

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS -  
FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
JUNE 30, 2024**

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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- FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

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# LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP

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Honorable President and Members  
of the Board of Education  
Totowa Board of Education  
County of Passaic, New Jersey

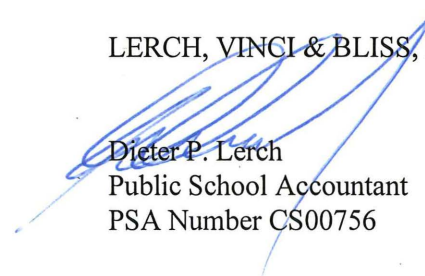
We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Totowa Board of Education, County of Passaic, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated October 22, 2024.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP

  
Dieter P. Lerch  
Public School Accountant  
PSA Number CS00756

Fair Lawn, New Jersey  
October 22, 2024

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**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 Board of Education, the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Board of Education.

**Administrative Practices and Procedures**

**Insurance**

Fire insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on the Insurance Schedule contained in the district's ACFR.

**Official Bonds**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Vincent Varcadipane	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	\$15,000
Lisa Nash	Treasurer of School Monies	225,000

There is a Public Employees' Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond with Selective Way Insurance covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$2,500.

**Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting**

**Examination of Claims**

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

**Payroll Account**

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

All payrolls tested were approved by the Superintendent and were certified by the President of the Board and the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator.

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including health benefits premium amounts withheld due to the General Fund

The District filed the required certification (ECERT1) of compliance with requirements for income tax on compensation of administrators with the New Jersey Department of Treasury by the March 15 due date.

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

**Finding** – The audit revealed that custodian overtime was not formally approved by the Supervisor.

**Recommendation** – The Supervisor sign off timesheets approving custodian overtime.

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

**Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable**

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made as of June 30, for goods not yet received or services not yet rendered and it was determined that no blanket purchase orders were included in the balance of the reserves for encumbrances. Also, unpaid purchase orders included in the balance of accounts payable were reviewed for propriety and to determine that goods were received and services were rendered, as of June 30.

**Classification of Expenditures**

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

**Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Records**

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

Acknowledgment of the Board's receipt of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports was included in the minutes.

The prescribed contractual order system was followed.

Cash reconciliations for the general operating account, payroll account and payroll agency account were performed.

**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 projects under Title I, II, and III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended.

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

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

Our audit of the State funds on a test basis indicated that obligations and expenditures were incurred during the fiscal year or project period for which the project was approved.

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

**T.P.A.F. Reimbursements**

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

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

**School Purchasing Programs**

**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 and no exceptions were noted.

**Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids**

The bid thresholds are in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 (as amended) 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 transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is \$20,200 for 2022-23.

The Board of Education has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory thresholds within contract year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the Board Attorney'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. Our audit noted no violations occurred.

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

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

**Food Service Fund**

In accordance with the Governor's Declaration of Emergency pertaining to the COVID 19 Virus all Public, Charter, Non-Public schools were ordered to close effective as of March 18, 2020 for an undetermined period to limit the spread of the virus. As a result, School Food Authorities (SFA) were required to institute alternate procedures to provide meals to Free and Reduced Price eligible students during the period of school closures.

Therefore, 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 Free and Reduced Price meal eligible students.

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 free and reduced price meal eligible students during the emergency.

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

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

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Food Service Fund (Continued)**

The financial transactions and statistical records of the school food services were maintained in satisfactory condition. The financial accounts, meal count records and eligibility applications were reviewed on a test-check basis.

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 cost applicable to the emergency operations.

The number of meals claimed for reimbursement was verified against sales and meal count records. As part of the claims review process the Edit Check Worksheet was completed. Reimbursement vouchers were timely filed and meals claimed did agree with meal count records.

Applications for free and reduced meals were reviewed for completeness and accuracy. The number of free and reduced meals claimed as served did not exceed the number of valid applications on file, times the number of operating days, on a school by school basis. The free and reduced meal policy is uniformly administered throughout the School System. The required verification procedures for free applications was completed and available for review.

Expenditures were separately recorded as food, labor and other costs. Vendor invoices were reviewed and costs verified.

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.

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

The District had contracted with Pomptonian to operate and manage its food service program for 2023/24.

Provisions of the food service management company (FSMC) contract/addendum were reviewed and audited. The FSMC contract includes an operating results provision which guarantees that the food service program will break even. The operating results provision has been met.

Net cash resources did not exceed three months average expenditures.

**Student Activity Funds**

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

All disbursements were supported by proper documentation.

**Application for State School Aid**

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 15, 2023 Application for State School Aid (ASSA) for on-roll, private schools for the handicapped, low income, related services and bilingual students. We also performed a review of the District procedures related to its completion. The information on the A.S.S.A. was compared to the district workpapers with minor exceptions. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified with minor exceptions. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

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

The district has adequate written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Pupil Transportation**

Our procedures included a test of on roll status reported in the 2023-24 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 purpose of buses were in compliance with applicable statutes. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

**Miscellaneous**

**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 on Prior Year Findings**

There were no prior year findings.

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**SCHEDULE OF MEAL COUNT ACTIVITY**

NOT APPLICABLE

**SCHEDULE OF NET CASH RESOURCES**

NOT APPLICABLE

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID  
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS  
OCTOBER 15, 2023**

	2024-2025 Application for State School Aid						Sample for Verification						On Roll - Special Education			Private Schools for Disabled			
	Reported on A.S.S.A. On Roll		Reported on Workpapers On Roll		Errors		Sample Selected from Workpapers		Verified per Register On Roll		Errors per Registers On Roll		Sample for Verifi- cation	Sample Verified	Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Private Schools		Sample for Verifi- cation	
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared							
Half Day Preschool - 3 years	2		2		-		2		2		-								
Full Day Preschool - 3 years	16		16		-		16		16		-								
Half Day Preschool - 4 years	5		5		-		5		5		-								
Full Day Preschool - 4 years	34		34		-		34		34		-								
Half Day Kindergarten																			
Full Day Kindergarten	70		70		-		70		70		-								
1st Grade	76		76		-		76		76		-								
2nd Grade	84		84		-		84		84		-								
3rd Grade	88		88		-		88		88		-								
4th Grade	79		79		-		79		79		-								
5th Grade	75		75		-		75		75		-								
6th Grade	87		87		-		87		87		-								
7th Grade	83		83		-		83		83		-								
8th Grade	103		103		-		103		103		-								
9th Grade																			
10th Grade																			
11th Grade																			
12th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
<b>Subtotal</b>	802.0	-	802.0	-	-	-	802.0	-	802.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spec Ed - Elementary	71		70		1		71		70		1		21.0	21.0		3			
Spec Ed - Middle School	43		43				43		43				13.0	13.0		1	1	1	
Spec Ed - High School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	114.0	-	113.0	-	1.0	-	114.0	-	113.0	-	1.0	-	34.0	34.0	-	4.0	1.0	1.0	-
<b>Totals</b>	916.0	-	915.0	-	1.0	-	916.0	-	915.0	-	1.0	-	34.0	34.0	-	4.0	1.0	1.0	-
<b>Percentage Error</b>					0.11%						0.11%				0.00%				0.00%

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID  
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS  
OCTOBER 15, 2023**

	Resident Low Income			Sample for Verification			Resident LEP Low Income			Sample for Verification		
	Reported on A.S.S.A as Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A as Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors
Half Day Pre-School (3 Yrs)												
Half Day Pre-School (4 Yrs)												
Full Day Pre-School (4 Yrs)												
Full Day Kindergarten	18	17	1	5	5	-						
1st Grade	17	17	-	5	5	-	1	1		1	1	
2nd Grade	17	17	-	5	5	-	1	1				
3rd Grade	19	19	-	6	6	-	2	2		1	1	
4th Grade	21	20	1	6	6	-	1	1				
5th Grade	11	11	-	3	3	-	-	-				
6th Grade	24	23	1	7	7	-	2	2				
7th Grade	16	16	-	5	5	-	1	1				
8th Grade	27	27	-	8	8	-						
9th Grade												
10th Grade												
11th Grade												
12th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>170.0</u>	<u>167.0</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>-</u>
Spec Ed - Elementary	18	18	-	5	5	-						
Spec Ed - Middle School	13	13	-	4	4	-						
Spec Ed - High School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>31.0</u>	<u>31.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9.0</u>	<u>9.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<u>201.0</u>	<u>198.0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>59.0</u>	<u>59.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>-</u>
Percentage Error			<u>1.49%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>

Transportation						
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
Regular - Public Schools	46.0	46.0	-	14.0	14.0	-
AIL - Non-Public	62.0	62.0	-	19.0	19.0	-
Regular - Spec.	4.0	4.0	-	1.0	1.0	-
Special Needs - Public	12.0	12.0	-	4.0	4.0	-
<b>Totals</b>	<u>124.0</u>	<u>124.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38.0</u>	<u>38.0</u>	<u>-</u>
			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID  
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS  
10/15/2023**

	Resident LEP Not 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 Register	Sample Errors
Half Day Pre-School (3 Yrs)						
Half Day Pre-School (4 Yrs)						
Half Day Kindergarten						
Full Day Kindergarten						
1st Grade						
2nd Grade	1	1				
3rd Grade	2	2		1	1	
4th Grade	-	-				
5th Grade	2	2		1	1	
6th Grade	-	-				
7th Grade	1	1				
8th Grade	1	1				
9th Grade						
10th Grade						
11th Grade						
12th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
Spec Ed - Elementary						
Spec Ed - Middle School						
Spec Ed - High School	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<u><u>7</u></u>	<u><u>7</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>2</u></u>	<u><u>2</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
Percentage Error			<u><u>0.00%</u></u>			<u><u>0.00%</u></u>

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**SECTION 1A - Two Percent (2%) - Calculation of Excess surplus (2023-2024 expenditures of \$100 million or less)**

2023-2024 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR	\$ 19,064,027
Decreased by:	
On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security	<u>(3,700,418)</u>
Adjusted 2023-2024 General Fund Expenditures	<u>\$ 15,363,609</u>
2% of Adjusted 2023-2024 General Fund Expenditures	<u>\$ 307,272</u>
Enter Greater of 2% of Adjusted 2023-2024 General Fund Expenditures or \$250,000	
Increased by:	
Allowable Adjustment*	<u>119,775</u>
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>\$ 427,047</u>

**SECTION 2**

Total General Fund - Fund Balance at June 30, 2024	\$ 25,103,461
Decreased by:	
Unemployment Compensation	\$ 108,869
Capital Reserve	10,422,493
Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year	<u>6,725,546</u>
	<u>17,256,908</u>
Total Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>\$ 7,846,553</u>

**SECTION 3**

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus	<u>\$ 7,419,506</u>
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**Recapitulation of Excess Surplus**

Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Years	\$ 6,725,546
Restricted Excess Surplus	<u>7,419,506</u>
Total	<u>\$ 14,145,052</u>
* Detail of Allowable Adjustment	
Extraordinary Aid	\$ 91,565
Non Public Transportation Aid Reimbursement	<u>28,210</u>
	<u>\$ 119,775</u>

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**I. Administrative Practices and Procedures**

There are none.

**II. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting**

1. It is recommended that the Supervisor sign off timesheets approving custodian overtime.

**III. School Purchasing Program**

There are none.

**IV. School Food Services**

There are none.

**V. Student Body Activities**

There are none.

**VI. Application for State School Aid**

There are none.

**VII. Pupil Transportation**

There are none.

**VIII. Facilities and Capital Assets**

There are none.

**TOTOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**IX. Miscellaneous**

There are none.

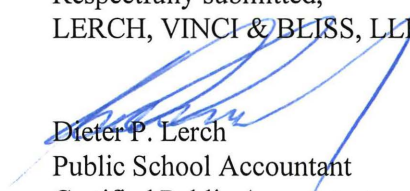
**X. Status of Prior Years' Audit Findings/Recommendations**

There were no prior year recommendations.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP



Dieter P. Lerch  
Public School Accountant  
Certified Public Accountant