



**Powers &  
Sullivan, LLC**  
CPAs AND ADVISORS

***HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT***

***MANAGEMENT LETTER***

***JUNE 30, 2023***

To the Honorable School Committee  
Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District  
Wenham, Massachusetts 01984

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

However, during our audit we became aware of an other matter that we believe represent an opportunity for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. The memorandum that accompanies this letter summarizes our comment and suggestion concerning this matter.

We will review the status of this comment during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed this comment and suggestion with various District personnel and will be pleased to discuss it in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of this matter, or to assist you in implementing the recommendation.

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



October 16, 2023

**HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MANAGEMENT LETTER**

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## ***COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

## **COMPLIANCE WITH CASH AND INVESTMENT POLICY**

### Prior Year Comment

The School Committee adopted a cash and investment policy on November 2, 2016. For custodial credit risk related to investments, the policy requires review of the financial institution's financial statements and the background of the brokerage house and broker/dealer (Advisor). Further, all securities not held directly by the District, will be held in the District's name and tax identification number by a third-party custodian approved by the Treasurer and evidenced by safekeeping receipts showing individual CUSIP numbers for each security.

It is our understanding that a third-party custodian is employed to hold the District's scholarship assets, which is a financial industry standard for efficiency and cost effectiveness.

We recommended that the individual securities be held in the District's name and tax identification number or that the School Committee policy be revised if deemed necessary.

### Current Status

The School Committee revised the District's cash and investment policy during fiscal 2023 to address this matter. The updated policy was adopted by the School Committee on January 5, 2023.