

**SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OF  
STOW CREEK TOWNSHIP**

**COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL  
FINANCIAL REPORT**

**of the**

**Stow Creek Township Board of Education**

**Cumberland, New Jersey**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017**

# **COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

**of the**

**Stow Creek Township Board of Education**

**Cumberland, New Jersey**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017**

**Prepared by**

**Stow Creek Township Board of Education**

**Finance Department**

**COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
OF THE STOW CREEK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

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**INTRODUCTORY SECTION**



# *Stow Creek Township School District*

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BRIDGETON, NJ 08302-8951  
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**Scott Bonham**  
Board President

**John Klug**  
Chief School Administrator

**Pamela Zook**  
Board Secretary/  
School Business Administrator

November 1, 2017

Honorable President and  
Members of the Board of Education  
Stow Creek Township School District  
Cumberland County, New Jersey

Dear Board Members:

The comprehensive annual financial report of the Stow Creek Township School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 is hereby submitted. Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data and completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures, rests with the management of the Board of Education (Board). To the best of our knowledge and belief, the data presented in this report is accurate in all material respects and is reported in a manner designed to present fairly, the financial position and results of operations of the various funds of the District. All disclosures that we feel are necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the District's financial activities have been included.

The comprehensive annual financial report is presented in four sections: introductory, financial, statistical and single audit. The introductory section includes this transmittal letter, the District's organizational chart and a list of principal officials. The financial section includes the basic financial statements and schedules, as well as the auditor's report thereon. The statistical section includes selected financial and demographic information, generally presented on a multi-year basis. The District is required to undergo an annual single audit in conformity with the provisions of Title 2 CFR 200-Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations" and the State Treasury Circular Letter 15-08 OMB, "Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid Payments." Information related to this single audit, including the auditor's report on the internal control structure and compliance with applicable laws and regulations and findings and recommendations, are included in the single audit section of this report.

**1. REPORTING ENTITY AND ITS SERVICES:**

Stow Creek Township School District is an independent reporting entity within the criteria adopted by the GASB as established by GASB Statement No. 14. The District's accounting records reflect generally accepted accounting principles, as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The accounting system of the district is organized on a basis of governmental, business-type and fiduciary funds, which are all included in this report. The Stow Creek Township Board of Education and its one school constitute the District's reporting entity.

Stow Creek Township School District provides a full range of educational services appropriate for grade levels Pre-K through Eighth grade. These include regular education, as well as special education for handicapped students. Our students in grades 9-12 are sent to Cumberland Regional High. The Stow Creek Township School District completed the 2016-2017 fiscal year with an enrollment of 112 students, which was the same number of students as the prior year. The following changes in the student enrollment of the District over the last ten years show a leveling off for the later years.

**Average Daily Enrollment**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Student Enrollment</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2016-17	117	4%
2015-16	112	0%
2014-15	112	(3)%
2013-14	116	(1)%
2012-13	117	0%
2011-12	117	(12)%
2010-11	133	(1)%
2009-10	134	(2)%
2008-09	137	(1)%
2007-08	138	(2)%

**2. ECONOMIC CONDITION AND OUTLOOK:**

Stow Creek Township continues to experience limited growth, as depicted in the enrollment statistics. Approximately three-quarters of the total area of the Township is considered prime farmland, which has been a significant factor in terms of Stow Creek's planned development, encouraging the retention of prime farmland for agricultural use.

Future development in Stow Creek is governed by natural or environmental factors, in addition to agricultural suitability of soils. The Township has no central sewer system and therefore, soil suitability for on-site waste disposal systems is crucial in terms of development potential. In addition, the recent upgrading of requirements by the New Jersey Department of Health, regarding on-site systems, mandates that areas with only slight limitations will be further restricted in density. Wetland regulations also impact on development potential. Several landowners have sold properties to NJ Fish and Wildlife Management and the State has also established a state park in the Township.

### 3. MAJOR INITIATIVES:

Stow Creek School District is continuing to use the economies of scale generated by its alliance with Greenwich Township in the Greenwich-Stow Creek Partnership Schools to enhance the quality of instruction and the educational opportunities available to the children of both districts while reducing costs.

Stow Creek Township is continuing its major technology initiatives this year. The entire school has been rewired for a 50 times faster Internet connection to allow for effective use of a One-to-One laptop/tablet initiative for all 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students this year. The district has gone to completely digital textbooks in grades 5-8; this has the dual advantages of costs savings and considerably improved instructional materials in terms of interactivity, currency of information, motivation, and in particular enhanced and evolving differentiated instruction to the pupil level. Technology teacher to work with our staff as an in-house technology infusion specialist. We have also opened this intensive hands-on training-the trainer to neighboring school districts to share the cost. The rents received from the cell tower erected on school property continue to help fund these educational technology advances. With its 4-G capabilities the on-site tower has the extra advantage, in addition to the rent earned, of providing cost competition for internet service since previously only one internet provider operated in the district.

Stow Creek is also expanding the integrated, global computerized information system installed four years ago. In addition to a complete Student Information System, Discipline system online, teacher lesson plans online, grade books, and teacher web-sites, we are utilizing a student statistics tool to drill down on the specific skills that our students need to improve their understanding of the subject area and a curriculum building tool to expedite our transition with the rest of New Jersey to the new State Educational Standards. We are also using this integrated system as the technology tool to go along with the Danielson teacher evaluation model for AchieveNJ. We are doing this in partnership with the six neighboring districts which make up the constituency of the local regional high school to allow us to reap considerable economies of scale in the required staff training.

We updated our Math and Language Arts standards to the new New Jersey standards as mandated by the NJ Board of Education to be effective this September 2017. This will be the focus of our Professional Development and staff training this year.

Stow Creek, on behalf of the partnership, is continuing to enter into other collaborative relationships with surrounding districts and businesses. We now share a World Languages teacher one period a day with Hopewell Crest, share CST services with Deerfield, business administrator services, as well as, Business office services with Oldman's, as well as, our numerous shared services with Greenwich in the partnership. By negotiating as one larger entity and sharing those services and costs with Greenwich, Stow Creek has negotiated better contract terms with our Student Information System provider, our outsourced IT provider and our automated telephone contact system provider, technology providers, textbook publishers and others.

In conclusion, the School District has committed itself to educational excellence and continued parsimony. The new collaborations are allowing Stow Creek to provide better and new educational services to our children and keep costs in check. Stow Creek is taking the steps necessary to keep up with today's changing economic and regulatory conditions and still provide a world-class education for the children of Stow Creek Township.

#### **4. INTERNAL ACCOUNTING CONTROLS:**

Management of the District is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the District are protected from loss, theft or misuse and to ensure that adequate accounting data are compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that: (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

As a recipient of federal awards and state financial assistance, the District is also responsible for ensuring that an adequate internal control structure is in place to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to those programs. This internal control structure is also subject to periodic evaluation by the District management.

As part of the District's single audit described earlier, tests are being made to determine the adequacy of the internal control structure, including that portion related to federal and state financial assistance programs, as well as to determine that the District has complied with applicable laws and regulations.

#### **5. BUDGETARY CONTROLS:**

In addition to internal accounting controls, the District maintains budgetary controls. The objective of these budgetary controls is to ensure compliance with legal provisions embodied in the annual appropriated budget approved by the voters of the municipality. Annual appropriated budgets are adopted for the general fund and, the special revenue fund, and the debt service fund. Project-length budgets are approved for the capital improvements accounted for in the capital projects fund. The final budget amount as amended for the fiscal year is reflected in the financial section.

An encumbrance accounting system is used to record outstanding purchase commitments on a line item basis. Open encumbrances at year end are either cancelled or are included as re-appropriations of fund balance in the subsequent year. Those amounts to be reappropriated are reported as reservations of fund balance at June 30, 2017.

#### **6. ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND REPORTS:**

The District's accounting records reflect generally accepted accounting principles, as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The accounting system of the District is organized on the basis of funds. These funds are explained in "Notes to the Financial Statements," Note 1.

#### **7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT FISCAL YEAR END:**

As demonstrated by the various statements and schedules included in the financial statements section of the report, the District continues to meet its responsibility for sound financial management.

**8. DEBT ADMINISTRATION:**

As of June 30, 2017, the District does not have any debt, other than \$22,622 in a capital lease and \$62,121 in uncompensated absences. The amount available to authorize debt is \$3,136,062.

**9. CASH MANAGEMENT:**

The investment policy of the District is guided in large part by state statute as detailed in "Notes to the Financial Statements," Note 2. The District has adopted a cash management plan that requires it to deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA). GUDPA was enacted in 1970 to protect Governmental Units from a loss of funds on deposit with a failed banking institution in New Jersey. The law requires governmental units to deposit public funds only in public depositories located in New Jersey, where the funds are secured in accordance with the Act.

**10. RISK MANAGEMENT:**

The Board carries various forms of insurance, including but not limited to general liability, automobile liability, and comprehensive/collision; hazard and theft insurance on property and contents, and fidelity bonds.

**11. OTHER INFORMATION:**

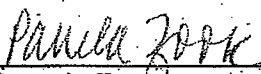
**Independent Audit** - State statutes require an annual audit by independent-certified public accountants or registered municipal accountants. The accounting firm of Nightlinger, Colavita and Volpa, PA, was appointed by the Board. In addition to meeting the requirements set forth in State statutes, the audit also was designed to meet the requirements of the Title 2 CFR 200-Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), and State of New Jersey Treasury Circular 15-08 OMB, Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid. The auditor's report on the basic financial statements and combining and individual fund statements and schedules are included in the financial section of this report. The auditor's report related specifically to the single audit are included in the single audit section of this report.

**12. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

We would like to express our appreciation to the members of the Stow Creek Township Board of Education for their concern in providing fiscal accountability to the citizens and taxpayers of the school district and thereby contributing their full support to the development and maintenance of our financial operation. The preparation of this report could not have been accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of our financial and accounting staff.

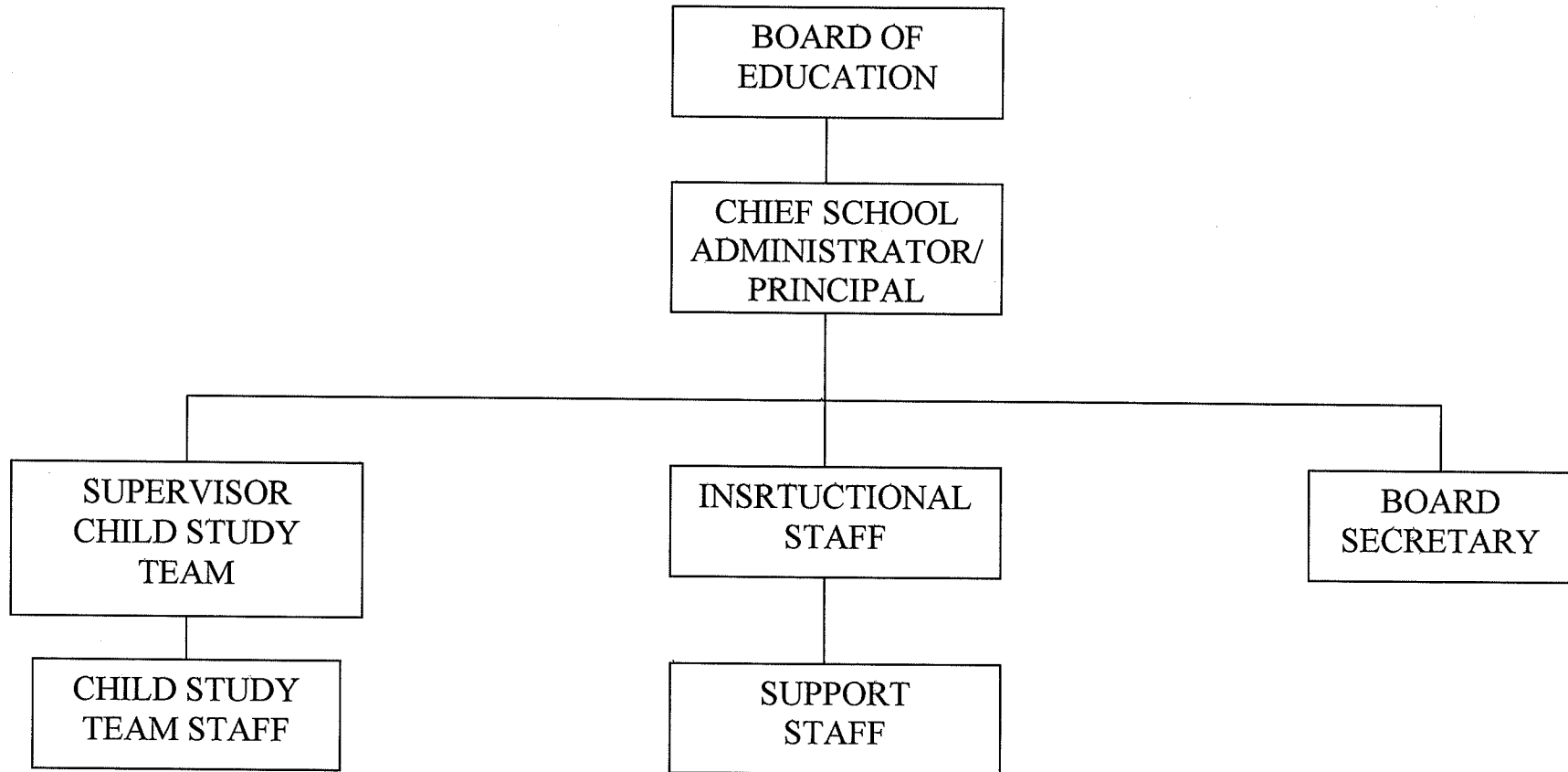
Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Klug  
Chief School Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Zook  
Board Secretary / Business Administrator

# STOW CREEK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (UNIT CONTROL)



STOW CREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

ROSTER OF OFFICIALS

JUNE 30, 2017

<u>MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Scott Bonham, President	2019
Kate Thompson, Vice President	2018
Kevin Coll	2017
Andrea Levick	2017
Beth Iwaszkiewicz	2018
Fred Hovermann	2018
Leigha Saulin	2017
Noreen Gray	2019
Kelly Fithian	2019
<u>OTHER OFFICIALS</u>	<u>Bond Coverage</u>
John Klug, Chief School Administrator	
Pamela Zook, Board Secretary/Business Administrator	
Kimberly Fleetwood, Treasurer of School Monies	\$ 130,000
Jane B. Capasso, Esq., Solicitor	

**STOW CREEK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS**

**AUDIT FIRM**

**Raymond Colavita, CPA, RMA**  
**Nightlinger, Colavita and Volpa, P. A.**  
Certified Public Accountants  
991 S. Black Horse Pike  
P.O. Box 799  
Williamstown, NJ 08094

**ATTORNEY**

**Jane B. Capasso, Esquire**  
**Lipman, Antonelli, Batt, Gilson, Malestein, Rothman & Capasso**  
110 North Sixth Street  
Vineland, NJ 08362-0729

**OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY**

**Bank of America**  
500 Shiloh Pike  
Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302

**Cape Bank, FSB**  
85 W. Broad Street  
Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302

**State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund**  
Citi Fund Services  
PO Box 182218  
Columbus, OH 43216



**FINANCIAL SECTION**

# NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA

*A Professional Association*

*Certified Public Accountants*

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Williamstown, NJ 08094

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Fax (856) 728-2245  
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November 1, 2017

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Honorable President and  
Members of the Board of Education  
Stow Creek Township School District  
County of Cumberland, New Jersey

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Board of Education of the Stow Creek Township School District in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Stow Creek Township School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and audit requirements as prescribed by the Division of Administration and Finance, Department of Education, State of New Jersey. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

### **Opinions**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Stow Creek Township Board of Education in the County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey, as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Other Matters**

#### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information and schedules related to accounting and reporting for pensions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Stow Creek Township School Board of Education's basic financial statements. The introductory section, combining and individual non-major fund financial statements, and statistical section are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) and New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08, Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual non-major fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual non-major fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

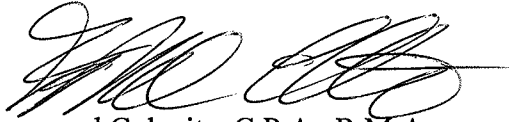
The introductory and statistical sections have not been subject to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated November 1, 2017 on our consideration of the Stow Creek Township Board of Education's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Governments Auditing Standards* in considering Stow Creek Township Board of Education's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA, P.A.**



Raymond Colavita, C.P.A., R.M.A.  
Licensed Public School Accountant  
No. 915

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION – PART I**