



PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Business Department
90 Delaware Avenue
Paterson, New Jersey 07503
Office: (973) 321-0772
Fax: (973) 321-1428
Email: email@paterson.k12.nj.us

Donnie W. Evans, Ed.D.
State District Superintendent

Daisy Ayala
Interim School Business Administrator

November 26, 2012

Lerch, Vinci & Higgins LLP
17-17 Route 208 North
Fairlawn, NJ 07410

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Paterson Public Schools as of June 30, 2012 and for the period then ended for the purpose of expressing opinions as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Paterson Public Schools and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the previously mentioned financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and preventing and detecting fraud.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of November 20, 2012, the following representations made to you during your audit.

1. The primary government's financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
2. We have made available to you all –
 - a. Financial records and related data and all audit or relevant monitoring reports, if any, received from funding sources.
 - b. Minutes of the meetings of the Paterson Public Schools, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
3. There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
4. There are no material transactions that have not been properly recorded in the accounting records underlying the financial statements and the schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance.

5. **Uncorrected Adjustments and Journal Entries**

We believe the effects of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. In

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addition, you have proposed adjusting journal entries that have been posted and will be provided to you. We are in agreement with those adjustments.

6. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud.
7. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving:
 - a. Management,
 - b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
 - c. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
8. We have no knowledge of any allegations or fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, analysts, regulators, or others.
9. We have taken timely and appropriate steps to identify and remedy (if any) fraud, illegal acts, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that you have reported to us.
10. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
11. We have identified to you any previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives of the audit being undertaken and the corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations.
12. We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for the report.
13. The Paterson Public Schools has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
14. The following, have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements:
 - a. Related party transactions, including revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties.
 - b. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the Paterson Public Schools, is contingently liable.
 - c. All accounting estimates that could be material to the financial statements, including the key factors and significant assumptions underlying those estimates and measurements. We believe the estimates and measurements are reasonable in the circumstances, consistently applied, and adequately disclosed.
 - d. Participation in a public entity risk pool.
15. We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and we have identified and disclosed to you all laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
16. There are no –
 - a. Violations or possible violations of budgets, laws and regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving, and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance.

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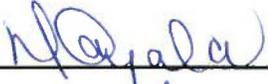
- b. Unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Statement No. 5, *Accounting for Contingencies*.
 - c. Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by FASB Statement No. 5.
 - d. Reservations or designation of fund equity that were not properly authorized and approved.
17. As part of your audit, you assisted with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance. We have designated an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee your services and have made all management decisions and performed all management functions. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements and related notes and schedules of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance.
 18. The Paterson Public Schools has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
 19. The Paterson Public Schools has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
 20. We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving, and amending budgets.
 21. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
 22. All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement Nos. 34 and 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.
 23. Net asset components (invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted; and unrestricted) and fund balance reserves and designations are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
 24. Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.
 25. Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
 26. Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues, general revenues, contributions to term or permanent endowments, or contributions to permanent fund principal.
 27. Interfund, internal and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
 28. Special and extraordinary items are appropriately classified and reported.
 29. Deposits and investment securities are properly classified as to risk, and investments are properly valued.
 30. Capital assets, including infrastructure assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated.
 31. Required supplementary information (RSI) is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines.

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32. With respect to federal and state award programs:
- a. We are responsible for complying and have complied with the requirements of the OMB Circular A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations" and New Jersey OMB Circular 04-04 and any other applicable laws and regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements.
 - b. We have, in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 and New Jersey OMB Circular 04-04, identified in the schedules of expenditures of federal and state awards, expenditures made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal and state agencies in the form of grants, federal and state cost-reimbursement contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property (including donated surplus property), cooperative agreements, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, and other assistance.
 - c. We are responsible for complying with the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements related to each of our federal and state programs and have identified and disclosed to you the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that are considered to have a direct and material effect on each major federal and state program.
 - d. We are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance requirements applicable to federal and state programs that provide reasonable assurance that we are managing our federal and state awards in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a material effect on our federal and state programs. We believe the internal control system is adequate and is functioning as intended. Also, no changes have been made in the internal control system to the date of this letter that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective action taken with regard to reportable conditions reported in the schedule of findings and questioned costs.
 - e. We have made available to you all contracts and grant agreements (including amendments, if any) and any other correspondence with federal and state agencies or pass-through entities relating to each major federal and state program.
 - f. Other than the NJDOE ARRA, Ed Jobs, Special Education and other disclosed reviews, we have received no requests from a federal or state agency to audit one or more specific programs as a major program.
 - g. We have complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements, including when applicable, those set forth in the OMB Circular A-133 *Compliance Supplement* and New Jersey OMB Circular 04-04, relating to federal and state awards and have identified and disclosed to you all amounts questioned and any known noncompliance with the requirements of federal and state awards, including the results of other audits or program reviews.
 - h. Amounts claimed or used for matching were determined in accordance with relevant guidelines in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local, and Tribal Governments*, and OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments*.
 - i. We have disclosed to you our interpretation of compliance requirements that may have varying interpretations.
 - j. We have made available to you all documentation related to the compliance requirements, including information related to federal and state program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements.
 - k. Federal and state program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements are supported by the books and records from which the financial statements have been prepared, and are prepared on a basis consistent with the schedules of expenditures of federal and state awards.
 - l. We have charged costs to federal and state awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
 - m. The copies of federal and state program financial reports provided you are true copies of the reports submitted, or electronically transmitted, to the respective federal or state agency, or pass-through entity, as applicable.

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- n. We have monitored subrecipients to determine that they have expended pass-through assistance in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and have met the requirements of OMB Circular A-133 and New Jersey OMB Circular 04-04.
 - o. We have taken appropriate action including issuing management decisions, on a timely basis after receipt of subrecipients' auditor's reports that identified noncompliance with laws, regulations, or the provisions of contracts or grant agreements to ensure that subrecipients have taken the appropriate and timely corrective action on findings.
 - p. We have considered the results of subrecipient audits and have made any necessary adjustments to our books and records.
 - q. We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the summary schedule of prior audit findings to include all findings required to be included by OMB Circular A-133 and New Jersey OMB Circular 04-04 and we have provided you with all information on the status of the follow-up on prior audit findings by federal and state awarding agencies and pass-through entities, including all management decisions.
 - r. We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by OMB Circular A-133 and New Jersey OMB Circular 04-04 and we are responsible for preparing and implementing a corrective action plan for each audit finding.
35. No events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the balance sheet date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the aforementioned financial statements (or in the schedule of findings and questioned costs).

Signed: 

Title: Interim - Business Unit