

Valley Collaborative

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Valley Collaborative
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For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

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FRITZ DEGUGLIELMO LLC
*CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
& BUSINESS ADVISORS*

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Valley Collaborative
Billerica, Massachusetts

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Valley Collaborative, a collaborative organized under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Valley Collaborative's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Valley Collaborative, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Valley Collaborative and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Valley Collaborative's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial

likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Valley Collaborative's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Valley Collaborative's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, Schedule of Funding Progress – Other Postemployment Healthcare Benefits and pension schedules on pages 3-7 and 32-38 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about 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 do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 16, 2023, on our consideration of Valley Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Valley Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Valley Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Certified Public Accountants

Newburyport, Massachusetts

November 16, 2023

Valley Collaborative
Management's Discussion and Analysis
(unaudited)
June 30, 2023

Our discussion and analysis of Valley Collaborative's ("The Collaborative") financial performance provides an overview of the Collaborative's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 with comparative information from the fiscal years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021. Please read it in conjunction with the financial statements that begin on page 8.

Overview of Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Collaborative's financial statements. The Collaborative's financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements; 2) fund financial statements; and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-wide Statements:

The government-wide financial statements report information about the Collaborative as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector companies.

- The **Statement of Net Position** presents information on all of the Collaborative's assets and liabilities with the difference between the two reported as net position. It is one way of measuring the Collaborative's financial health or position.
- The **Statement of Activities** presents information showing how the Collaborative's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Over time, increases or decreases in the Collaborative's net position is an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating. The reader will also need to consider other non-financial factors such as changes in economic conditions when evaluating the overall financial health of the Collaborative.

Fund Financial Statements:

Funds are accounting devices used to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending in particular categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds. Presently, the Collaborative has only governmental and fiduciary funds.

- **Governmental funds** – The Collaborative's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on: 1) how cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out, and 2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps to determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Collaborative's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, additional information (reconciliation schedules) is provided following the governmental funds statements that explains the relationship (or differences) between these two types of financial statement presentations.
- **Fiduciary fund** – Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the Collaborative's own programs.

Notes to the Financial Statements:

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the information provided in the Collaborative's financial statements.

Valley Collaborative
Management's Discussion and Analysis
(unaudited)
June 30, 2023

Required Supplementary Information:

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information which is required to be disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Government-Wide Financial Highlights

Collaborative's Net Position:

ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Assets			
Current Assets	\$ 9,638,049	\$ 8,445,166	\$10,490,104
Non-current assets, net**	<u>10,385,960</u>	<u>11,157,458</u>	<u>7,678,271</u>
Total Assets	<u>20,024,009</u>	<u>19,602,624</u>	<u>18,168,375</u>
Deferred Outflows Related to OPEB	<u>1,943,312</u>	<u>2,010,393</u>	<u>1,920,344</u>
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$21,967,321</u>	<u>\$21,613,017</u>	<u>\$20,088,719</u>

LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION

Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	\$ 2,933,189	\$ 2,043,673	\$ 3,703,018
Long Term Liabilities**	<u>4,925,869</u>	<u>5,328,811</u>	<u>2,489,196</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>7,859,058</u>	<u>7,372,484</u>	<u>6,192,214</u>
Deferred Inflows Related to OPEB	<u>3,037,142</u>	<u>2,508,045</u>	<u>2,544,128</u>
Net Position			
Unrestricted	\$ 2,658,926	\$ 3,005,486	\$ 2,153,213
Restricted – grants and contributions	30,583	23,891	20,893
Restricted – renovation project/capital reserve	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Invested in right-of-use assets, net of liabilities**	(58,449)	(32,684)	-
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	<u>6,940,061</u>	<u>7,235,795</u>	<u>7,678,271</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$11,071,121</u>	<u>\$11,732,488</u>	<u>\$11,352,377</u>

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Collaborative's overall net position decreased by approximately \$661,000. Total assets increased by approximately \$421,000 primarily as a result of continued strong operations and oversight increasing the overall cash position of the Collaborative. Total liabilities increased by approximately \$487,000 which was primarily the result of the board's vote to return approximately \$816,000 of cumulative surplus back to member districts that had not yet been paid out by June 30, 2023. Liabilities also increased by \$250,000 in prepaid tuition paid by one of the member districts in comparison to fiscal year 2022. The payment of the lease liability for fiscal year 2023 was approximately \$450,000. The remaining difference is a result of the timing of payments in comparison to the prior fiscal year. The Collaborative realized a decrease in net position from operations, including depreciation on capital assets right-of-use lease expense and other postemployment benefits expense, of approximately \$679,000, and a transfer to the OPEB trust account of approximately \$64,000.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the Collaborative's overall net position increased by approximately \$381,000. Total assets increased by approximately \$1,524,000 primarily as a result of implementing GASB Statement No. 87 during 2022 with a right-of-use lease asset of approximately \$3,921,000 net of approximately of \$1,641,000 of additional cash used to fund the OPEB trust account. The remaining difference was a decrease as a result of operations for the year. Total liabilities increased by approximately \$1,180,000 which was primarily result of implementing GASB Statement No. 87. The lease liability totaled approximately \$3,954,000. The remaining difference is a result of the utilization of approximately \$1,995,000 in member credits and change in the OPEB liability of approximately

Valley Collaborative
Management's Discussion and Analysis
(unaudited)
June 30, 2023

\$665,000. The Collaborative realized an increase in net position from operations, including depreciation on capital assets and other postemployment benefits expense, of approximately \$2,022,000, and a transfer to the OPEB trust account of approximately \$1,641,000.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Revenues/Gains*	\$21,984,406	\$21,050,749	\$19,256,330
Program Expenses/Losses*	19,048,642	17,879,061	15,035,772
Administrative Expenses/Losses*	<u>2,137,683</u>	<u>1,941,085</u>	<u>2,017,101</u>
Total Expense*	<u>21,186,325</u>	<u>19,820,146</u>	<u>17,052,873</u>
Change in net position, before increase in net retirement health benefit obligation and credits to member districts			
	798,081	1,230,603	2,203,457
Increase in net retirement health benefit obligation	<u>(643,839)</u>	<u>(849,716)</u>	<u>(737,163)</u>
Change in net position before credits to member districts			
	154,242	380,887	1,466,294
Credits to member districts	<u>(815,609)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,600,000)</u>
Change in Net Position**	<u>(\$ 661,367)</u>	<u>\$ 380,887</u>	<u>(\$1,133,706)</u>

* Excludes Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems "on-behalf" payments, credits to members, and other postemployment benefits funding and expense.

** During 2022, the Collaborative implemented GASB No. 87 and as a result, made adjustments effective July 1, 2021 for right-of-use leased assets and liabilities. The information above includes information reported under GASB Statement No. 87 in the 2023 and 2022 information only and does not adjust for lease assets or liabilities in prior presented years. In addition, the change in net position reflects the 2022 net change, not including the cumulative effect of implementing GASB Statement No. 87 of \$776.

Revenues

In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, revenues, excluding Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems "on-behalf" payments, increased by approximately \$934,000 (5%). In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, revenues, excluding Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems "on-behalf" payments, increased by approximately \$1,795,000 (9%). The changes within fiscal years are due primarily to changes in student enrollment in the respective years. Changes in fiscal year 2023 enrollment are primarily a result of the recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and student counts returning back to pre-pandemic levels.

Operating Expenses

In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, operating expenses, excluding Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems "on-behalf" payments, increased by approximately \$1,366,000, or 7%, compared to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. Increases in expenses were primarily a result of increased employee and benefit costs, as well as other programmatic costs required to service student enrollment levels. Personnel costs increased by approximately \$762,000 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 as a result for the increase in staffing needs. Materials, supplies and equipment costs increased by approximately \$119,000, travel expense increased by approximately \$47,000, small business related expenses increased by \$50,000, lease services increased by \$157,000 as a result of a full year lease of 11 Executive Park Drive and field trip expense increased by approximately \$22,000. Supplies increased as a result of outfitting new property rented as well as the increase in the student population. Travel and field trips saw increases as a result of travel restrictions and various closures coming to an end. Small business expenses increase as a result of catering and students working in the field started getting back to pre-pandemic levels.

Valley Collaborative
Management's Discussion and Analysis
(unaudited)
June 30, 2023

In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, operating expenses, excluding Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems "on-behalf" payments, increased by approximately \$2,767,000, or 16%, compared to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. As a result of the reduction of the COVID-19 pandemic mandates, there were increases in expenses as a result of an increase in enrollment. Personnel costs increased by approximately \$2,606,000 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 as a result for the increase in staffing needs and rehiring of previously laid-off employees. Materials, supplies and equipment costs decreased by approximately \$137,000, travel expense increased by approximately \$124,000, small business related expenses increased by \$42,000, and field trip expense increased by approximately \$68,000. Supplies decreased as a result of the need to be compliant with COVID-19 requirements in 2021 and the reduction of the mandates in 2022. Travel and field trips saw increases as a result of travel restrictions and various closures coming to an end. Small business expenses increase as a result of catering and students working in the field started getting back to pre-pandemic levels.

Governmental Funds Financial Highlights

The Collaborative reported a total general fund balance of \$5,560,807, of which \$295,605 was nonspendable and the remaining \$5,265,202 was unassigned. The fund balance increased \$233,205 over the prior fiscal year, primarily due to net operating surplus of \$1,112,888 decreased by \$64,074 transferred to the OPEB trust account and \$815,609 of credits issued to member districts. Prepaid expenses decreased by \$45,287, primarily due to the use of the trade-in credit to purchase new vehicles. Cash increased by \$1,258,570.

Due to strong management, since the year ended June 30, 2013, the Collaborative has returned more than \$11,815,000 from its general fund in the form of cash and tuition credits to its member districts.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Collaborative purchased and capitalized six vehicles, leasehold improvements and other equipment for use in its program with a total cost of \$455,787. The Collaborative did not sell, trade in or dispose of any vehicles or equipment in fiscal year 2023. The remaining trade in credit of \$43,576 from June 30, 2022 was completely used during fiscal year 2023 for the vehicle purchases.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the Collaborative purchased and capitalized two vehicles, leasehold improvements and other equipment for use in its program with a total cost of \$329,816. The Collaborative did not sell, traded in or dispose of any vehicles or equipment in fiscal year 2022. Due to the vehicle shortage as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a trade in credit of \$43,576 that is currently included in prepaid expenses as it is being held by the dealership and will be applied against the purchase price of the new vehicles once received.

As of June 30, 2023, the balance in the capital reserve fund was \$1,500,000, and fully funded. This fund is considered restricted until utilized for its intended purpose.

**SUBSCRIPTION BASED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ARRANGEMENT (SBITA) &
LEASED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

During 2023, the Collaborative implemented GASB Statement No. 96 which requires recording right-of-use SBITA assets and related liabilities for all long-term SBITAs. The Collaborative evaluated its contracts effective July 1, 2022 and determined that the Collaborative had no agreements that exceeded a 12-month period. Therefore there is no value recognized in the financial statements as a result of implementing this standard.

Valley Collaborative
Management's Discussion and Analysis
(unaudited)
June 30, 2023

During 2022, the Collaborative implemented GASB Statement No. 87 which requires right-of-use leased assets and related liabilities for all long-term leases. The Collaborative recorded the lease assets and liabilities effective July 1, 2021 with a cumulative effect for a change in accounting principal to the prior year ending net position of \$776. As of June 30, 2022, the Collaborative recognized right-of-use assets totaling \$4,011,146, net of accumulated amortization of \$89,483 and lease liabilities of \$3,954,347 for all leases. See Note D in the notes to the financial statements for additional information on the Collaborative's leases.

BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The Collaborative's annual budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 was approved by its Board of Directors and then amended on April 27, 2023. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Collaborative received operating revenues, excluding on-behalf payments by the Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems, of approximately \$21,963,000 compared to final budgeted revenues of approximately \$21,800,000. The difference between actual revenues received and budgeted revenues is primarily due to higher than expected revenues from services the organization provides as well as state contracts. The Collaborative expended operating expenses, excluding on-behalf payments by the Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems, of approximately \$20,394,000 compared to final budgeted expenses of approximately \$21,367,000. The difference between actual expenses incurred and budgeted expenses is primarily from decreases in operating expenses due to continued oversight on spending and operations.

The Collaborative's annual budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 was approved by its Board of Directors and then amended on December 2, 2021. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the Collaborative received operating revenues, excluding on-behalf payments by the Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems, of approximately \$21,004,000 compared to final budgeted revenues of approximately \$20,226,000. The difference between actual revenues received and budgeted revenues is primarily due to higher than expected revenues from services the organization provides as well as state contracts. The Collaborative expended operating expenses, excluding on-behalf payments by the Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems, of approximately \$18,973,000 compared to final budgeted revenues of approximately \$18,840,000. The difference between actual expenses incurred and budgeted expenses is primarily due to increase in staffing to address increased enrollment and a decrease in other expenses due to a reduction in spending resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and required supplies needed to maintain operations.

CONTACTING THE COLLABORATIVE

This financial report is designed to provide readers of the financial statement an overview of the Collaborative's financial activities. If you have questions in regard to this report, contact Chris A. Scott, Ph.D., 25 Linnell Circle, Billerica, MA 01821, or at 978-528-7800.

Valley Collaborative
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2023

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,008,030
Accounts receivable, net	3,334,414
Prepaid expenses and other assets	295,605
Total Current Assets	<u>9,638,049</u>
Non-current Assets	
Right-of-use leased assets, net of accumulated amortization	3,445,899
Capitalized assets, net	6,940,061
Total Non-current Assets	<u>10,385,960</u>
Total Assets	<u>20,024,009</u>

Deferred Outflows of Resources

Deferred Outflows of Resources Related to OPEB	1,943,312
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 21,967,321</u>

Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Net Position

Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,221,897
Deferred revenues	500,000
Lease liability, current portion	386,530
Credits due to member districts	824,762
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,933,189</u>
Non-current Liabilities	
Lease liabilities, net of current portion	3,117,818
Net OPEB liability	1,808,051
Total Non-current Liabilities	<u>4,925,869</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>7,859,058</u>

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB	<u>3,037,142</u>
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Net Position

Net Position	
Unrestricted	2,658,926
Restricted - contributions and other	30,583
Restricted - capital reserve fund	1,500,000
Invested in right-of-use leased assets, net of related liabilities	(58,449)
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	6,940,061
Total Net Position	<u>11,071,121</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Net Position	<u>\$ 21,967,321</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Valley Collaborative
Statement of Activities
For the year ended June 30, 2023

Functions/ Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	
Governmental Activities:				
Administration	\$ 2,137,683	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,137,683)
Education	17,686,456	17,901,369	4,010,246	4,225,159
Intergovernmental revenue and expense	2,793,171	-	2,793,171	-
Other postemployment benefits	643,839	-	-	(643,839)
Interest expense	134,900	-	-	(134,900)
Capital asset depreciation and amortization	751,522	-	-	(751,522)
Right-of-use asset amortization	475,764	-	-	(475,764)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 24,623,335	\$ 17,901,369	\$ 6,803,417	\$ 81,451
General Revenue and Other:				
Interest				36,296
Other				36,495
Credits to member districts				(815,609)
Total General Revenue and Other				(742,818)
Change in Net Position				(661,367)
Net Position, Beginning of Year				11,732,488
Net Position, End of Year				\$ 11,071,121

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Valley Collaborative
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2023

	General Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,477,447	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 30,583	\$ 6,008,030
Accounts receivable, net	3,334,414	-	-	3,334,414
Prepaid expenses and other assets	295,605	-	-	295,605
Total Assets	\$ 8,107,466	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 30,583	\$ 9,638,049
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,221,897	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,221,897
Deferred revenues	500,000	-	-	500,000
Credits due to member districts	824,762	-	-	824,762
Total Liabilities	2,546,659	-	-	2,546,659
Fund Balances:				
Nonspendable	295,605	-	-	295,605
Restricted	-	1,500,000	30,583	1,530,583
Committed	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	5,265,202	-	-	5,265,202
Total Fund Balances	5,560,807	1,500,000	30,583	7,091,390
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 8,107,466	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 30,583	\$ 9,638,049

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Valley Collaborative
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2023

Total fund balances, governmental funds	\$ 7,091,390
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Deferred inflows relating to the other postemployment benefit obligation is not a current obligation and therefore is not reported in this fund financial statement, but is reported in the government activities of the Statement of Net Position.	(3,037,142)
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Right-of-use leased assets, net of accumulated amortization, used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	3,445,899
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Other postemployment benefit (OPEB) liability is not a current obligation and therefore is not reported in this fund financial statement, but is reported in the governmental activities of the Statement of Net Position.	(1,808,051)
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Long-term lease liabilities related to the right-of-use leased assets is used in governmental activities and are not financial uses and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(3,504,348)
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Deferred outflows relating to the other postemployment benefit obligation is not a current financial resource and therefore is not reported in this fund financial statement, but is reported in the government activities of the Statement of Net Position.	1,943,312
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Capital assets, net of related debt, used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and therefore are not reported in this fund financial statement, but are reported in the governmental activities of the Statement of Net Position	<u>6,940,061</u>
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Net position of governmental activities	<u><u>\$ 11,071,121</u></u>
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Valley Collaborative
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General Fund	Capital Reserve Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:				
Tuition and service revenues	\$ 17,901,369	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,901,369
Grants and contributions	3,988,564	-	21,682	4,010,246
Intergovernmental revenue	2,793,171	-	-	2,793,171
Interest	36,296	-	-	36,296
Other	36,495	-	-	36,495
Credits to member districts	(815,609)	-	-	(815,609)
Total Revenues	23,940,286	-	21,682	23,961,968
Expenditures:				
Administration	2,122,693	-	14,990	2,137,683
Program payroll	13,521,131	-	-	13,521,131
Program fringe benefits and payroll taxes	2,276,723	-	-	2,276,723
Professional and consulting fees	10,058	-	-	10,058
Transportation and travel	210,883	-	-	210,883
Maintenance and other occupancy	440,520	-	-	440,520
Telephone, communications and utilities	169,581	-	-	169,581
Materials, supplies and equipment	679,519	-	-	679,519
Small business expenses	225,435	-	-	225,435
Field trips	101,645	-	-	101,645
Training programs	16,221	-	-	16,221
Other	34,740	-	-	34,740
Intergovernmental expense	2,793,171	-	-	2,793,171
Capital outlay, net of debt incurred	455,787	-	-	455,787
Lease Service:				
Lease interest	134,900	-	-	134,900
Lease financing principal	450,000	-	-	450,000
Total Expenditures	23,643,007	-	14,990	23,657,997
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	297,279	-	6,692	303,971
Other Financing Sources:				
OPEB obligation funding	(64,074)	-	-	(64,074)
Net Change in Fund Balances	233,205	-	6,692	239,897
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	5,327,602	1,500,000	23,891	6,851,493
Fund Balances, End of Year	\$ 5,560,807	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 30,583	\$ 7,091,390

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Valley Collaborative
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of
Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Net change in fund balances of total governmental funds **\$ 239,897**

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Governmental funds report outlays for capital assets and right-to-use leased assets as expenditures because such outlays use current financial resources. In contrast, the Statement of Activities reports only a portion of the outlay as expense. The outlay is allocated over the assets' estimated useful lives as depreciation or amortization expense for the period. Governmental funds do not report inflows from assets held to purchase capital assets or finance leased assets because such assets are not considered current financial resources. In contrast, the Statement of Activities does report the inflows as revenue.

Capital outlay purchases, net of debt incurred	455,787
Depreciation	(751,522)
Amortization	(475,764)

Governmental funds report lease financing payments as expenditures because such outlays use current financial resources. In contrast, the Statement of Activities reports only the current year interest accrued on the liability as expense.

Lease financing principal	450,000
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The change in accrual for other postemployment benefits reported in the Statement of Activities does not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, is not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.

Net change in other postemployment benefits (OPEB) accrual	<u>(579,765)</u>
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Change in net position of governmental activities	<u><u>\$ (661,367)</u></u>
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Valley Collaborative
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Retirees' Health Insurance Trust Fund
June 30, 2023

Assets

Assets	
Investments	\$ 6,598,707
Total Assets	<u>\$ 6,598,707</u>

Net Position

Net Position	
Net position held in trust for retirees' health insurance	\$ 6,598,707
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 6,598,707</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Valley Collaborative
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Retirees' Health Insurance Trust Fund
For the year ended June 30, 2023

Additions:	
Contributions	\$ 64,074
Investment gain	<u>523,237</u>
Total Additions	<u>587,311</u>
Deductions:	
Investment expenses	<u>19,577</u>
Total Deductions	<u>19,577</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>567,734</u>
Net Position – Beginning of Year	<u>6,030,973</u>
Net Position – End of Year	<u><u>\$ 6,598,707</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements and independent auditor's report.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

OTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Collaborative

Valley Collaborative (The “Collaborative”) is an educational collaborative of the school districts of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Groton-Dunstable Regional, Nashoba Valley Technical, North Middlesex Regional, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, and Westford. The Collaborative is a public entity under the jurisdiction of its member school committees, whose appointees comprise its board of directors. The Collaborative provides high quality academic, therapeutic and vocational services to individuals referred by local school districts and social service agencies.

Basis of Presentation

The Collaborative's financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the Collaborative are discussed below.

The Collaborative's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the Collaborative as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the Collaborative's major funds). Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type. Governmental activities are generally financed through intergovernmental assessments or other non-exchange transactions. The Collaborative does not have any activities classified as business type activities.

Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle

The Collaborative has fully implemented GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* (“SBITAs”). Statement No. 96 requires the present value of long-term SBITAs be recorded as an asset of the Collaborative and future payments to be recorded as a liability. The asset is required to be amortized ratably over the SBITA term and payments are allocated between interest expense and liability payments. Previously, SBITA payments were expensed as incurred with no corresponding asset or liability recorded. The significant impact to the Collaborative’s financial statements from SBITAs would be to the government-wide financials statements. There was no change in the opening balance in the government-wide or governmental fund balances as a result of the cumulative effect of this change in accounting principle since the Collaborative did not have any long-term SBITA agreements prior to fiscal 2023.

Government-wide Statements

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position, governmental columns are presented on a consolidated basis and are reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets, receivables and deferred outflows of resources, as well as long-term liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and other liabilities reported on a full accrual basis. The Collaborative’s net position is reported in three parts—net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted. The Collaborative first utilizes restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

The government-wide Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. The Collaborative does allocate indirect expenses to functions in the Statement of Activities if there is a reasonable basis for doing so. Depreciation is reported as one amount, in total, on the Statement of Activities, and is not allocated among the respective functions.

The government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the Collaborative as an entity and the change in the Collaborative’s net position resulting from the current year’s activities.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – *continued*

Fund Financial Statements

The financial transactions of the Collaborative are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprises its assets, liabilities, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures/expenses. The various funds are reported by generic classification within the financial statements.

The emphasis in fund financial statements is on the major funds in either the governmental or business-type activities categories. GASB pronouncements set forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues or expenditures/expenses of either fund category or the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The Collaborative may electively add funds, as major funds, which have specific community focus. The nonmajor funds are combined in a column in the fund financial statements.

The following governmental fund types are used by the Collaborative - the Collaborative does not use proprietary funds:

Governmental Funds:

The focus of the governmental funds' measurement (in the fund statements) is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The following is a description of the governmental funds of the Collaborative:

General fund - is the general operating fund of the Collaborative. It is used to account for all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Capital reserve fund - used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to be used for the acquisition, construction, or renovation of major capital facilities or equipment.

Non-major governmental funds - consist of other special revenue and permanent funds that are aggregated and presented in the non-major governmental funds column on the government funds financial statements.

Fiduciary Funds:

Fiduciary Funds are used to report assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others and therefore are not available to support Collaborative programs. The reporting focus is on net position and changes in net position presented in fiduciary fund financial statements. Since by definition these assets are being held for the benefit of a third party (retirees) and cannot be used to address activities or obligations of the government, these funds are not incorporated into the government-wide statements.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are fiduciary fund financial statements. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the flow of current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for unmatured interest on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences, claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with current expendable available resources.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – *continued*

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Collaborative considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. The Collaborative maintains its uncollateralized cash balances in two financial institutions. The balances in one of the financial institutions are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Company up to \$250,000. From time to time, the Collaborative maintains bank account balances in excess of the federally insured limits. The Collaborative also maintains cash and cash equivalents at the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust which is collateralized by its underlying assets. At June 30, 2023, the Collaborative's uninsured cash balances, including reconciling items, totaled \$5,758,030. The Collaborative monitors its exposure associated with cash and cash equivalents and has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Fair Value Measurements and Investments

The Collaborative has contributed \$4,854,654 to a public employee retirement trust account with Public Agency Retirement Services as trustee, on behalf of its retirees' health insurance trust fund. The trustee invests the funds in Vanguard mutual funds. As of June 30, 2023, the balance in these investments consisted of the following:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Gain</u>
Mutual Funds	\$4,854,654	\$6,598,707	\$1,744,053

All investments of the Collaborative are measured at fair value, generally based on quoted market prices in accordance with level 1 of the Fair Value Hierarchy established under GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*.

Net increase in the fair value on investments for the year ended June 30, 2023 was \$503,660. There were no realized gains or losses during the year ended June 30, 2023. Investment fees for the year ended June 30, 2023 were \$19,577.

The Collaborative manages its investments in accordance with state public finance laws that require that all moneys held in the name of the Collaborative, which are not required to be kept liquid for purposes of distribution, shall be invested in such a manner as to require the payment of interest on the money at the highest possible rate reasonably available, taking account of safety, liquidity and yield. The Collaborative has directed a local investment management service to manage the funds as conservatively as possible. However, the investments are still subject to market risk of loss. For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Collaborative will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party. The Collaborative's investments are uninsured, not registered in the name of the Collaborative, and held by the counterparty's trust department or agent but not in the Collaborative's name.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues consist primarily of billings to member municipalities or other cities and towns for providing programs and services. The Collaborative also receives approximately 19% of its revenues under social service contracts issued by agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, excluding Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems "on-behalf" payments. Operating expenses include educational costs, administrative expenses and depreciation on capital assets.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consist of all revenues earned at year end and not yet collected. Major receivable balances include tuitions and certain related charges. The Collaborative records its bad debts using the allowance method. As of June 30, 2023, there was an allowance for doubtful accounts of \$50,974.

Credits Due to Member Districts

"Credits due to member districts" represent member district credits issued during the fiscal year but not utilized by the district during the fiscal year. The credits are to be applied against future Collaborative invoices or disbursed to the member district and are not considered an agency fund of the Collaborative.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – *continued*

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are capitalized at historical cost. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method using estimated useful lives of two to five years for websites, computer equipment, furniture, fixtures, vehicles and program equipment and five to ten years for leasehold improvements. The Collaborative has purchased and renovated a building. The building and renovations are depreciated using estimated useful lives of 40 and 20 years, respectively.

Equity Classifications

Government-wide Statements

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

Invested in capital assets, net of related debt - this component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of bonds, notes or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets or related debt are also included in this component of net position.

Invested in right-of-use assets, net of liabilities – this component of net position consists of right-of-use assets, net of accumulated amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of liabilities that are attributable to the leased assets.

Restricted - this component of net position consists of restricted net assets reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows or resources related to those assets. These assets may be restricted by constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted - this component of net position is the net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of net investment in capital assets or the restricted component of net position.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified based on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on specific purposes for which amounts in the funds can be spent. Fund balances can be classified in the following components:

Nonspendable fund balance – consists of amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted fund balance – consists of amounts upon which constraints have been placed on their use whether (a) externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed fund balance – consists of amounts which can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by the Collaborative's highest level of decision making, the Board of Directors. Any modification or rescission must also be made by a vote of the Board of Directors.

Assigned fund balance – consists of amounts that are constrained by the Collaborative's intent to be used for specific purposes. Intent is expressed by (a) the governing body itself, or (b) a Board of Directors, or official to which the governing body has delegated the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes.

Unassigned fund balance – consists of the residual classification for the remaining fund balance. It represents amounts that have not been assigned to other funds and has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – *continued*

Use of Estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could vary from the estimates used.

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through November 16, 2023, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE B – ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable consisted of the following as of June 30, 2023:

Tuition and services to districts	\$ 2,947,981
State contracts	<u>437,407</u>
	3,385,388
Allowance for doubtful accounts	<u>(50,974)</u>
	<u>\$ 3,334,414</u>

The Collaborative has established an allowance for doubtful accounts in the amount of \$50,974. The allowance is based on specific identification of probable losses and an estimate of additional losses based on historical experience. Account balances are charged off against the allowance when it is probable the receivable will not be recovered. For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Collaborative recorded no bad debt expense.

NOTE C – CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of depreciable capital assets follows:

	<u>Buildings & Improvements</u>	<u>Furniture, Equipment & Software</u>	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>COST</u>				
Balance, July 1, 2022	\$9,161,168	\$ 1,290,954	\$1,311,535	\$11,763,657
Additions	117,973	81,892	255,922	455,787
Disposals	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	9,279,141	1,372,846	1,567,457	12,219,444
<u>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</u>				
Balance, July 1, 2022	(3,088,186)	(1,109,628)	(1,007,547)	(5,205,361)
Additions	(500,070)	(87,894)	(163,558)	(751,522)
Disposals	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	(3,588,256)	(1,197,522)	(1,171,105)	(5,956,883)
Net, June 30, 2023	<u>\$ 5,690,885</u>	<u>\$ 175,324</u>	<u>\$ 396,352</u>	<u>\$ 6,262,561</u>

Land in the amount of \$677,500 is not being depreciated. In fiscal 2023, the Collaborative capitalized \$117,973 for building improvements, \$255,922 for vehicles, and \$81,892 for office furniture and equipment. Depreciation expense of \$751,522 was not allocated to governmental functions. It appears unallocated on the Statement of Activities. The capital reserve for future capital purchases is fully funded.

NOTE D –LEASE OBLIGATIONS

The Collaborative leases various classroom and office spaces and office equipment under operating leases. All of its leases qualifying as long-term leases are recorded in accordance with GASB Statement No. 87.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE D –LEASE OBLIGATIONS – *continued*

During fiscal 2017, the Collaborative entered into a building lease for program use at 135 Coburn Road in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts, commencing July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2033 including extensions. The lease requires quarterly rent payments of \$63,988 through June 2028, then it is adjusted to \$31,250 through June 2030, and finally adjusted to \$94,181 through June 2033. During fiscal 2019, the Collaborative entered into a building lease for program and administrative use at 25 Linnell Circle in Billerica, Massachusetts, commencing July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2025 including extension. The lease requires monthly payments of \$13,187 through June 2023, then it is adjusted to \$13,583 through June 2024, and finally adjusted to \$13,991 through June 2025. During fiscal 2022, the Collaborative entered into a building lease for program use at 11 Executive Park Drive in Billerica, Massachusetts, commencing June 1, 2022 through August 31, 2032. The monthly payments are increased annually by approximately 2% of the prior year. The Coburn Road, Linnell Circle and Executive Park Drive leases represent the total of the right-of-use lease assets and liabilities. Right-of-use assets and initial liabilities are valued using a rate of 6% which represents the Collaborative's incremental borrowing rates at the time the leases and extension were entered into, respectively.

Lease agreements, including modifications, are summarized as follows:

Description	Date	Payment Terms	Payment Amount	Interest Rate	Total Lease Asset/Liability	Accum. Amort. 6/30/2023	Net Asset 6/30/2023	Liability Balance 6/30/2023
135 Coburn Road**	7/1/2016	17 years	\$255,950 (FY23)	6.00%	\$2,133,409	\$264,729	\$1,868,680	\$1,866,378
25 Linnell Circle	7/1/2022	3 years	\$158,249 (FY23)	6.00%	448,324	149,441	298,883	310,933
11 Executive Park Drive	6/1/2022	9.25 years	\$14,200 (FY23)	6.00%	1,429,413	151,077	1,278,336	1,327,037
Total Lease Agreements					\$4,011,146	\$565,248	\$3,445,899	\$3,504,348

**Lease was modified during FY2022.

Annual requirements to amortize long-term obligations and related interest are as follows:

Year Ending 30-Jun	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$386,530	\$206,717	\$593,247
2025	340,847	260,900	601,747
2026	277,229	160,361	437,590
2027	298,285	143,155	441,440
2028	320,764	124,646	445,410
Thereafter	1,880,693	334,539	2,215,232
	\$3,504,348	\$1,230,318	\$4,734,666

For the year ended June 30, 2023, total amortization expense of leased assets was \$475,764 and total interest expense on lease liabilities was \$134,900.

NOTE E – MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREE SYSTEMS

Plan Descriptions:

The Collaborative's employees participate in the Massachusetts Teachers' (MTRS) or State Employee' Retirement System (MSERS), statewide cost-sharing multi-employer defined benefit plans public employee retirement systems (PERS) covering all employees of local school districts within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The retirement systems issue publicly available annual reports that includes financial statements and required supplementary information, which may be obtained by writing to Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC), 5 Middlesex Avenue, Suite 304, Somerville, Massachusetts, 02145.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

**NOTE E – MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS’ AND STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREE SYSTEMS –
*continued***

Benefits Provided:

MSERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits to members and their beneficiaries. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) establishes uniform benefit and contribution requirements for all contributory PERS. These requirements provide for superannuation retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member’s highest three-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For employees hired after April 1, 2012, retirement allowances are calculated on the basis of the last five years or any five consecutive years, whichever is greater in terms of compensation. Benefit payments are based upon a member’s age, length of creditable service, and group creditable service, and group classification. The authority for amending these provisions rests with the Legislature.

Members become vested after ten years of creditable service. A superannuation retirement allowance may be received upon the completion of twenty years of creditable service or upon reaching the age of 55 with ten years of service. Normal retirement for most employees occurs at age 65; for certain hazardous duty and public safety positions, normal retirement is at age 55. Most employees who joined the system after April 1, 2012 cannot retire prior to age 60.

The MSERS’ funding policies have been established by Chapter 32 of the MGL. The Legislature has the authority to amend these policies. The annuity portion of the MSERS retirement allowance is funded by employees, who contribute a percentage of their regular compensation. Costs of administering the plan are funded out of plan assets.

MTRS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits to members and their beneficiaries. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) establishes uniform benefit and contribution requirements for all contributory PERS. These requirements provide for superannuation retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member’s highest three-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For employees hired after April 1, 2012, retirement allowances are calculated on the basis of the last five years or any five consecutive years, whichever is greater in terms of compensation. Benefit payments are based upon a member’s age, length of creditable service, and group creditable service, and group classification. The authority for amending these provisions rests with the Legislature.

Members become vested after ten years of creditable service. A superannuation retirement allowance may be received upon the completion of twenty years of creditable service or upon reaching the age of 55 with ten years of service. Normal retirement for most employees occurs at age 65. Most employees who joined the system after April 1, 2012 cannot retire prior to age 60.

The MTRS’ funding policies have been established by Chapter 32 of the MGL. The Legislature has the authority to amend these policies. The annuity portion of the MTRS retirement allowance is funded by employees, who contribute a percentage of their regular compensation. Costs of administering the plan are funded out of plan assets.

Contributions:

Member contributions for MSERS vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>% of Compensation</u>
Prior to 1975.....	5% of regular compensation
1975 - 1983.....	7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/1996.....	8% of regular compensation
7/1/1996 to present.....	9% of regular compensation
1979 to present.....	An additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

**NOTE E – MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS’ AND STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREE SYSTEMS –
*continued***

Educational collaboratives contribute amounts equal to the normal cost of employees’ benefits participating in MSERS at a rate established by the Public Employees’ Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC), currently 6.1% of covered payroll. Legally, the collaboratives are only responsible for contributing the annual normal cost of their employees’ benefits (i.e., the present value of the benefits earned by those employees in any given year) and are not legally responsible for the past service cost attributable to those employees or previously retired employees of the collaboratives. During fiscal year 2023, the Collaborative’s contributions on behalf of employees totaled \$400,940.

Member contributions for MTRS vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>% of Compensation</u>
Prior to 1975.....	5% of regular compensation
1975 - 1983.....	7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/1996.....	8% of regular compensation
7/1/1996 to present.....	9% of regular compensation
7/1/2001 to present.....	11% of regular compensation (for teachers hired after 7/1/01 and those accepting provisions of Chapter 114 of the Acts of 2000)
1979 to present.....	An additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000

The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor in MTRS and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers participating in MTRS. Therefore, the Collaborative is considered to be in a 100% special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* and the Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributing entity in under both MSERS and MTRS. Since the employers do not contribute directly to each system beyond the MSERS annual normal cost, there is no net pension liability to recognize. However, the notes to the financial statements must disclose the portion of the nonemployer contributing entities’ share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the employer. In addition, the Collaborative must recognize its portion of the collective pension expense as both a revenue and pension expense.

The nonemployer contributing entities’ share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the Collaborative was measured as of June 30, 2022 and was \$12,958,656 and \$21,572,960 under MSERS and MTRS, respectively. In fiscal 2022, the Collaborative recognized revenue and related expense of \$1,018,585 (under GASB Statement No. 68) for its portion of the collective pension expense under MSERS. In fiscal 2022, the Collaborative recognized revenue and related expense of \$1,774,586 (under GASB Statement No. 68), for its portion of the collective pension expense under MTRS. These amounts are recorded as Intergovernmental revenue and expense in the financial statements.

NOTE F – COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The Collaborative allows eligible employees to carryover unused vacation time up to 10 days per year and to accrue a maximum of 20 days total. At the end of the fiscal year, any unused vacation time in excess of the above amounts is forfeited. The Collaborative’s vacation accrual for the year ended June 30, 2023 was \$106,753.

NOTE G – RISK MANAGEMENT

The Collaborative is exposed to various risks of loss relating to torts, theft or damage of, and destruction of assets; error and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Collaborative has obtained a variety of commercial liability insurance policies that pass the risk of loss listed above to independent third parties. Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured losses to the Collaborative. Settled claims have not exceeded the insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE G – RISK MANAGEMENT – *continued*

The Collaborative offers eligible participants access to various health and life insurance. Payment, in the form of premiums, is generally made monthly. The payments are funded in part from the Collaborative and payroll withholdings from active employee participants or direct payments from certain other eligible participants. In general, the Collaborative pays 75-80% of the cost of health insurance and 100% of the cost of life insurance for those participants that qualify.

NOTE H – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Collaborative participates in state and federal contracts, which are governed by various rules and regulations of the agencies. Costs charged to the respective programs are subject to audit and adjustment by agencies; therefore, to the extent that the Collaborative has not complied with the rules and regulations governing the refunds of any money received may be required and the collectability of any related receivable at June 30, 2023 may be impaired. In the opinion of the Collaborative, there are no significant contingent liabilities relating to compliance with the rules and regulations governing the respective contracts; therefore, no provision has been recorded in the accompanying financial statements for such contingencies.

NOTE I – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN

The Collaborative follows the provisions of GASB Statement No. 75, “Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits other than Pensions.”

Description

At the board meeting on June 18, 2015, the Collaborative’s board members implemented a postemployment health care plan and voted to create a trust fund for related retiree health benefits to take effect July 1, 2015. The trust fund is held for the benefit of a third party (retiree health insurance participants) and cannot be used to address activities or obligations of the Collaborative, therefore these funds are not incorporated into the government-wide financial statements. All funds of the trust are held at Public Agency Retirement Services and are held in mutual funds. The trust is irrevocable and is exempt from federal and state income taxes under Internal Revenue Code Section 115. The sole purpose of the trust is to provide funds to pay postemployment healthcare benefits to qualified retirees. The plan has the retirees pay for 20% of the premiums for the medical insurance. As a result of establishing the trust, the Collaborative’s board members voted to initially transfer \$3,150,000 to fund the trust. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 the Collaborative’s board voted to transfer an additional \$64,074 to the trust for a total transfer to date of \$4,854,654.

An employee hired before April 2, 2012 shall become eligible to retire under these programs upon meeting the following conditions:

- i. Completion of 10 years of creditable service at the Collaborative
- ii. And attainment of age 55 as an active member
- iii. Or completion of 20 years of service at the Collaborative, regardless of age

An employee hired after April 2, 2012 shall become eligible to retire under these programs upon meeting the following conditions:

- i. Completion of 10 years of creditable service at the Collaborative
- ii. And attainment of age 60 as an active member

Funding Policy

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Collaborative are established and may be amended through Collaborative ordinances. For the period ending on the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date, total Collaborative premiums plus implicit costs for the retiree medical program were \$64,068. The Collaborative also contributed \$64,074 to the OPEB Trust for a total contribution during the measurement period of \$128,142 to be reported in the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE I – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN – *continued*

Investment Policy

The long-term rate of return on assets developed based on the Collaborative Investment Policy is 5.30%. The rate is comprised of a 3.17% real rate of return and 2.50% inflation assumption, net of 0.37% investment expense.

Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC)

The Collaborative's Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC) is an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement No. 74/75 which is composed of the service cost and an amortization of the unfunded liability. The calculation used a 30-year flat dollar amortization of the Collaborative's unfunded liability for the purpose of calculating ADC. The following table shows the components of the Collaborative's annual ADC for the fiscal year and the amount actually contributed to the plan:

Actuarially Determined Contribution - Deficiency / (Excess)		June 30, 2023
I. Service Cost		\$ 747,196
II. 30-year level dollar amortization of NOL		75,557
III. Actuarial Determined Contribution [I. + II.]		822,753
IV. Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution		(128,142)
V. Contribution deficiency / (excess) [III. + IV.]		<u>\$ 694,611</u>
Covered employee payroll		\$14,197,170
Contribution as a % of covered employee payroll		0.90%
Discount Rate		4.69%
Money Weighted Rate of Return		8.31%

OPEB Liability and OPEB Expense

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023	
	Collaborative Employees and Retirees	Total
I. Total OPEB Liability as of June 30, 2023	\$8,406,758	\$8,406,758
II. Fiduciary Net Position as of June 30, 2023	<u>6,598,707</u>	<u>6,598,707</u>
III. Net OPEB Liability (Asset) as of June 30, 2023 [I.-II.]	1,808,051	1,808,051
IV. Service Cost	747,196	747,196
V. Interest on Total OPEB Liability (Asset), Service Cost, and Benefit Payments	431,978	431,978
VI. Projected Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	(329,836)	(329,836)
VII. Net Recognition of Deferred (Inflows)/Outflows	<u>(141,431)</u>	<u>(141,431)</u>
VIII. Financial Statement Expense [IV.+V.+VI.+VII.]	707,907	707,907
IX. Employer Share of Costs	(64,068)	(64,068)
X. Employer (Payments) Withdrawals to/from OPEB Trust	(64,074)	(64,074)
XI. Total Employer Contribution [IX.+X.]	<u>(128,142)</u>	<u>(128,142)</u>
XII. Net OPEB Expense [VIII.+XI.]	<u>\$ 579,765</u>	<u>\$ 579,765</u>

Effect of 1% Change in Healthcare Trend

In the event that healthcare trend rates were 1% higher than forecast and employee contributions were to increase at the forecast rates, the Total OPEB Liability as of the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date would increase to \$10,985,068 and Net OPEB Liability would increase to \$4,386,361. If such healthcare trend rates were 1% less than forecast and employee contributions were to increase at the forecast rate, the Total OPEB Liability would decrease to \$6,562,707 and the Net OPEB Liability would decrease to \$36,000.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE I – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN – *continued*

Effect of 1% Change in Discount Rates

As of the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date, if the discount rate were 1% higher than what was used in this valuation, the Total OPEB Liability would decrease to \$6,851,545 and the Net OPEB Liability would decrease to \$252,838. If the discount rate were 1% lower than was used in this valuation, the Total OPEB Liability would increase to \$10,453,802 and the Net OPEB Liability would increase to \$3,855,095.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefits costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

Actuarial Cost Method:	Individual Entry Age Normal
Discount Rate:	4.69% per annum (previously 5.04%)
General Inflation Assumption:	2.50% per annum
Annual Compensation Increases:	3.00% per annum
Actuarial Value of Assets:	Market Value

Recognition of OPEB Trust Assets

The state of Massachusetts has passed legislation allowing municipal entities to establish a Trust for Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”) under M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 20 for purposes of accumulating assets to pre-fund the liabilities under GASB 75. This legislation was amended effective November 9, 2016 to clarify who may adopt such a Trust and provide guidance on the ongoing operation of such a Trust. The Collaborative has established an irrevocable trust for the purposes of prefunding liabilities under GASB 74/75.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE I – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN – *continued*

Changes in Net OPEB Liability

Changes in Net OPEB Liability			
	Increase (Decrease)		
	Total OPEB Liability	Plan Fiduciary Net Position	Net OPEB Liability
I. Balances at June 30, 2022	\$ 7,855,437	\$ 6,030,973	\$ 1,824,464
II. Prior Period Adjustment	-	-	-
III. Balances for June 30, 2022 with Adjustment [I.+II.]	7,855,437	6,030,973	1,824,464
Changes for the year:			
IV. Service Cost	747,196	-	747,196
V. Interest on Total OPEB Liability, Service Cost, and Benefit Payments	431,978	-	431,978
VI. Changes in Benefit Terms*	-	-	-
VII. Changes in assumptions**	714,395	-	714,395
VIII. Differences between actual and expected experience**	(1,278,180)	-	(1,278,180)
IX. Net Investment Income	-	503,660	(503,660)
X. Employer Contributions (Withdrawals) to/from Trust	-	128,142	(128,142)
XI. Benefit payments withdrawn from Trust	-	(64,068)	64,068
XII. Benefit payments excluding Implicit Cost	(54,947)	-	(54,947)
XIII. Implicit Cost Amount	(9,121)	-	(9,121)
XIV. Total Benefit payments including Implicit Cost [XII.+XIII.]	(64,068)	-	(64,068)
XV. Administrative and Other Charges	-	-	-
XVI. Other Charges	-	-	-
XVII. Net Changes			
[IV.+V.+VI.+VII.+VIII.+IX.+X.+XI.+XIV.+XV.+XVI.]	\$ 551,321	\$ 567,734	(\$ 16,413)
XVI. Balances at June 30, 2023 [III.+XVII.]	\$ 8,406,758	\$ 6,598,707	\$ 1,808,051

* Recognized immediately

** Amortized over 7 years

Impact of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“PPACA”) Excise Tax

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“PPACA”) excise tax has been repealed.

Deferred Inflows/Outflows

Deferred (Inflows)/Outflows in OPEB Expense arising from the recognition of the effects of differences between expected & actual experience										
Fiscal	Differences between actual & expected experience	Recognition Period (years)	Remaining Balance	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	There- after
2019	(1,703,175)	7.00	(486,620)	(243,311)	(243,311)	(243,309)	-	-	-	-
2020	(469)	7.00	(201)	(67)	(67)	(67)	(67)	-	-	-
2021	(1,125,612)	7.00	(643,206)	(160,802)	(160,802)	(160,802)	(160,802)	(160,800)	-	-
2022	0	7.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2023	(1,278,180)	7.00	(1,095,583)	(182,597)	(182,597)	(182,597)	(182,597)	(182,597)	(182,597)	(182,598)
Total Remaining Balance			(2,225,610)							
Net increase (decrease) in OPEB Expense				(586,777)	(586,777)	(586,775)	(343,466)	(343,397)	(182,597)	(182,598)

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE I – POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN – *continued*

Deferred (Inflows)/Outflows in OPEB Expense arising from the recognition of the effects of changes in assumptions										
Fiscal	Differences between actual & expected experience	Recognition Period (years)	Remaining Balance	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	There-after
2019	2,659,477	7.00	759,852	379,925	379,925	379,927	-	-	-	-
2020	-	7.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	467,416	7.00	267,094	66,774	66,774	66,774	66,774	66,772	-	-
2022	(1,136,144)	7.00	(811,532)	(162,306)	(162,306)	(162,306)	(162,306)	(162,306)	(162,308)	-
2023	714,395	7.00	612,339	102,056	102,056	102,056	102,056	102,056	102,056	102,059
Total Remaining Balance			827,753							
Net increase (decrease) in OPEB Expense				386,449	386,449	386,451	6,524	6,522	(60,252)	102,059

Deferred (Inflows)/Outflows in OPEB Expense arising from the recognition of differences between projected & actual earnings on OPEB plan investments										
Fiscal	Differences between actual & expected experience	Recognition Period (years)	Remaining Balance	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	There-after
2019	(30,347)	7.00	-	(6,071)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	18,043	7.00	3,607	3,609	3,607	-	-	-	-	-
2021	(755,533)	7.00	(302,212)	(151,107)	(151,107)	(151,105)	-	-	-	-
2022	1,236,152	7.00	741,692	247,230	247,230	247,230	247,232	-	-	-
2023	(173,824)	7.00	(139,060)	(34,764)	(34,764)	(34,764)	(34,764)	(34,768)	-	-
Total Remaining Balance			304,027							
Net increase (decrease) in OPEB Expense				58,897	64,966	61,361	212,468	(34,768)	-	-

NOTE J – TAX POSITION

The primary tax positions made by the Collaborative are the existence of Unrelated Business Income Tax and the Collaborative's status as an exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code. The Collaborative currently evaluates all tax positions, and makes determinations regarding the likelihood of those positions being upheld under review. For the years presented, and as a result of adoption, the Collaborative has not recognized any tax benefits or loss contingencies for uncertain tax positions based on its evaluations. The Collaborative is not currently under examination by any taxing jurisdiction. As a Chapter 40 governmental entity, the Collaborative is exempt from filing certain non-profit filings and, accordingly, there are no returns currently open for examination.

NOTE K – COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SURPLUS REVENUE RETENTION (OSD)

The excess (deficiency) of revenue received from departments of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the amount in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Not-For-Profit Provider Surplus Revenue Retention Policy, pursuant to 808CMR 1.19(3) of the Pricing, Reporting, and Auditing for Social Programs, which allows a provider to retain, for future use, a portion of annual net surplus. Net surplus from the revenues and expenses with services provided to purchasing agencies, which are subject to 808CMR 1.00, may not exceed 20% of the provider's revenues derived from contracts with state departments annually. For fiscal 2016 and beyond, there is no limit on the cumulative amount of the provider's net surplus. For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Collaborative had no surplus revenue from contracts with state departments.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE L – DISCLOSURES REQUIRED UNDER MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW C.40 § 4E

Names, duties and total compensation of the five most highly compensated employees

The five highest compensated employees of the Collaborative during fiscal year 2023 were as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Total Compensation</u>
Chris A. Scott, PhD	Executive Director	\$232,244
Joia Mercurio	Deputy Director	\$142,580
Nicole Noska	Principal	\$140,755
Kari Ann Morrin	Director of Human Resources	\$133,407
Nicholas LeClair	Principal	\$129,520

Executive Director:

Responsible for the proper fiscal management of Collaborative Programs. Administer and coordinate all programs and services offered by the Collaborative. Develop and propose an annual budget to the Board of Directors. Ensure Collaborative is operating within and in compliance with federal and state laws.

Deputy Director:

Responsible for supervising the effective and efficient implementation of programs and the payroll department. Assist in the creation of required state reports, records and other documentation. Keep the executive director informed about what is happening at the program level.

Director Human Resources:

Responsible for administering personnel programs and policies for the Collaborative and ensuring that proper practices are being followed. Handle all aspects with the hiring process. Manage the day-to-day human resource functions.

Principal:

Responsible to ensure program curriculum is aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Other responsibilities include, ensure safety and structure of program, coordination and review all IEPs, schedule and participate in IEP meetings, communicate with parents, LEAs and outside agencies, and interview student referrals.

Amounts expended on services for individuals aged 22 years and older

Total direct costs incurred by the Collaborative in its over 21 programs, funded in part by contracts with agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, totaled \$3,953,060 for the year ended June 30, 2023, excluding Massachusetts Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement Systems "on-behalf" payments.

Amounts expended on administration and overhead

Administrative expenses of \$2,175,043 for the year ended June 30, 2023, include all costs that cannot be directly or reasonably applied to a program of the Collaborative. Administrative expenses include salaries, related benefits and payroll taxes, associated with the Collaborative's administrative office (i.e., Executive Director, finance staff, human resources, etc.), as well as other costs associated with maintaining that office (i.e. occupancy, supplies, etc.). The Collaborative directly applies salaries, where appropriate, to its programs and allocates related employee benefits and taxes to those programs. Occupancy, supplies, maintenance and any other cost that can be directly applied, or reasonably allocated, are reported under program expense.

Accounts held by the Collaborative that may be spent at the discretion of another person or entity

The Collaborative does not hold any accounts that may be spent at the discretion of another person or entity.

Transactions between the Collaborative and any related for-profit or non-profit organization

Other than the leases described below, the Collaborative had no transactions between the Collaborative and any related for-profit or non-profit organization.

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

NOTE L – DISCLOSURES REQUIRED UNDER MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW C.40 § 4E - continued

Transactions or contracts related to purchase, sale, rental or lease of real property

Transactions or contracts related to the purchase, sale, rental, or lease of real property are described in Notes C and D to the financial statements. The Collaborative leases classroom and other program space within Tyngsborough, a member district. For the year ended June 30, 2023, rent expense under this lease was \$255,950. During the year ended June 30, 2020, the Collaborative paid \$1,000,000 for improvements to the leased space within Tyngsborough. The improvements are depreciated in the government wide financial statements over the lease term.

Annual determination and disclosure of cumulative surplus

				Page(s) in financial statements
Cumulative Surplus Calculation – FY23				
(A)	Surplus as of June 30, 2022	\$ 5,327,602	(A)	p. 12
	<i>(Breakdown of use of 2021 surplus)</i>			
	B(1) used to support the FY22 budget	\$ -		
	B(2) issued as credits to member districts	\$ -		
	B(3) issued as a check(s) to member district(s)	\$ -		
	B(4) deposited to a restricted account(s)	\$ 64,074		
(B)	Board voted uses of surplus funds during FY23	<i>(total from B1:B4)</i> \$ 64,074	(B)	p. 12
(C)	Unexpended FY23 General Funds	\$ 297,279	(C)	p. 12
(D)	Cumulative Surplus as of June 30, 2023	(A) - (B) + (C) = (D) \$ 5,560,807	(D)	p. 12
(E)	FY23 Total General Fund Expenditures*	\$ 21,025,021	(E)	p. 12
(F)	Cumulative Surplus Percentage	(D) ÷ (E) 26.45%	(F)	

CUMULATIVE SURPLUS REDUCTION
Allowable uses of surplus - in excess of the 25% limit

(G)	Cumulative surplus as of June 30, 2023	\$ 5,560,807	
	25% limit (allowed)	\$ 5,256,255	
(H)	Cumulative Surplus REDUCTIONS		
	(H)1 Credited to member districts for tuition, services, etc.	\$ 304,552	***
	(H)2 Deposited to an established trust and/or reserve fund	\$ -	
	(H)3 Returned (check) to school districts/towns	\$ -	
	Total Reductions	\$ 304,552	
	FY23 Cumulative Surplus Percentage after Reductions	25.00%	

Valley Collaborative
Notes to Financial Statements
June 30, 2023

**NOTE L – DISCLOSURES REQUIRED UNDER MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW C.40 § 4E -
*continued***

*Reconciliation of Total General Fund Expenditures to the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds on page 12:

Total Expenditures:	\$23,643,007
OPEB Obligation Funding:	64,074
Intergovernmental Expense:	<u>(2,793,171)</u>
	20,913,910
FY23 depreciation on leasehold improvements:	<u>111,111**</u>
Total General Fund Expenditures per calculation above:	<u>\$21,025,021</u>

**During the year ended June 30, 2020, the Collaborative paid for \$1,000,000 of improvements to a leased facility. The payment was approved and budgeted by the Collaborative’s board of directors. However, because this was a special one-time payment, the Collaborative requested clarification from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (“DESE”) regarding treatment of the expenditure. DESE requested that the \$1,000,000 capital expenditure be treated as an expenditure over the remaining lease term of 9 years for purposes of determining the cumulative surplus funds in excess of 25% of general fund expenditures. The annual amount to be reported as an expenditure is \$111,111.

***Subsequent to June 30, 2023, but prior to issuance of the financial statements, the Collaborative’s board of directors voted to return \$304,552 of additional funds to member districts (\$173,866 approved at the September 2023 board meeting and \$130,686 approved at the November 2023 board meeting). The \$304,552 is the required excess to be credited or transferred to comply with the 25% cumulative surplus allowance.

Valley Collaborative
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
of the General Fund - Budget to Actual
For the year ended June 30, 2023

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:				
Tuition and services	\$ 17,200,000	\$ 17,200,000	\$ 17,901,369	\$ 701,369
Grants and contracts	3,100,000	3,920,000	3,988,564	68,564
Other	400,000	650,000	36,495	(613,505)
Interest	1,000	30,000	36,296	6,296
Intergovernmental revenue	-	-	2,793,171	2,793,171
Total revenue and other support	<u>20,701,000</u>	<u>21,800,000</u>	<u>24,755,895</u>	<u>2,955,895</u>
Expenses:				
Salaries	13,960,150	14,604,102	14,509,449	94,653
Employee benefits and taxes	2,644,756	2,699,055	2,601,052	98,003
Operating expenses	2,659,250	3,457,273	2,664,248	793,025
Leases and rentals	346,750	606,599	619,300	(12,701)
On-behalf retirement payment expense	-	-	2,793,171	(2,793,171)
Total expenses	<u>19,610,906</u>	<u>21,367,029</u>	<u>23,187,220</u>	<u>(1,820,191)</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	<u>\$ 1,090,094</u>	<u>\$ 432,971</u>	<u>\$ 1,568,675</u>	<u>\$ 1,135,704</u>
Other Budget Items:				
Credits to member districts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 815,609	\$ (815,609)
Capital Budget Items	830,000	715,000	455,787	259,213
OPEB obligation funding	-	-	64,074	(64,074)
	<u>\$ 830,000</u>	<u>\$ 715,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,335,470</u>	<u>\$ (620,470)</u>

Note: The schedule above is presented on the same basis used by the Collaborative to present its internal budget to actual comparison and account groupings are not necessarily consistent with the Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances presented on page 12. Also, capital budget items presented above include actual capital outlays and transfers made to or from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Valley Collaborative
OPEB Plan - Required Supplementary Information
June 30, 2023

Year	Actuarial Determined Contribution	Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	Covered employee payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll
June 30, 2019	\$ 880,811	\$ (61,922)	\$ 818,889	\$ 11,092,407	0.56%
June 30, 2020	\$ 951,385	\$ (45,883)	\$ 905,502	\$ 11,425,179	0.40%
June 30, 2021	\$ 903,135	\$ (51,730)	\$ 851,405	\$ 10,818,546	0.48%
June 30, 2022	\$ 996,816	\$ (1,694,497)	\$ (697,681)	\$ 11,143,102	15.21%
June 30, 2023	\$ 822,753	\$ (128,142)	\$ 694,611	\$ 14,197,170	0.90%

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

Valley Collaborative
OPEB Plan - Required Supplementary Information
As of the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date

Schedule of Changes in the Collaborative's Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios						
Valuation Date:	July 1, 2022	July 1, 2021	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2018	July 1, 2017
For the Measurement Period ending on the Measurement Date of:	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
For the Reporting Period & Fiscal Year ending on:	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018
Total OPEB Liability	8,406,758	7,855,437	7,760,675	7,321,481	6,291,640	4,270,784
I. Service Cost	747,196	917,149	804,839	776,751	752,044	608,129
II. Interest on Total OPEB Liability, Service Cost, and Benefit Payments	431,978	367,674	344,281	299,442	374,432	18,642
III. Changes in Benefit terms	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV. Difference between Expected & Actual Plan Experience	(1,278,180)	-	(1,125,612)	(469)	(1,703,175)	-
V. Changes of Assumption	714,395	(1,136,144)	467,416	-	2,659,477	43,514
VI. Benefit Payments Excluding Implicit Cost	(54,947)	(53,917)	(50,682)	(44,753)	(48,295)	(30,590)
VII. Implicit Cost Amount	(9,121)	-	(1,048)	(1,130)	(13,627)	-
VIII. Total Benefit payments including Implicit Cost [VI.+VII.]	(64,068)	(53,917)	(51,730)	(45,883)	(61,922)	(30,590)
IX. Net Change in OPEB liability [I.+II.+III.+IV.+V.+VIII.]	551,321	94,762	439,194	1,029,841	2,020,856	639,695
X. Total OPEB liability - beginning of period	7,855,437	7,760,675	7,321,481	6,291,640	4,270,784	(148,019)
XI. Prior Period Adjustment for Retirees not Previously Reflected	-	-	-	-	-	-
XII. Total OPEB Liability - end of period [IX.+X.+XI.]	8,406,758	7,855,437	7,760,675	7,321,481	6,291,640	491,676
Plan Fiduciary Net Position	6,598,707	6,030,973	5,271,479	4,266,767	4,039,225	3,779,108
XIII. Earning from Plan Investments	503,660	(881,086)	1,004,712	227,542	260,117	236,892
XIV. Employer Contribution to trust	128,142	1,694,497	51,730	45,883	61,922	30,590
XV. Benefit payments from trust, including refunds of member contributions	(64,068)	(53,917)	(51,730)	(45,883)	(61,922)	(30,590)
XVI. Administrative expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
XVII. Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
XVIII. Net change in plan fiduciary net position [XIII.+XIV.+XV.+XVI.+XVII.]	567,734	759,494	1,004,712	227,542	260,117	236,892
XIX. Plan fiduciary net position - beginning of period	6,030,973	5,271,479	4,266,767	4,039,225	3,779,108	3,542,216
XX. Plan fiduciary net position - end of period [XVIII.+XIX.]	6,598,707	6,030,973	5,271,479	4,266,767	4,039,225	3,779,108
XXI. Net OPEB Liability [XII.-XX.]	1,808,051	1,824,464	2,489,196	3,054,714	2,252,415	491,676
XXII. Plan fiduciary net position as a % of total OPEB liability [XX./XII.]	78.49%	76.77%	67.93%	58.28%	64.20%	768.62%
XXIII. Covered employee payroll	14,197,170	11,143,102	10,818,546	11,425,179	11,092,407	11,775,259
XXIV. Plan NOL as % of covered employee payroll [XXI./XXIII]	12.74%	16.37%	23.01%	26.74%	20.31%	4.18%
Single Discount Rate to calculate Plan Liabilities	4.69%	5.04%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	7.50%

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See independent auditor's report.

Valley Collaborative
OPEB Plan - Required Supplementary Information
As of the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date

Notes to Required Supplementary Information:

Valuation Date: Actuarially Determined Contribution was calculated as of July 1, 2022.

Actuarial Cost Method: Individual Entry Age Normal

Asset-Valuation Method: Market Value of Assets as of the Measurement Date, June 30, 2023.

Actuarial Assumptions:

Investment Rate of Return: 5.30%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.

Municipal Bond Rate: 4.13% as of June 30, 2023 (source: S&P Municipal Bond 20-Year High Grade Index - SAPIHG)

Single Equivalent Discount Rate: 4.69%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.

Inflation: 2.50% as of June 30, 2023 and for future periods

Salary Increases: 3.00% annually as of June 30, 2023 and for future periods

Cost of Living Adjustment: Not Applicable

Pre-Retirement Mortality: General: RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Employees projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year
Teachers: RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Employees projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females

Post-Retirement Mortality: General: RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year for females
Teachers: RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females

Disabled Mortality: General: RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females , set forward 1 year
Teachers: RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females

Valley Collaborative
OPEB Plan - Required Supplementary Information
As of the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date

Notes to Required Supplementary Information (Continued):

Plan Membership

Plan Membership: At July 1, 2020, the OPEB plan membership consisted for the following

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefits:	14
Active Employees:	<u>229</u>
Total:	243

Events Subsequent to the Measurement Date

To the best of our knowledge there were no material events subsequent to the Measurement Date that would impact the figures shown in this report.

Changes in Assumptions:

From June 30, 2022 to June 30, 2023:

Due to the GASB 75 standards the discount rate has been changed from 5.04% to 4.69%.

Based on ongoing actuarial research, we have modified our assumption for future increases in healthcare costs using the Getzen model to reflect higher costs in the near-term.

Contributions/Withdrawals:

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Collaborative are established and may be amended through Collaborative ordinances. The Collaborative contributed \$64,074 beyond the pay-as-you-go cost for the period ending on the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date. For the year ending on the June 30, 2023 Measurement Date total Collaborative premiums plus implicit costs for the retiree medical program were \$64,068. \$9,121 of the \$64,068 represents implicit cost.

Census Data Manipulation:

In the absence of data, the following was assumed:

Spouse Sex:	Male participants had female spouses and vice versa.
Spouse Age:	Male spouses were three years older than female spouses and same sex spouses were the same age.
Hire Age:	Participants who were not on the previous valuation were hired halfway between last valuation and the current valuation. If we did not have census data related to the last valuation, the participants were assumed to have been hired at age forty.
Retiree Age:	Retirees had the same birth date as they had the prior valuation. If we did not have census data related to the last valuation, retirees who were enrolled in Active plans were assumed to be age sixty-two and retirees who were enrolled in Medicare Supplement plans were assumed to be age seventy-two. Those not enrolled in a medical plan were assumed to be sixty-seven.
School Demographics:	N/A
Other Material Changes:	No other data changes were deemed to be material.

Valley Collaborative
Schedule of the Collaborative's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

		<u>MTRS</u>	<u>MSERS</u>
Collaborative's proportion of net pension liability	FY2014	0.10521%	0.02526%
	FY2015	0.07985%	0.02466%
	FY2016	0.08405%	0.07637%
	FY2017	0.08453%	0.08118%
	FY2018	0.09167%	0.08646%
	FY2019	0.08325%	0.10137%
	FY2020	0.08129%	0.08658%
	FY2021	0.07984%	0.07671%
	FY2022	0.08333%	0.09316%
Collaborative's proportionate share of net pension liability	FY2014	\$ 16,724,835	\$ 1,871,525
	FY2015	\$ 16,360,313	\$ 2,806,546
	FY2016	\$ 18,790,793	\$ 10,530,873
	FY2017	\$ 19,344,064	\$ 10,410,850
	FY2018	\$ 21,737,193	\$ 11,438,238
	FY2019	\$ 20,989,574	\$ 14,834,931
	FY2020	\$ 23,205,036	\$ 14,855,001
	FY2021	\$ 18,129,788	\$ 8,006,281
	FY2022	\$ 21,572,960	\$ 12,958,656
Collaborative's covered-employee payroll	FY2014	\$ 6,277,563	\$ 4,565,446
	FY2015	\$ 5,347,143	\$ 4,285,929
	FY2016	\$ 5,527,894	\$ 4,254,279
	FY2017	\$ 5,762,613	\$ 4,635,195
	FY2018	\$ 6,333,668	\$ 6,028,713
	FY2019	\$ 6,087,231	\$ 6,039,995
	FY2020	\$ 6,181,687	\$ 5,305,358
	FY2021	\$ 6,202,814	\$ 4,668,914
	FY2022	\$ 6,274,492	\$ 5,856,826
Collaborative's proportionate share of net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	FY2014	266.42%	40.99%
	FY2015	305.96%	65.48%
	FY2016	339.93%	247.54%
	FY2017	335.68%	224.60%
	FY2018	343.20%	189.73%
	FY2019	344.81%	245.61%
	FY2020	375.38%	280.00%
	FY2021	292.28%	171.48%
	FY2022	343.82%	221.26%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability	FY2014	61.64%	76.32%
	FY2015	55.38%	67.87%
	FY2016	52.73%	63.48%
	FY2017	54.25%	67.21%
	FY2018	54.84%	67.91%
	FY2019	53.95%	66.28%
	FY2020	50.67%	62.48%
	FY2021	62.03%	77.54%
	FY2022	57.75%	71.05%

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

MTRS is the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System. MSERS is the Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System. Also, see Note E to financial statements.

Measurement Date

The amounts presented in this schedule were determined as of June 30, 2022.

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See independent auditor's report.

Valley Collaborative
Schedule of Pension Contributions
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
<u>MTRS</u>									
Contractually required contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in relation to the									
contractually required contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Collaborative's covered-employee									
payroll	\$ 6,277,563	\$ 5,347,143	\$ 5,527,894	\$ 5,762,613	\$ 6,333,668	\$ 6,087,231	\$ 6,181,687	\$ 6,202,814	\$ 6,274,492
Contributions as a percentage of									
covered-employee payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<u>MSERS</u>									
Contractually required contribution	\$ 255,665	\$ 240,012	\$ 238,217	\$ 259,571	\$ 337,608	\$ 338,240	\$ 323,627	\$ 284,804	\$ 357,266
Contributions in relation to the									
contractually required contribution	\$ 255,665	\$ 240,012	\$ 238,217	\$ 259,571	\$ 337,608	\$ 338,240	\$ 323,627	\$ 284,804	\$ 357,266
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Collaborative's covered-employee									
payroll	\$ 4,565,446	\$ 4,285,929	\$ 4,254,279	\$ 4,635,195	\$ 6,028,713	\$ 6,039,995	\$ 5,305,358	\$ 4,668,914	\$ 5,856,826
Contributions as a percentage of									
covered-employee payroll	5.60%	5.60%	5.60%	5.60%	5.60%	5.60%	6.10%	6.10%	6.10%

Notes to Required Supplementary Information

MTRS is the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System. MSERS is the Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System. Also, see Note E to financial statements.

Measurement Date

The amounts presented in this schedule were determined as of June 30, 2022.

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

Contributions

The Collaborative is required to pay an annual appropriation as established by the Public Employees' Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) for MSERS. No contribution is required for MTRS. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a nonemployer is legally responsible for the entire past service cost related to the Collaborative and therefore has a 100% special funding situation.

See independent auditor's report.



FRITZ DEGUGLIELMO LLC
*CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
& BUSINESS ADVISORS*

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

To the Board of Directors of
Valley Collaborative
Billerica, Massachusetts

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Valley Collaborative (a collaborative organized under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Valley Collaborative's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon November 16, 2023.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Valley Collaborative'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 opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Valley Collaborative's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Valley Collaborative'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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the collaborative's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Valley Collaborative's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the collaborative's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the collaborative's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Fritz O. Magidson LLC

Certified Public Accountants

Newburyport, Massachusetts

November 16, 2023



Central Administration

11 Executive Park Drive, N. Billerica, MA 01862 | Tel: (978) 528-7826 | www.valleycollaborative.org

ACCEPTANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We, the Board of Directors of the Valley Collaborative, have voted to accept the representations of management and the expression of the opinions made by Fritz DeGuglielmo LLC as embodied in the financial statements, supplemental schedules and independent auditor's reports for the year ended June 30, 2023.

We also certify that the representations made by management and the disclosures in the financial statements are accurate and have been correctly and completely disclosed as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and under Commonwealth of Massachusetts laws for the year ended June 30, 2023.



Board Chair



Date