

Finding # 2022-005

In their review of student files while performing state enrollment related procedures the auditors noted the following:

- a. There were 13 students classified as a Special Education (SpEd) student in Charter School Enrollment System (CHE) has no Individualized Education Program (IEP) effective as of October 15, 2021, on file.
- b. One (1) student was classified as Speech in CHE but the parent revoked consent per review of the student's file.
- c. There were 42 student files that were not on available for review.
- d. There were five (5) students with no birth certificate on file.
- e. There were five (5) students with no proof of address on file.
- f. There were 35 students with either one (1) or two (2) proof of address only.
- g. There were two (2) students with at least 0.3 ADE difference compared to reported ADE in CHE.
- h. There were 15 students with no lunch application form on file.

Current status: These issues were not noted during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The Charter School's accounting functions have been contracted to an outside company which has addressed all issues noted by the auditors.

There were no audit reports issued by the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Acknowledgement

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.

Program	Meal Category	Meals Claimed	Meals Verified	Difference	Rate	(Over) Under Claim
National School Lunch (Regular Rate) National School Lunch (Regular Rate)	Paid Reduced	27,445	27,445	-	\$ 0.79 3.95	\$ -
National School Lunch (Regular/ SSO Rate)	Free	- 262,130	- 262,130	-	4.35	-
Total		289,575	289,575			
National School Lunch	HHFKA - PB					
	Lunch Only	289,575	289,575		0.08	
School Breakfast (Regular Rate)	Paid	5,446	5,446	_	0.50	-
Sensor Dreamas (regular rate)	Reduced	-	-	-	1.96	-
	Free	53,086	53,086	-	2.26	-
Total		58,532	58,532	-		-
School Breakfast (Severe Need Rate)	Paid	13,294	13,294	-	0.50	-
	Reduced	-	-	-	2.37	-
	Free	126,636	126,636		2.67	
Total		139,930	139,930			-
After School Snacks	Paid	-	-	-	1.00	-
	Free (Regular)	-	-	-	1.08	-
	Free (Area Eligible)	- 61,469	- 61,469	-	- 1.08	-
Total	- ·	61,469	61,469		1.08	
Total Net (Over)/Underclaim		<u> </u>				¢

Food Service Fund Numbers For Meals Served and (Over)/Underclaim - Federal Enterprise Fund

Program	Meal Category	Meals Claimed	Meals Verified	Difference	Rate	(Over) Under Claim
State Reimbursement -						^
National School Lunch (Regular Rate)	Paid	27,445	27,445	-	\$ 0.060	\$ -
State Reimbursement -						
National School Lunch (Regular Rate)	Reduced	-	-	-	0.470	-
State Reimbursement -						
National School Lunch (Regular Rate)	Free	262,130	262,130	-	0.070	-
Total		289,575	289,575			
State Reimbursement - After Bell						
National School Breakfast- (Regular/Severe Rate)	Paid	18,740	18,740	-	0.100	-
State Reimbursement - After Bell National School Breakfast- (Regular/Severe Rate)	Reduced				0.400	
National School Breaklast- (Regulal/Severe Rate)	Keuuceu	-	-	-	0.400	-
State Reimbursement - After Bell						
National School Breakfast- (Regular/Severe Rate)	Free	177,793	177,793		0.100	-
Total		196,533	196,533	-		

Food Service Fund Numbers For Meals Served and (Over)/Underclaim - State Enterprise Fund

MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER SCHOOL Application for Charter School Aid Schedule of Audited Enrollments Enrollment Count as of October 15, 2022

Grades	Submission to DOE reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	Verified signed registration forms	Errors	Verified # of days enrolled	Errors	Special Ed &/ or Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Errors	Verified # of days of Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified Documentation	Errors
Pre-Kindergarten	67	34	34	-	34	-	2	2	-	2	-	15	15	-
Kindergarten	59	30	30	-	30	-	1	1	-	1	-	20	20	-
One	78	39	39	-	39	-	1	1	-	1	-	61	61	-
Two	95	48	48	-	48	-	1	1	-	1	-	80	80	-
Three	88	43	43	-	43	-	10	10	-	10	-	64	64	-
Four	103	51	51	-	51	-	8	8	-	8	-	75	75	-
Five	99	50	50	-	50	-	11	11	-	11	-	67	67	-
Six	104	51	51	-	51	-	7	7	-	7	-	72	72	-
Seven	97	49	49	-	49	-	8	8	-	8	-	80	80	-
Eight	126	63	63	-	63	-	15	15	-	15	-	95	95	-
Nine	127	64	64	-	64	-	16	16	-	16	-	76	76	-
Ten	90	45	45	-	45	-	14	14	-	14	-	53	53	-
Eleven	107	54	54	-	54	-	17	17	-	17	-	98	98	-
Twelve	122	60	60	-	60	-	20	20	-	20	-	94	94	-
Total	1,362	681	681	0	681	0	131	131	0	131	0	950	950	0
Percentage				0.00%		0.00%			0.00%		0.00%			

MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER SCHOOL Application for Charter School Aid Schedule of Audited Enrollments Enrollment Count as of Last Day of School

Grades	Submission to DOE reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	Verified signed registration forms	Errors	Verified # of days enrolled	Errors	Special Ed &/ or Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Errors	Verified # of days of Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified Documentation	Errors
Pre-Kindergarten	70	35	35	_	35	-	2	2	-	2	-	15	15	-
Kindergarten	59	30	30	-	30	-	1	1	-	1	-	20	20	-
One	76	38	38	-	38	-	1	1	-	1	-	61	61	-
Two	94	47	47	-	47	-	1	1	-	1	-	80	80	-
Three	87	43	43	-	43	-	10	10	-	10	-	64	64	-
Four	100	49	49	-	49	-	8	8	-	8	-	75	75	-
Five	94	47	47	-	47	-	11	11	-	11	-	67	67	-
Six	108	53	53	-	53	-	6	6	-	6	-	72	72	-
Seven	97	49	49	-	49	-	8	8	-	8	-	80	80	-
Eight	120	60	60	-	60	-	15	15	-	15	-	95	95	-
Nine	126	63	63	-	63	-	16	16	-	16	-	76	76	-
Ten	92	46	46	-	46	-	14	14	-	14	-	53	53	-
Eleven	101	51	51	-	51	-	17	17	-	17	-	98	98	-
Twelve	122	60	60	-	60	-	20	20	-	20	-	94	94	-
Total	1,346	671	671	0	671	0	130	130	0	130	0	950	950	0
Percentage				0.00%		0.00%			0.00%		0.00%			0.00%

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MARION P. THOMAS CHARTER SCHOOL NET CASH RESOURCE SCHEDULE

Net cash resources did/did not exceed three months of expenditures Proprietary Funds - Food Service Year ended June 30, 2023

Net Cash Resources:			Food Service B - 4/5	
ACFR *	Current Assets			
B-4	Cash & Cash Equiv.	\$	118,156	
B-4	Due from Other Gov'ts		107,667	
B-4	Accounts Receivable		-	
B-4	Investments		-	
ACFR	Current Liabilities			
B-4	Less Accounts Payable		-	
B-4	Less Accruals		-	
B-4	Less Due to Other Funds		258,553	
B-4	Less Deferred Revenue			
	Net Cash Resources	\$	484,376	(A)
<u>Net Adj. Total Operating Expense:</u>				
B-5	Tot. Operating Exp.		1,908,788	
B-5	Less Depreciation		-	
	Adj. Tot. Oper. Exp.	\$	1,908,788	(B)
Average Monthly Operating Expense:				
	B / 10	\$	190,879	(C)
Three times monthly Average:				
	3 X C	\$	572,636	(D)
TOTAL IN BOX A	\$ 484,37	76		
LESS TOTAL IN BOX D	\$ (572,63			
NET	\$ (88,26			
From above:				
A is less than D, cash does not exceed 3 X average mont	thly operating expenses.			

* Inventories are not to be included in total current assets.

Source: Charter School's ACFR

Audit Recommendations Summary

Findings and 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. Pupil Transportation

None

8. Facilities and Capital Assets

None

9. Miscellaneous

None

10. Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations

All findings from the prior year ended June 30, 2022 have been fully addressed by the Charter School. No findings in the current year ended June 30, 2023.