

Auditor's Management Report

for the

*Bridgewater-Raritan Regional
School District*

in the

*County of Somerset
New Jersey*

for the

*Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2024*

SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY LLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS - FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Scope of Audit	2
Administrative Practices and Procedures	
Insurance	2
Official Bonds	2
P.L. 2020,c.44	2
Tuition Charges	2
Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting	
Examination of Claims	2
Payroll Accounts	3
Position Control Roster	3
Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable	3
Classification of Expenditures	3
Board Secretary's Records	3
Treasurer's Records	3
Elementary and Secondary Education Act as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	4
Other Special Federal and/or State Projects	4
T.P.A.F. Reimbursement	4
T.P.A.F. Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures	4
School Purchasing Programs	
Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids	4-6
School Food Service	6-7
Student Body Activities	7
Application for State School Aid	7
Pupil Transportation	7
Facilities and Capital Assets	8
Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities	8
Follow-Up on Prior Year's Audit Finding	8
Schedule of Meal Count Activity	N/A
Net Cash Resources	N/A
Application for State School Aid Summary Enrollment	9-11
Excess Surplus Calculation	12-13
Recommendations	14



SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Education
Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District
836 Newmans Lane
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

We have audited, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District in the County of Somerset for the year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report dated October 14, 2024.

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

This report is intended solely for the information of the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District, County of Somerset, New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Education and federal and state audit awarding agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.


CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS


PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT NO. 948

October 14, 2024

AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator and Treasurer of School Monies, the activities of the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District and the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Board of Education.

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

Insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed in the District's ACFR. (See Exhibit J-20)

Official Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount of Bonds</u>
Nicole Petrone	Treasurer of School Monies	\$650,000.00
Peter F. Starrs	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	650,000.00
All Employees	All Employee Faithful Position Bond	1,000,000.00

Adequacy of insurance coverage is the responsibility of the Board of Education.

P.L. 2020,c.44

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

The data submitted did include all health benefit plans offered by the school district project.

The school district project data certification was completed by the chief school administrator. The school district project Chapter 44 data was submitted timely.

Tuition Charges

A comparison of tentative tuition charges and actual certified tuition charges was made. The actual costs differed from the estimated costs. The Board made a proper adjustment to the billings to sending Districts for the difference in per pupil costs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A-23-3.1(f)3.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

Our audit of claims paid during the period under review did not indicate any discrepancies with respect to signatures, certifications or supporting documentation.

**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS – FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE**

Payroll Accounts

The net salaries of all employees of the Board were deposited in the Net 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 Superintendent and were certified by the President of the Board and the Board Secretary/Business Administrator.

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

Payrolls were delivered to the treasurer of school monies with a warrant made to his order for the full amount of each payroll.

Position Control Roster

The Position Control Roster was reviewed and compared to payroll records, employee benefit records and charges made to the general ledger to ensure proper and consistent financial reporting and that employee benefits are only offered to current employees.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

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

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.2(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 errors were noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary's Records

The records maintained by the Board Secretary were in agreement with the records maintained by the Treasurer of School Monies.

Treasurer's Records

The records maintained by the Treasurer of School Monies were in satisfactory condition and were in agreement with the records maintained by the Board Secretary/Business Administrator.

AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE

Elementary and Secondary Education Act as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

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 Titles I through IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

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.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The District'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 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 reimbursement filed with the Department of Education for district employees who are members of the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund.

T.P.A.F. 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 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 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.

School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids **N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 States:**

"a. When the cost or price of any contract awarded by the purchasing agent in the aggregate, does not exceed in a contract year the total sum of \$32,000.00, the contract may be awarded by a purchasing agent when so authorized by resolution of the board of education without public advertising for bids and bidding therefor, except that the board of education may adopt a resolution to set a lower threshold for the receipt of public bids or the solicitation of competitive quotations. If the purchasing agent is qualified pursuant to subsection b of section 9 of P.L. 1971 c. 198 (C.40A:11-9) the board of education may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$44,000.00. Such authorization may be granted on each contract or by a general delegation of the power to negotiate and award such contracts pursuant to this section.

**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS – FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE**

School Purchasing Programs (Continued)

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

b. Commencing in the fifth year after the year in which P.L. 1999 c. 440 takes effect, and every five years thereafter, the Governor, in consultation with the Department of Treasury, shall adjust the threshold amount and the higher threshold amount which the board of education is permitted to establish as set forth in subsection a. of this section or the threshold amount resulting from any adjustment under this subsection, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the index rate as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000.00. The Governor shall notify all local school districts of the adjustment no later than June 1 of every fifth year. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of every year in which it is made. Any contract made pursuant to this section may be awarded for a period of 24 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months.

N.J.S.A.18A:18A-4 states, "Every contract for the provision or performance of any goods or services, the cost of which in the aggregate exceeds the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the board of education to the lowest responsible bidder after public advertising for bids and bidding therefor, except as is provided otherwise in this chapter or specifically by any other law.

The board of education may, by resolution approve by the majority of the board of education and subject to subsections b. and c. of this section, disqualify a bidder who would otherwise be determined to be the lowest responsible bidder, if the board of education finds that it has had negative prior experience with the bidder."

Effective July 1, 2020, the bid threshold in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a) and (c) is \$32,000.00. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9 (b) the bid threshold for all purchases made by the District's qualified purchasing agent is \$44,000.00. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18:39-3 is currently \$20,400.00.

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 the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies; the results of such an accumulation could not reasonably be ascertained. Disbursements were reviewed, however, to determine whether any clear-cut violations existed.

The results of our examination indicated that no individual payments, contracts or agreements were made "for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies," in excess of the statutory thresholds where there had been no advertising for bids in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4, amended.

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

AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE

School Purchasing Programs (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 audit did reveal however, that the District did make purchases under State contracts and cooperative purchasing agreements.

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 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. No exceptions were noted.

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

We inquired of management about the public health emergency procedures/practices that the SFA instituted to provide meals to all students, maintenance of all applicable production records; meal counts; noncompetitive procurements; modification of existing contracts and applicable financial records to document the specific costs applicable to the emergency operations. We also inquired if the FSMC received a loan in accordance with the payroll protection plan and whether the funds were used to pay for costs applicable to the Food Service Programs. We also inquired if the PPP loan was subsequently forgiven and the FSMC refunded or credited the applicable amounts to the SFA.

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 an operating profit of at least \$50,000.00. The operating provision has 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 at least annually.

The school district maintains the detailed revenue and expenditure information necessary in order to execute the USDA mandated Non-Program Food Revenue Tool at least annually.

**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS – FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE**

School Food Service (Continued)

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

Finding 2024-01: Net cash resources exceeded three months average expenditures.

Student Body Activities

The records for the Student Body Activities were maintained in satisfactory condition.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 13, 2023 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the handicapped, and low-income. We also performed a review of the district procedures related to its completion. The information on the A.S.S.A. was compared to the district workpapers without exception. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

The district maintained workpapers on the prescribed state forms or their equivalent.

The district had written procedures for the recording of student enrollment.

Pupil Transportation

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported in the 2023-2024 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The information that was included on the DRTRS was verified to the DRTRS Eligibility Summary Report without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

Our procedures also included a review of transportation related contracts and purchases. Based on our review, the district complied with proper bidding procedures and award of contracts. The bid specifications for the purchase of buses were in compliance with applicable statutes. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS – FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE**

Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of the transfer of local funds from the general fund or from the capital reserve account and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction.

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

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

Follow-Up Prior Year's Audit Findings

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, our procedures included a review of the prior year audit recommendations. There were no prior year audit findings.

BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2023

	2024-25 Application for State School Aid						Sample for Verification						Private School for Handicapped			
	Reported as		Reported on		Errors		Sample		Verified per		Errors per		Reported	Sample	Sample	Sample
	on Roll		Workpapers				Selected from		Registers		Registers		on A.S.S.A.	for		
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	on Private	Verifi-	Verified	Errors
Half Day Pre-Kindergarten	54		54		0		5		5		0					
Half Day Kindergarten	300		300		0		12		12		0					
One	481		481		0		13		13		0					
Two	504		504		0		15		15		0					
Three	491		491		0		13		13		0					
Four	493		493		0		12		12		0					
Five	524		524		0		15		15		0					
Six	493		493		0		13		13		0					
Seven	556		556		0		16		16		0					
Eight	553		553		0		15		15		0					
Nine	589	26	589	26	0	0	15	11	15	11	0	0				
Ten	560	16	560	16	0	0	16	10	16	10	0	0				
Eleven	560	13	560	13	0	0	15	10	15	10	0	0				
Twelve	551	9	551	9	0	0	14	7	14	7	0	0				
Subtotal	6709	64	6709	64	0	0	189	38	189	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Ed. Elementary	490		490	0	0	0	28	0	28	0	0	0	7	5	5	0
Special Ed. Middle School	233		233	0	0	0	25	0	25	0	0	0	10	8	8	0
Special Ed. High School	406	16	406	16	0	0	19	13	19	13	0	0	25	23	23	0
Subtotal	1129	16	1129	16	0	0	72	13	72	13	0	0	42	36	36	0
Totals	7838	80	7838	80	0	0	261	51	261	51	0	0	42	36	36	0
Percentage					0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	0.00%				0.00%

BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2023

	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
Half Day Kindergarten	36	36	0	12	12	0
One	58	58	0	13	13	0
Two	65	65	0	15	15	0
Three	59	59	0	14	14	0
Four	59	59	0	16	16	0
Five	69	69	0	14	14	0
Six	57	57	0	14	14	0
Seven	52	52	0	12	12	0
Eight	66	66	0	12	12	0
Nine	59	59	0	18	18	0
Ten	60	60	0	17	17	0
Eleven	55	55	0	18	18	0
Twelve	80	60	0	17	17	0
Subtotal	755	755	0	192	192	0
Special Ed. Elementary	109	109	0	27	27	0
Special Ed. Middle School	55	55	0	20	20	0
Special Ed. High School	103	103	0	15	15	0
Subtotal	267	267	0	62	62	0
Totals	1022	1022	0	254	254	0

Percentage Error

0.00%

0.00%

	Transportation					
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
Reg Public Schools,col.1	4694	4694	0	257	257	0
Transported - Non-Public, col.2	1	1	0	1	1	0
Non-Public AIL, Col. 3	436	436	0	25	25	0
Reg. - SpEd, Col.4	157	157	0	9	9	0
Special Ed Spec, col.6	374	374	0	20	20	0
Totals	5662	5662	0	312	312	0

Percentage Error

0.00%

0.00%

	Resident ELL / LEP Low Income			Sample for Verification		
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors
	13	13	0	9	9	0
	20	20	0	14	14	0
	24	24	0	15	15	0
	11	11	0	7	7	0
	11	11	0	7	7	0
	6	6	0	3	3	0
	4	4	0	2	2	0
	5	5	0	3	3	0
	8	8	0	6	6	0
	4	4	0	2	2	0
	9	9	0	5	5	0
	11	11	0	6	6	0
	10	10	0	6	6	0
	136	136	0	85	85	0
	15	15	0	9	9	0
	1	1	0	1	1	0
	4	4	0	2	2	0
	20	20	0	12	12	0
	156	156	0	97	97	0

0.00%

0.00%

BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY

ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2023

	<u>Resident ELL / LEP NOT Low Income</u>			<u>Sample for Verification</u>		
	<u>Reported on A S S A as NOT Low Income</u>	<u>Reported on Workpapers as NOT Low Income</u>	<u>Errors</u>	<u>Sample Selected from Workpapers</u>	<u>Verified to Application and Register</u>	<u>Sample Errors</u>
Half Day Kindergarten	33	33	0	22	22	0
One	29	29	0	19	19	0
Two	28	28	0	19	19	0
Three	21	21	0	14	14	0
Four	9	9	0	6	6	0
Five	6	6	0	2	2	0
Six	5	5	0	3	3	0
Seven	8	8	0	4	4	0
Eight	7	7	0	3	3	0
Nine	5	5	0	2	2	0
Ten	6	6	0	3	3	0
Eleven	6	6	0	3	3	0
Twelve	3	3	0	2	2	0
Subtotal	<u>166</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>0</u>
Special Ed. Elementary	9	9	0	6	6	0
Special Ed. Middle School	3	3	0	2	2	0
Special Ed. High School	1	1	0	1	1	0
Subtotal	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	<u>179</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>0</u>
Percentage Error			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>

BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

REGULAR DISTRICT

SECTION 1

2% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2023 - 2024 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR, Ex. C-1	\$ 217,854,329.03	
Increased by:		
Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund		
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	5,591,866.98	
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK- Regular		
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for PreK- Inclusion		
Decreased by:		
On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security	\$ 42,130,307.68	
Assets acquired under Installment Purchase Contract		
Adjusted 2023 - 2024 General Fund Expenditures		\$ 181,315,888.33
2% of Adjusted 2023 - 2024 General Fund Expenditures		\$ 3,626,317.77
Greater of line above or \$250,000.00		\$ 3,626,317.77
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment		\$ 2,246,674.00
Maximum Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance		\$ 5,872,991.77

SECTION 2

Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6-30-24	\$ 48,666,449.89	
Decreased by:		
Year-end Encumbrances	\$ 2,651,328.60	
Legally Restricted-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$	
Semi Supplemental FFCRA- Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 32,648.72	
Legally Restricted-Excess Surplus-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 4,250,000.00	
Other Restricted Fund Balances:		
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 5,830,906.09	
Capital Reserve	\$ 22,336,342.72	
Unemployment Compensation Funds	\$ 3,692,231.99	
Assigned Fund Balance - Unreserved-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$	
Total Unassigned Fund Balance		\$ 9,872,991.77

SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance-Excess Surplus	\$ <u>4,000,000.00</u>
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Recapitulation of excess surplus as of June 30, 2024

Reserved Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ <u>4,250,000.00</u>
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Reserved Excess Surplus	\$ <u>400,000.00</u>
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Total Excess Surplus	\$ <u>8,250,000.00</u>
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Detail of Allowable Adjustments

Extraordinary Aid	\$ 2,048,294.00
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Additional Non-Public School Transportation Aid	<u>198,380.00</u>
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	\$ <u>2,246,674.00</u>
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**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS – FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE**

Recommendations

Administrative Practices and Procedures

None

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

None

School Purchasing Program

None

School Food Service

None

Student Body Activities

None

Application for State School Aid

None

Pupil Transportation

None

Facilities and Capital Assets

None

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

None

Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

None