



# ANDERSON SMITH & WIKE PLLC

*Certified Public Accountants*

October 8, 2024

To the Board of Education – Bladen County Schools  
Elizabethtown, North Carolina

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Bladen County Schools Board of Education (the Board) for the year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated October 8, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards and the Uniform Guidance as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated January 25, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

## Significant Audit Findings

### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Board are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's 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 significantly from those expected. The only significant estimates used in the preparation of the basic financial statements are as follows:

- Management's estimate of depreciation expense is based on the assets' respective estimated useful lives. We evaluated the methods, assumptions and data used to develop the accumulated depreciation in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimates for the net pension and OPEB liabilities, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans, and pension and OPEB plan expense are based upon guidance provided by independent third parties. We have evaluated the methods, assumptions and data used by the third parties to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

### *Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

### *Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

### *Disagreements with Management*

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

### *Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 8, 2024.

### *Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Bladen County Schools Board of Education's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

### *Other Audit Findings or Issues*

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Bladen County Schools Board of Education's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

### *Other Matters*

Auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and Government Auditing Standards requires independence for all audits. The two main principles of independence are: (1) do not perform nonattest services that involve making management decisions; and (2) do not audit your own work. No events have occurred to impair our independence during this year's audit. We have assisted management in the preparation of the Board's basic financial statements and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards. Management has reviewed and approved the basic financial statements and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards.

We applied certain limited procedures to Management Discussion and Analysis, the Schedules of the Board's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, OPEB Liabilities (Assets) and the Schedules of Board Contributions, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. 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 basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic 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 individual fund budgetary schedules and the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards, which accompany the financial statements but are 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, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, 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.

*Restrictions on Use*

This information is intended solely for the information and use of members of the Bladen County Schools Board of Education and management of the Board and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation given our representatives during our audit. Should you have any questions concerning the matters presented herein, we would be pleased to discuss them with you further at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

*Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC*

*Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC  
West End, North Carolina*