

**Greenburgh Eleven Union Free
School District, New York**

Communication of Internal Control Matters Identified in the Audit to
Those Charged with Governance and Management

June 30, 2017



**Communication of Internal Control Matters Identified in the Audit to
Those Charged with Governance and Management**

**The Board of Education
Greenburgh Eleven Union Free School District
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522-0501**

Auditors' Communication on Internal Control

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the Greenburgh Eleven Union Free School District, New York ("School District") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the School District's internal control over financial reporting ("internal control") as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and, therefore, there can be no assurance that all such deficiencies have been identified.

We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, in Addendum A, we identify other accounting and auditing matters for your information.

This communication and addenda are intended solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Education and are not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. We will be pleased to discuss these communications and comments in further detail at your convenience, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations.

PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP
PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP
Harrison, New York
October 6, 2017

Greenburgh-Eleven Union Free School District, New York

Addendum A

Other Matters

- **General Fund**

Due From Other Governments

The School District's primary revenue source is from the monies derived from tuition billings to the "home" school district where the student resides. Tuition rates charged by the School District are established by New York State's Rate Setting Unit, pursuant to a cost reimbursement formula. Tuition rates are initially billed at an approved prospective rate and then, in a subsequent period, reconciliation (or final) rates are issued. When the School District is notified of the approved reconciliation rate, the difference between that rate and the previously billed prospective rate is then "rebilled" to the various home school districts. This often results in receivables remaining outstanding for extended periods until the home districts perform their own reconciliations and remit payments to the School District. While the majority of the outstanding receivable balance reflected in the financial statements at June 30, 2017 is considered current (billed within the last three months of the fiscal year), there are certain outstanding receivable balances totaling \$46,000 that have remained unpaid in excess of one year. The School District should continue its collection efforts to address these outstanding balances. Nonetheless, the School District made substantial progress in addressing outstanding receivables, which resulted in the overall receivable balances being reduced from \$6.2 million in the prior year to only \$1.3 million outstanding in the current year.

- **Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statement No. 75 "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions"**

In June 2015, GASB issued Statement No. 75 "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions." This Statement replaces the requirements of GASB Statement No. 45 "Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions". The key difference in the new standard for New York municipalities and school districts (since New York State has not authorized the establishment of an Other Postemployment Benefit ("OPEB") trust fund) is that these governments must now report the *total OPEB liability* related to their employees. The prior standard allowed for the amortization of prior service cost over a thirty year period.

The statement requires municipalities and school districts to present more extensive note disclosures and required supplementary information ("RSI") about their OPEB liabilities. Among the new note disclosures is a description of the effect on the reported OPEB liability of using a discount rate and a healthcare cost trend rate that are one percentage point higher and one percentage point lower than that assumed in the financial statements. The new RSI includes a schedule showing the causes of the increase and decreases in the OPEB liability and a schedule comparing a government's actual OPEB contributions to its contribution requirements.

This new standard parallels the pension standard in GASB Statement No. 68 "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions". Together, these two new standards provide consistent and comprehensive disclosure for all postemployment benefits. **The provisions of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017 (i.e., the School District's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2018).**

Greenburgh-Eleven Union Free School District, New York

Addendum A

Other Matters

• **Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) Statement No. 84 “*Fiduciary Activities*”**

In January 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 84 “*Fiduciary Activities*”. The objective of this Statement is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported. Previously issued guidance lacked the necessary clarity to determine when a government had fiduciary responsibility for a certain activity. This lack of clarity has resulted in a divergence in practice among financial statement preparers and auditors.

GASB Statement No. 84 establishes criteria for identifying fiduciary activities. The focus of the criteria is on (a) whether a government *controls* the assets of the fiduciary activity and (b) the *beneficiaries* with whom a fiduciary relationship exists. A government is considered in control of the assets if the government holds the assets or has the ability to direct the use of the assets in a manner that provides benefits to the specified or intended recipients. The assets also cannot be derived from the government’s own source revenues (or from government-mandated or voluntary non-exchange transactions) and must also have one or more of the following characteristics related to whom the assets will benefit:

- 1) Be administered through a trust
- 2) The government itself is not the beneficiary
- 3) Dedicated to providing benefits in accordance with the benefit terms
- 4) Legally protected from the government’s creditors
- 5) For the benefit of individuals and government has no administrative or direct financial involvement with the assets

An activity meeting the above criteria should be reported in the basic financial statements in one of the following four fiduciary funds, as applicable:

- 1) Pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds
- 2) Investment trust funds
- 3) Private-purpose trust funds and
- 4) Custodial funds

Custodial funds should report fiduciary activities that are not reported in one of the first three fiduciary funds noted above. The use of **Agency funds has been eliminated with this Statement and replaced with custodial funds.**

Governments with activities meeting the above criteria will present a Statement of Fiduciary Net Position (i.e., assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fiduciary net position) and a Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position (i.e., additions and deductions) for each fiduciary fund type. Previous guidance for agency funds only required the presentation of assets and liabilities, whereas the custodial funds require the same elements as the other fiduciary funds, including net position.

The provisions of this Statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018 with earlier application encouraged.

Greenburgh-Eleven Union Free School District, New York

Communication of Matters Identified in the Audit to Those Charged with Governance

We have audited the financial statements of the Greenburgh Eleven Union Free School District, New York ("School District") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and have issued our report thereon dated September 25, 2017. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter to you dated May 16, 2013. This letter provides additional required communications related to our audit.

Our responsibility under professional standards

Our responsibility is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements, which are the responsibility of management, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("US GAAP"). Those individuals charged with governance of the School District are responsible for the oversight of the financial reporting process, and our audit does not relieve management and those charged with governance of their respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility for the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

With respect to such supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with US GAAP, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior year, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

In connection with our audit we performed tests of the School District's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with such provisions.

Planned scope and timing of the audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

Qualitative aspects of significant accounting practices

Significant accounting policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the School District are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during the reporting period that had a significant impact on the financial statements. No matters have come to our attention that would require us to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions, and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Greenburgh-Eleven Union Free School District, New York

Communication of Matters Identified in the Audit to Those Charged with Governance

Qualitative aspects of significant accounting practices (Continued)

Significant accounting estimates

Accounting estimates made by management are an integral part of the financial statements and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statements and their susceptibility to change, such as:

- Actuarial assumptions related to the Other Post Employment Benefit Obligations ("OPEB")
- Actuarial assumptions and proportionate share calculations related to pension plans
- Asset lives for depreciable capital assets
- Estimates of certain receivable balances and allowances for uncollectible amounts
- Estimates for certain operating and long-term liabilities

Management believes that the estimates used and assumptions made are adequate based on the information currently available. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Financial statement disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements relate to:

- Pension plan information
- Other post employment benefit obligations payable
- Fund balances

The financial statement disclosures are consistent and clear.

Significant difficulties encountered during the audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Uncorrected and corrected misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management.

We are required to communicate to you misstatements that remain uncorrected, including any related to prior periods, and the effect, if any, that they may have on the opinion in our report, and request their correction. There are no such financial statement misstatements that remain uncorrected.

In addition, we are required to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. The adjusting journal entries following this communications letter summarize the material misstatements that were corrected by management.

Greenburgh-Eleven Union Free School District, New York

Communication of Matters Identified in the Audit to Those Charged with Governance

Disagreements with management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning financial accounting, reporting, or auditing, which could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Representations requested from management

We have requested certain written representations from management in a separate letter dated September 25, 2017.

Management's consultations with other accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

Other matters discussed with management

We generally discuss with management a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, business conditions affecting the School District, and plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed and our responses thereto were a condition to our retention as auditors.

We have provided our comments regarding other matters noted during our audit in the attached addenda.

Auditor independence

We affirm that PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP is independent with respect to the School District in accordance with professional standards.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Education and management of the School District and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Greenburgh-Eleven Union Free School District, New York

Communication of Matters Identified in the Audit to
Those Charged with Governance

Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 1		7130.20		
To match the revenues with expense and adjust accrual				
F 3013	LEARNING TECHNOLOGY GRANT		8.00	
F 4127	NEGLECTED OR DELINQUENT		37,742.00	
F 4256	IDEA/PL94-142		11,604.00	
F 4128	TITLE II A			126.00
F 4289.SIG	ARRA TITLE 1 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT			41,141.00
F410	DUE FROM STATE & FEDERAL			8,087.00
Total			<u>49,354.00</u>	<u>49,354.00</u>

Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 2		7130.20		
Adjustment based on final grant close out.				
F691	DEFERRED REVENUES		61,086.00	
F410	DUE FROM STATE & FEDERAL			61,086.00
Total			<u>61,086.00</u>	<u>61,086.00</u>