

**THE ETHICAL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL  
AUDITORS MANAGEMENT REPORT  
ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS  
FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**XI. AUDITORS MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION FINDINGS  
FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

The Honorable Chairman and  
Members of the Board of Trustees  
Ethical Community Charter School  
County of Hudson  
Jersey City, New Jersey

I have audited, in accordance with generally accepted audit standards and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Board of Trustees of the Ethical Community Charter School, in the County of Hudson, for the year ended June 30, 2024 and have issued my report thereon dated December 16, 2024.

As part of my audit, I 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 issued in conjunction with the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Ethical Community Charter School, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and is intended for the information of the Charter School's management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Licensed Public School Accountant No. 20CS00206400



Gerald D. Longo  
Certified Public Accountant

December 16, 2024

## **ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Scope of Audit**

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

### **ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES**

#### **Insurance**

Various fire and liability insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed in the Insurance Schedule contained in the Charter School's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). See Exhibit J-20.

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

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, Treasurer	\$165,000

#### **P.L.2020,c.44**

My 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 bill includes a provision that permits charter school employers to not implement Chapter 44 unless they have a collective negotiation agreement with any of their employees in place on or after the law's effective date. The Charter School does not have a collective negotiation agreement in place, and therefore, is not required to implement Chapter 44.

### **FINANCIAL PLANNING, ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING**

#### **Examination of Claims**

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

#### **Payroll Accounts**

The net salaries of all employees of the Charter School were deposited in the Payroll Account. Employees payroll deductions and employees share of fringe benefits were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account.

Sampled payrolls were approved by the President of the Board and the Board Secretary/Business Administrator.

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

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

#### Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A sample of outstanding issued purchase orders was made as of June 30, 2024 for proper classification of orders as encumbrances and accounts payable. My sample did not indicate any reportable noncompliance with respect to classification of orders.

#### Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with the *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(f)* as part of my test of transactions of randomly sampled expenditure transactions. I also tested the coding of all expenditures included in my compliance and single audit sampling procedures, if applicable. In addition to randomly selecting a test sample, my sample selection specifically targeted administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.3*. My samples did not indicate any reportable noncompliance with respect to classification of expenditures.

#### Board Secretary's Records

My audit of the financial statements and accounting records maintained by the Board Secretary indicated that they were in satisfactory condition.

#### Treasurer's Records

My audit of the financial statements and accounting records maintained by the Treasurer indicated that they were in satisfactory condition.

#### Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.) as amended by 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 the various applicable programs of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

The audit of compliance for E.S.E.A. did not indicate any reportable noncompliance.

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

The charter school's other Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedule A (K-3) and Schedule B (K-4) located in the ACFR.

My audit of the Federal and State funds on a sample 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.

The audit of compliance for the special projects did not indicate any reportable noncompliance.

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

My audit procedures included a sample of the biweekly reimbursements filed with the Department of Education for the Ethical Community Charter School employees who are members of the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions were noted.

### T.P.A.F. Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 the Charter School did not have any TPAF/FICA payments made by the State on-behalf of the Charter School for any employees whose salaries are identified as being paid from federal funds. No reimbursement was required.

## **SCHOOL PURCHASING PROGRAMS**

### Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq. (Public School Contracts Law), the associated rules and related information on the statute, and the school contracts in general, are available on the following website:

[https://nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/NJ\\_LAPL.shtml](https://nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/NJ_LAPL.shtml)

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

The bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 and 18A:18A-3(a) are \$44,000.00 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$32,000.00 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is \$22,400 for 2023-24.

The Charter School's Members of the 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 my audit, I did not note any individual payments, contracts, or agreements made for the performance of any work or goods or services, in excess of the statutory thresholds where there had been no advertising for bids in accordance with the provision of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.

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

## **SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE**

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, I 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. Exceptions were not noted.

I 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. Exceptions were not noted.

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

Net cash resources did not exceed three months average expenditures.

I inquired of management about the public health emergency procedures that the charter school 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.

The SFA does utilize a food service management company (FSMC). The FSMC did not receive a loan in accordance with the Payroll Protection Plan.

#### **STUDENT BODY ACTIVITIES**

My audit of the financial and accounting records for student activities indicated that they were in satisfactory condition.

#### **ENROLLMENT COUNTS AND SUBMISSIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT**

My audit procedures included a sample of enrollment information on October 15, 2023, and the last day of school for on roll, special education, bilingual and low-income. The results of my procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

The charter school maintained written procedures that appear to be adequate for the recording of student enrollment data.

#### **FACILITIES AND CAPITAL ASSETS**

My audit of the financial and accounting records for facilities and capital assets indicated that they were in satisfactory condition.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **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 Findings

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, my procedures included a review of all prior year audit recommendations including findings. There was no prior year findings.

#### Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) Findings

There were no Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) audit reports issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.



### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the school and I greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerald D. Longo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a stylized 'L'.

Gerald D. Longo  
Certified Public Accountant  
Licensed Public School Accountant No. 20CS00206400

THE ETHICAL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL  
APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID  
ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2023

<u>1</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>2a</u>		<u>2b</u>		<u>2c</u>		<u>3</u>	<u>3a</u>		<u>3b</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>4a</u>	
Grades	Submission to DOE reported On Roll	Reported on workpapers		50% Verification required 10/15/23	Verified signed registration forms	Errors	Verified # days enrolled	Errors	to DOE Reported Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified documentation	Errors	Verified # days Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified documentation	Errors	
			Errors														
Pre Kindergarten																	
Kindergarten	39	20	0	20	20	0	20	0	1	1	0	1	0	12	12	0	
One	36	18	0	18	18	0	18	0	2	2	0	2	0	9	9	0	
Two	42	21	0	21	21	0	21	0	2	2	0	2	0	11	11	0	
Three	42	21	0	21	21	0	21	0	3	3	0	3	0	8	8	0	
Four	48	24	0	24	24	0	24	0	2	2	0	2	0	12	12	0	
Five	35	18	0	18	18	0	18	0	4	4	0	4	0	8	8	0	
Six	24	12	0	12	12	0	12	0	3	3	0	3	0	9	9	0	
Seven	39	20	0	20	20	0	20	0	2	2	0	2	0	11	11	0	
Eight	37	19	0	19	19	0	19	0	2	2	0	2	0	10	10	0	
Nine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Eleven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Twelve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	342	173	0	173	173	0	173	0	21	21	0	21	0	90	90	0	
Percentage			0.0%			0%		0%			0%		0%			0%	

THE ETHICAL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL  
APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID  
ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

<u>1</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>2a</u>		<u>2b</u>		<u>2c</u>		<u>3</u>	<u>3a</u>		<u>3b</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>4a</u>	
Grades	Submission to DOE reported On Roll	Reported on workpapers		50% Verification required 6/30/24	Verified signed registration forms	Errors	Verified # days enrolled	Errors	Submission to DOE Reported Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified documentation	Errors	Verified # days Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified documentation		
															Errors		
Pre Kindergarten	39	19	0	19	19	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	0	
Kindergarten	36	18	0	18	18	0	18	0	2	2	0	2	0	8	8	0	
One	42	21	0	21	21	0	21	0	2	2	0	2	0	10	10	0	
Two	42	21	0	21	21	0	21	0	2	2	0	2	0	7	7	0	
Three	48	24	0	24	24	0	24	0	2	2	0	2	0	11	11	0	
Four	35	17	0	17	17	0	17	0	4	4	0	4	0	8	8	0	
Five	24	12	0	12	12	0	12	0	2	2	0	2	0	8	8	0	
Six	39	19	0	19	19	0	19	0	2	2	0	2	0	11	11	0	
Seven	37	18	0	18	18	0	18	0	1	1	0	1	0	10	10	0	
Eight	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Nine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Eleven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Twelve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	342	169	0	169	169	0	169	0	17	17	0	17	0	84	84	0	
Percentage			0.0%			0%		0%			0%		0%			0%	

**ETHICAL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**NET CASH RESOURCE SCHEDULE**  
**Net cash resources did not exceed three months of expenditures**  
**Proprietary Funds - Food Service**  
**FYE June 30, 2024**

**NOT APPLICABLE**

**THE ETHICAL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL  
AUDIT SYNOPSIS RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Recommendations:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures

None

2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

None

3. School Purchasing Program

None

4. School Food Service

None

5. Student Body Activities

None

6. Application for State School Aid

N/A to charter schools.

7. Charter School Enrollment system (CHE)

None

8. Pupil Transportation

N/A to charter schools.

9. Facilities and Capital Assets

None

10. Miscellaneous

None

11. Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

There were no prior year findings.