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COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

October 6, 2023

Members of the Audit Committee and
The Board of Education
Sweet Home Central School District

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the remaining fund information of Sweet Home Central School District (the District) for the year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated October 6, 2023. Professional standards also require that we advise you of the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated May 5, 2023, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express opinions about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the District solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

We have provided our comments regarding internal controls and other matters noted during our audit in a separate letter to you.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

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

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, and our firm have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

Qualitative Aspects of the District's Significant Accounting Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the District are included in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting standards were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, 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.

Significant Accounting Estimates and Audit Risk Items

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments. The most sensitive and significant accounting estimates and audit risk items affecting the financial statements and our audit include:

- Recognition of capital assets at historical or estimated historical cost within established threshold values and the consistent application of depreciable lives and methods
- Accrual of compensated absences (vacation and sick pay liabilities), leases, other postemployment benefits (OPEB), and net pension position and their related disclosures
- Reserves established, funded, and reported in the general fund as restricted fund balance

Management's estimates of the above are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates above and determined they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgement and are particularly important because of their significance to financial statement users. The most important disclosures affecting the financial statements are reflected in Note 2 – Stewardship and Compliance, Note 7 – Long-Term Liabilities, Note 8 – Pension Plans, and Note 9 – OPEB. These disclosures present the deficit fund balance of the capital projects fund and the existing long-term obligations of the District, including the actuarially determined net pension position in the State's pension plans and the actuarial accrued liability for the District's OPEB. We evaluated all disclosures in relation to the financial statements as a whole and determined that they are reasonable.

Significant Difficulties Encountered During the Audit

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

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, 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. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. Management has corrected all identified misstatements. Management has also acknowledged and taken responsibility for all adjustments required to convert the fund basis financial statements to the government-wide basis.

Disagreements with Management

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

Circumstances that Affect the Form and Content of the Auditors' Report

For purposes of this letter, professional standards require that we communicate any circumstances that affect the form and content of our auditors' report. There were no modifications to the audit opinion.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the management representation letter dated consistent with the financial statement audit report date.

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 Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the District, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, business conditions affecting the District, and business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the District's auditors.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to management's discussion and analysis and other required supplementary information (RSI) regarding pensions and OPEB. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and other supplementary information which accompanies the financial statements and is not RSI. With respect to this 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America 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.

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

Lyman & McCormick, LLP