

MANCHESTER ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

***REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

MANCHESTER ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2015

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Honorable School Committee
Manchester Essex Regional School District
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts 01944

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Manchester Essex Regional School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Manchester Essex Regional School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility 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; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

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 the Manchester Essex Regional School District, as of June 30, 2015, 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.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, 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 December 15, 2015, on our consideration of the Manchester Essex Regional School District'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 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 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 the Manchester Essex Regional School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pounts + Sullivan, LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

December 15, 2015

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Management's Discussion and Analysis

As management of the Manchester Essex Regional School District (District), we offer readers of these basic financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities for the year ended June 30, 2015. The District complies with financial reporting requirements issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the authoritative standard setting body that provides guidance on how to prepare financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Users of these financial statements (such as investors and rating agencies) rely on the GASB to establish consistent reporting standards for all governments in the United States. This consistent application is the only way users (including citizens, the media, legislators and others) can assess the financial condition of one government compared to others.

Overview of the Basic Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to the Manchester Essex Regional School District's basic financial statements. These basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This approach focuses on both the District as a whole (government-wide) and the fund financial statements. The government-wide financial statements provide both long-term and short-term information about the District as a whole. The fund financial statements focus on the individual parts of the District's operations, reporting the District's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements. Both presentations (government-wide and fund) allow the user to address relevant questions, broaden the basis of comparison and enhance the District's accountability. An additional part of the basic financial statements are the notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-wide financial statements. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of finances, in a manner similar to private-sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows, with the difference reported as *net position*. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, *regardless of the timing of related cash flows*. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future periods (e.g., uncollected revenues and earned but unused vacation leave).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions that are principally supported by member town assessments and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*). The governmental activities include providing pupil education at the four District schools, special education, transportation, health department, insurance, various school activities, district and central services.

Fund financial statements. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Fund accounting is used to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and fiduciary funds.

Governmental funds. *Governmental funds* are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund statements focus on *near-term inflows of spendable resources*, as well as on *balances of spendable resources* available at the end of the year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

The Manchester Essex Regional School District adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Fiduciary funds. 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 statement because the resources of those funds are *not* available to support the District's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

Notes to the basic financial statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain *required supplementary information* concerning the District's budgetary basis of accounting, pension and other postemployment benefits.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

The District implemented GASB [Statement #68](#), *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* in 2015. Financial statement changes include the recognition of a net pension liability totaling \$6,041,480 in addition to pension expense and deferred inflows of resources. The financial statements also include a revision of the beginning governmental net position to reflect the net pension liability at the beginning of the year which totaled \$6,029,006 (see Note 13). The notes to the basic financial statements and the required supplementary information have also been expanded to include additional required schedules and disclosures.

The District voted to establish an "other postemployment benefit trust fund" (OPEB) on October 15, 2013. The District contributed \$50,000 to the trust in 2015 to fund future health care costs.

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. For the governmental activities, the Manchester Essex Regional School District's assets exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$3.8 million at the close of 2015.

Net position of \$19.8 million reflects its net investment in capital assets (e.g., buildings, vehicles, equipment and textbooks), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The District uses these capital assets to provide services to pupils; consequently, these assets are *not* available for future spending. Although the investment in its capital assets is reported net of its related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

Restricted net position of \$264,000 represents the unexpended balances of state and federal grants and gifts.

The remaining balance of unrestricted net position is reporting a deficit balance totaling \$16.2 million that is due to the recognition of a \$12.0 million OPEB liability and a \$6.0 million net pension liability.

The following table reflects the key elements of net position.

	2015	2014 (as revised)
Assets:		
Current assets.....	\$ 3,659,917	\$ 3,305,137
Capital assets.....	43,373,866	44,714,000
Total assets.....	47,033,783	48,019,137
Liabilities:		
Current liabilities (excluding debt).....	1,181,792	708,340
Noncurrent liabilities (excluding debt).....	18,411,102	17,310,372
Current debt.....	1,481,062	1,488,393
Noncurrent debt.....	22,116,526	23,597,588
Total liabilities.....	43,190,482	43,104,693
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions.....	26,275	-
Net Position:		
Net investment in capital assets.....	19,776,278	19,628,019
Restricted.....	263,887	350,461
Unrestricted.....	(16,223,139)	(15,064,036)
Total net position.....	\$ 3,817,026	\$ 4,914,444

Governmental activities decreased the District's net position by \$1.1. The following table shows the key elements of this decrease:

	2015	2014 (as revised)
Program Revenues:		
Charges for services.....	\$ 1,082,534	\$ 1,074,666
General Revenues:		
Member town assessments.....	20,816,189	20,240,965
Unrestricted investment income.....	6,927	6,891
Nonrestricted grants.....	6,197,726	6,917,597
Miscellaneous.....	23,452	9,003
Total revenues.....	28,126,828	28,249,122
Expenses:		
Administration.....	791,406	728,756
Instructional services.....	14,200,318	13,859,441
Other student services.....	2,406,979	2,368,535
Operations and maintenance.....	1,647,195	1,604,905
Fixed charges.....	6,827,963	8,238,087
Programs with other districts.....	1,071,804	1,134,991
Interest.....	901,640	958,025
Depreciation.....	1,376,941	1,370,867
Total expenses.....	29,224,246	30,263,607
Change in net position.....	(1,097,418)	(2,014,485)
Net position, beginning of year (as revised).....	4,914,444	6,928,929
Net position, end of year.....	\$ 3,817,026	4,914,444

Total revenue decreased by \$122,000 (less than 1%) from 2014. \$552,000 of the decrease was due to the calculation of on-behalf payments made by the Commonwealth for teachers' retirement benefits being measured differently than fiscal year 2014. Another \$125,000 was due to a decrease in special education (circuit breaker) assistance. These decreases were offset by an increase in member assessments totaling \$575,000.

Total expenses decreased by \$1.0 million (3.4%) during the year. Again, \$552,000 of the decrease was due to the calculation of on-behalf payments made by the Commonwealth for teachers' retirement benefits being measured differently than fiscal year 2014. Also, the increase in the OPEB liability was \$1.1 million lower than the prior year; which also accounts for the decrease in fixed charges.

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

As noted earlier, the District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental funds. The focus of *governmental funds* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing financing requirements. In particular, *unassigned fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the year.

As of the end of the current year, governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$2.9 million, a decrease of \$138,000 in comparison with the prior year.

The general fund is the chief operating fund. At the end of the current year, unassigned fund balance of the general fund was \$378,000, while total fund balance is \$823,000. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents 1% of total general fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 3% of that same amount.

The general fund decreased by \$166,000 in 2015. The decrease is primarily due to the district budgeting \$200,000 of excess and deficiency to balance the current year budget and budgetary results coming in as planned.

The school choice fund accounts for the activities related to the state's school choice program. At the end of the current year, the fund balance reported a surplus totaling \$1.5 million.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

The District has \$23.6 million in long-term bonds outstanding at year-end; all of which is related to the middle/high school construction project.

The District has set aside \$161,000 in a capital outlay stabilization fund to accumulate reserves for future capital purposes. Major capital events during the current year included \$15,000 of building improvements and \$22,000 for the purchase of library books and textbooks.

Please refer to notes 4, 5 and 6 for more information on capital and debt activity.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Business Manager, Manchester Essex Regional School District, 36 Lincoln Street, Manchester, MA 01944.

Basic Financial Statements

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STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2015

	Primary Government
	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
CURRENT:	
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 3,608,697
Intergovernmental.....	51,220
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation:	
Depreciable.....	43,373,866
TOTAL ASSETS.....	47,033,783
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT:	
Warrants payable.....	744,339
Accrued payroll.....	9,643
Accrued interest.....	406,023
Other liabilities.....	1,787
Compensated absences.....	20,000
Bonds payable.....	1,481,062
NONCURRENT:	
Compensated absences.....	369,994
Other postemployment benefits.....	11,999,628
Net pension liability.....	6,041,480
Bonds payable.....	22,116,526
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	43,190,482
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred inflows related to pensions.....	26,275
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets.....	19,776,278
Restricted for:	
Gifts and grants.....	263,887
Unrestricted.....	(16,223,139)
TOTAL NET POSITION.....	\$ 3,817,026

See notes to basic financial statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

<u>Functions/Programs</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenues</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Net (Expense) Revenue</u>
Primary Government:				
<i>Governmental Activities:</i>				
Administration.....	\$ 791,406	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (791,406)
Instructional services.....	14,200,318	79,674	-	(14,120,644)
Other student services.....	2,406,979	1,002,860	-	(1,404,119)
Operation and maintenance.....	1,647,195	-	-	(1,647,195)
Fixed charges.....	6,827,963	-	-	(6,827,963)
Programs with other school districts.....	1,071,804	-	-	(1,071,804)
Interest.....	901,640	-	-	(901,640)
Depreciation.....	1,376,941	-	-	(1,376,941)
 Total Governmental Activities.....	 <u>\$ 29,224,246</u>	 <u>\$ 1,082,534</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ (28,141,712)</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

(Continued)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (Continued)

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

	Primary Government
	Governmental Activities
Changes in net position:	
Net (expense) revenue from previous page.....	\$ (28,141,712)
<i>General revenues:</i>	
Member town assessments.....	20,816,189
Unrestricted investment income.....	6,927
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs.....	6,197,726
Miscellaneous.....	23,452
Total general revenues.....	27,044,294
Change in net position.....	(1,097,418)
<i>Net position:</i>	
Beginning of year, as revised.....	4,914,444
End of year.....	\$ 3,817,026
See notes to basic financial statements.	(Concluded)

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
BALANCE SHEET**

JUNE 30, 2015

	General	School Choice Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 1,477,885	\$ 1,505,037	\$ 625,775	\$ 3,608,697
Receivables, net of uncollectibles:				
Intergovernmental.....	10,355	-	40,865	51,220
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$ 1,488,240	\$ 1,505,037	\$ 666,640	\$ 3,659,917
LIABILITIES				
Warrants payable.....	\$ 654,172	\$ -	\$ 90,167	\$ 744,339
Accrued payroll.....	9,643	-	-	9,643
Other liabilities.....	1,787	-	-	1,787
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	665,602	-	90,167	755,769
FUND BALANCES				
Restricted.....	401,875	1,505,037	655,114	2,562,026
Assigned.....	42,675	-	-	42,675
Unassigned.....	378,088	-	(78,641)	299,447
TOTAL FUND BALANCES.....	822,638	1,505,037	576,473	2,904,148
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES...	\$ 1,488,240	\$ 1,505,037	\$ 666,640	\$ 3,659,917

See notes to basic financial statements.

**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TOTAL FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

JUNE 30, 2015

Total governmental fund balances.....		\$ 2,904,148
Capital assets (net) used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.....		43,373,866
Certain changes in the net pension liability are required to be included in pension expense over future periods. These changes are reported as deferred outflows of resources or (deferred inflows of resources) related to pensions.....		(26,275)
In the statement of activities, interest is accrued on outstanding long-term debt, whereas in governmental funds interest is not reported until due.....		(406,023)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		
Bonds payable.....	(23,597,588)	
Other postemployment benefits.....	(11,999,628)	
Net pension liability.....	(6,041,480)	
Compensated absences.....	<u>(389,994)</u>	
Net effect of reporting long-term liabilities.....		<u>(42,028,690)</u>
Net position of governmental activities.....		<u>\$ 3,817,026</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

	General	School Choice Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
Member town assessments.....	\$ 20,816,189	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,816,189
Intergovernmental.....	5,012,623	359,525	761,588	6,133,736
Departmental and other.....	36,955	-	1,069,031	1,105,986
Contributions.....	-	-	63,990	63,990
Investment income.....	6,795	-	132	6,927
TOTAL REVENUES.....	25,872,562	359,525	1,894,741	28,126,828
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
Salaries:				
Administration.....	508,372	-	882	509,254
Instructional services.....	12,693,811	-	441,853	13,135,664
Other student services.....	691,895	-	308,752	1,000,647
Operation and maintenance.....	362,191	-	45,310	407,501
Fixed charges.....	20,000	-	-	20,000
Other operating expenditures:				
Administration.....	146,300	-	97,103	243,403
Instructional services.....	924,956	-	142,806	1,067,762
Other student services.....	710,133	-	696,199	1,406,332
Operation and maintenance.....	1,249,525	-	5,000	1,254,525
Fixed charges.....	5,529,186	150,000	59,389	5,738,575
Programs with other school districts.....	792,470	-	279,334	1,071,804
Debt service:				
Maturing debt.....	1,450,000	-	-	1,450,000
Interest.....	959,450	-	-	959,450
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	26,038,289	150,000	2,076,628	28,264,917
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES.....	(165,727)	209,525	(181,887)	(138,089)
FUND BALANCES AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....	988,365	1,295,512	758,360	3,042,237
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR.....	\$ 822,638	\$ 1,505,037	\$ 576,473	\$ 2,904,148

See notes to basic financial statements.

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds.....	\$	(138,089)
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Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.

Capital outlay.....	36,807	
Depreciation expense.....	<u>(1,376,941)</u>	

Net effect of reporting capital assets.....		(1,340,134)
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The issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds and leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the Statement of Activities.

Debt service principal payments.....		1,450,000
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Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.

Net change in compensated absences accrual.....	(18,868)	
Net change in other postemployment benefits.....	(1,069,388)	
Net change in accrued interest on long-term debt.....	19,417	
Net change in amortization of bond premiums.....	38,393	
Net change in net pension liability.....	(12,474)	
Net change in deferred outflow/(inflow) of resources related to pensions.....	<u>(26,275)</u>	

Net effect of recording long-term liabilities.....		<u>(1,069,195)</u>
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Change in net position of governmental activities.....	\$	<u><u>(1,097,418)</u></u>
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See notes to basic financial statements.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2015

	Other Postemployment Benefit Trust Fund	Agency Funds
ASSETS		
CURRENT:		
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 50,000	\$ 230,592
LIABILITIES		
Warrants payable.....	-	58,140
Other liabilities.....	-	172,452
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	-	230,592
NET POSITION		
Held in trust for other purposes.....	\$ 50,000	\$ -

See notes to basic financial statements.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET POSITION

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

		Other Postemployment Benefit Trust Fund
<u>ADDITIONS:</u>		
Contributions:		
Employer.....	\$	50,000
NET POSITION AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....		-
NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR.....	\$	50,000

See notes to basic financial statements.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Manchester Essex Regional School District (District) have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the recognized standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The significant accounting policies are described herein.

A. Reporting Entity

The District was formed in 2001 under Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws that, by agreement, serves the Towns of Manchester-by-the-Sea and Essex (Member Towns). A seven-member School Committee governs the District, which consists of elected members from the Member Towns.

For financial reporting purposes, the District has included all funds, organizations, agencies, boards, commissions and institutions. The District has also considered all potential component units for which it is financially accountable as well as other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the District are such that exclusion would cause the basic financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. As required by GAAP, these basic financial statements present the District (the primary government) and its component units. The District has no component units that require inclusion in these basic financial statements.

B. Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements*Government-Wide Financial Statements*

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., statement of net position and the statement of changes in net position) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. *Governmental activities* are primarily supported by member town assessments and intergovernmental revenues.

Fund Financial Statements

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds even though fiduciary funds are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and displayed in a single column.

Major Fund Criteria

Major funds must be reported if the following criteria are met:

- If total assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of an individual governmental fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding element (assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows or resources, etc.) for all funds of that category, *and*
- If the total assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding element for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

Additionally, any other governmental fund that management believes is particularly significant to the basic financial statements may be reported as a major fund.

Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when the liabilities are incurred. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a particular function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment.

Other items not identifiable as program revenues are reported as general revenues.

The effect of interfund activity has been removed from the government-wide financial statements.

Fund Financial Statements

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.

Investment income is susceptible to accrual. Other receipts and revenues become measurable and available when the cash is received and are recognized as revenue at that time.

Entitlements and shared revenues are recorded at the time of receipt or earlier if the susceptible to accrual criteria is met. Expenditure driven grants recognize revenue when the qualifying expenditures are incurred and all other grant requirements are met.

The following major governmental funds are reported:

The *general fund* is the primary operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources, except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

The *school choice fund* is a special revenue fund used to account for activities related to the state's school choice program.

The nonmajor governmental funds consist of other special revenue and capital projects that are aggregated and presented in the *nonmajor governmental funds* column on the governmental funds financial statements. The following describes the general use of these fund types:

The *special revenue fund* is used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than permanent funds or capital projects.

The *capital projects fund* is used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets of the governmental funds.

Fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and use the accrual basis of accounting. Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held in a trustee capacity for others that cannot be used to support the governmental programs.

The following fiduciary funds are reported:

The fiduciary fund type *agency fund* is used to account for payroll deductions that are held in a purely custodial capacity.

The *other postemployment benefit trust fund* is used to accumulate resources to provide funding for future other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liabilities.

D. Cash and Investments

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition. Investments are carried at fair value.

E. Accounts Receivable

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The recognition of revenue related to accounts receivable reported in the government-wide financial statements and fiduciary funds financial statements are reported under the accrual basis of accounting. The recognition of revenue related to accounts receivable reported in the governmental funds financial statements are reported under the modified accrual basis of accounting.

Intergovernmental

Various federal and state grants for operating and capital purposes are applied for and received annually. For non-expenditure driven grants, receivables are recorded as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. For expenditure driven grants, receivables are recorded when the qualifying expenditures are incurred and all other grant requirements are met.

These receivables are considered 100% collectible and therefore do not report an allowance for uncollectibles.

F. Inventories

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Inventories are recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase. Such inventories are not material in total to the government-wide and fund financial statements, and therefore are not reported.

G. Capital Assets

Government-Wide Financial Statements

Capital assets, which include buildings and improvements, vehicles and equipment, text and library books, and modular classrooms, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost, or at estimated historical cost, if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are recorded at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Except for the capital assets of the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements, construction period interest is capitalized on constructed capital assets.

All purchases and construction costs in excess of \$10,000 are capitalized at the date of acquisition or construction, respectively, with expected useful lives of greater than one year.

Capital assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis. The estimated useful lives of capital assets are as follows:

<u>Capital Asset Type</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life (in years)</u>
Buildings and improvements.....	40
Vehicles and equipment.....	7-15
Textbooks and library books.....	3-10
Modular classrooms.....	10

The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the assets or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized and are treated as expenses when incurred. Improvements are capitalized.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

Capital asset costs are recorded as expenditures in the acquiring fund in the year of the purchase.

H. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

Government-Wide Financial Statements (Net Position)

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District did not have any elements that qualify for reporting in this category.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District reported deferred inflows of resources related to pensions in this category.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

In addition to liabilities, the governmental funds balance sheet will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents assets that have been recorded in the governmental fund financial statements but the revenue is not available and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until it becomes available. The District did not have any elements that qualify for reporting in this category.

I. Interfund Receivables and Payables

During the course of its operations, transactions occur between and within individual funds that may result in amounts owed between funds.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

Transactions of a buyer/seller nature between and within governmental funds are eliminated from the governmental activities in the statement of net position. Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities are reported in the statement of net position as “internal balances”.

Fund Financial Statements

Transactions of a buyer/seller nature between and within funds are *not* eliminated from the individual fund statements. Receivables and payables resulting from these transactions are classified as “Due from other funds” or “Due to other funds” on the balance sheet.

J. Interfund Transfers

During the course of its operations, resources are permanently reallocated between and within funds. These transactions are reported as transfers in and transfers out.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

Transfers between and within governmental funds are eliminated from the governmental activities in the statement of net position. Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities are reported in the statement of activities as “Transfers, net”.

Fund Financial Statements

Transfers between and within funds are *not* eliminated from the individual fund statements and are reported as transfers in and transfers out.

K. Net Position and Fund Equity

Government-Wide Financial Statements (Net Position)

Net position reported as “Net investment in capital assets” includes capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, less the principal balance of outstanding debt used to acquire capital assets. Unspent proceeds of capital related debt are not considered to be capital assets. Outstanding debt related to future reimbursements from the state’s school building program is not considered to be capital related debt.

Net position is reported as restricted when amounts are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for a specific future use.

Net position has been restricted for “gifts and grants” which represent assets that have restrictions placed on them from outside parties.

Sometimes the School District will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted – net position and unrestricted – net position in the government-wide financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the School District’s policy to consider restricted – net position to have been depleted before unrestricted – net position is applied.

Fund Financial Statements (Fund Balances)

Governmental fund balances are classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned based on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

The governmental fund balance classifications are as follows:

“Nonspendable” fund balance includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

“Restricted” fund balance includes amounts subject to constraints placed on the use of resources that are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or that are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

“Committed” fund balance includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the government’s highest level of decision-making authority.

“Assigned” fund balance includes amounts that are constrained by the District’s intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed.

“Unassigned” fund balance includes the residual classification for the general fund. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund.

The District’s spending policy is to spend restricted fund balance first, followed by committed, assigned and unassigned fund balance. Most governmental funds are designated for one purpose at the time of their creation. Therefore, any expenditure from the fund will be allocated to the applicable fund balance classifications in the order of the aforementioned spending policy. The general fund and certain other funds may have more than one purpose.

L. Investment Income

Investment income derived from major and nonmajor governmental funds is legally assigned to the general fund unless otherwise directed by Massachusetts General Law (MGL).

M. Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of both the Essex Regional Retirement System (ERRS) and the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System (MTRS) and additions to/deductions from the Systems fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the Systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

N. Use of Estimates

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The preparation of basic financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure for contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the basic financial statements and the reported amounts of the revenues and expenditures/expenses during the year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.

O. Total Column

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The total column presented on the government-wide financial statements represents consolidated financial information.

Fund Financial Statements

The total column on the fund financial statements is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column is not the equivalent of consolidated financial information.

P. Fund Deficits

Individual fund deficits exist at June 30, 2015, within the special revenue funds. These deficits will be funded with available funds in subsequent years.

NOTE 2 – CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The District maintains a cash and investment pool that is available for use by all funds. Each fund type's portion of this pool is displayed on the balance sheet as "Cash and Cash Equivalents". The deposits and investments of the trust funds are held separately from those of other funds.

Statutes authorize the investment in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, agencies, and instrumentalities, certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements, money market accounts, bank deposits and the State Treasurer's Investment Pool (Pool). The Treasurer may also invest trust funds in securities, other than mortgages or collateral loans,

which are legal for the investment of funds of savings banks under the laws of the Commonwealth. In addition, there are various restrictions limiting the amount and length of deposits and investments.

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits

In the case of deposits, this is risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The District's policy for custodial credit risk is to review each banks financial status and its ability to offer coverage through Federal Depository Insurance. At year-end, the carrying amount of deposits totaled \$3,889,289 and the bank balance totaled \$4,220,208. Of the bank balance, \$500,071 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance, \$1,872,072 was collateralized, and \$1,848,065 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and uncollateralized.

The District does not have a cash and investment policy.

NOTE 3 – RECEIVABLES

At June 30, 2015, receivables for the individual major and nonmajor governmental funds, including the applicable allowances for uncollectible accounts, totaled \$51,220. \$40,865 of this balance represents the fourth quarter circuit breaker payment from the Commonwealth. The remaining receivable balance totaling \$10,355 represents the reimbursement of transportation costs from the Commonwealth.

NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2015, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities:				
<u>Capital assets being depreciated:</u>				
Buildings and improvements.....	\$ 50,001,914	\$ 5,296	\$ -	\$ 50,007,210
Vehicles and equipment.....	169,482	9,535	-	179,017
Textbooks and library books.....	858,989	21,976	-	880,965
Modular classrooms.....	439,297	-	-	439,297
	<u>51,469,682</u>	<u>36,807</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,506,489</u>
<u>Less accumulated depreciation for:</u>				
Buildings and improvements.....	(5,648,427)	(1,270,583)	-	(6,919,010)
Vehicles and equipment.....	(60,666)	(14,964)	-	(75,630)
Textbooks and library books.....	(629,254)	(69,432)	-	(698,686)
Modular classrooms.....	(417,335)	(21,962)	-	(439,297)
	<u>(6,755,682)</u>	<u>(1,376,941)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,132,623)</u>
Total capital assets, net.....	<u>\$ 44,714,000</u>	<u>\$ (1,340,134)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 43,373,866</u>

Depreciation expense was not allocated to governmental functions and appears unallocated on the statement of activities.

NOTE 5 – SHORT-TERM FINANCING

Short-term debt may be authorized and issued to fund the following:

- Current operating costs prior to the collection of revenues through issuance of revenue or tax anticipation notes (RANS or TANS).
- Capital project costs and other approved expenditures incurred prior to obtaining permanent financing through issuance of bond anticipation notes (BANS) or grant anticipation notes (GANS).

Short-term loans are general obligations and carry maturity dates that are limited by statute. Interest expenditures and expenses for short-term borrowings are accounted for in the general fund.

At June 30, 2015, the District had no short-term debt outstanding.

NOTE 6 – LONG-TERM DEBT

State law permits the District, under the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 16, to authorize indebtedness for capital acquisition and construction. Furthermore, written notice of the amount of debt authorized and the general purpose of the debt must be given to the Board of Selectmen in each of the member Town’s comprising the District.

Details related to the outstanding indebtedness at June 30, 2015, and the debt service requirements are as follows:

Project	Maturities Through	Original Loan Amount	Interest Rate (%)	Outstanding at June 30, 2014	Issued	Redeemed	Outstanding at June 30, 2015
School Construction.....	2033	\$ 25,000,000	3.98%	\$ 19,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,000,000
School Construction.....	2030	5,000,000	3.40%	4,000,000	-	-	4,000,000
School Construction.....	2023	1,964,000	1.39%	1,760,000	-	1,450,000	310,000
Total governmental bonds payable.....				24,760,000	-	1,450,000	23,310,000
Unamortized premiums.....				325,981	-	38,393	287,588
Total.....				\$ 25,085,981	\$ -	\$ 1,488,393	\$ 23,597,588

Debt service requirements for principal and interest for Governmental bonds payable in future years are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2016.....	\$ 1,445,000	\$ 915,500	\$ 2,360,500
2017.....	1,445,000	854,100	2,299,100
2018.....	1,445,000	807,700	2,252,700
2019.....	1,445,000	760,050	2,205,050
2020.....	1,445,000	706,150	2,151,150
2021.....	1,445,000	642,250	2,087,250
2022.....	1,445,000	588,350	2,033,350
2023.....	1,445,000	534,450	1,979,450
2024.....	1,250,000	482,500	1,732,500
2025.....	1,250,000	432,500	1,682,500
2026.....	1,250,000	382,500	1,632,500
2027.....	1,250,000	332,500	1,582,500
2028.....	1,250,000	281,250	1,531,250
2029.....	1,250,000	230,000	1,480,000
2030.....	1,250,000	178,000	1,428,000
2031.....	1,000,000	126,000	1,126,000
2032.....	1,000,000	84,000	1,084,000
2033.....	1,000,000	42,000	1,042,000
Totals.....	\$ <u>23,310,000</u>	\$ <u>8,379,800</u>	\$ <u>31,689,800</u>

Changes in Long-term Liabilities

During the year ended June 30, 2015, the following changes occurred in long-term liabilities:

	Beginning Balance (as revised)	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Current Portion
Long-term bonds.....	\$ 24,760,000	\$ -	\$ (1,450,000)	\$ 23,310,000	\$ 1,445,000
Unamortized premium on bonds...	325,981	-	(38,393)	287,588	36,062
Bonds payable, net.....	25,085,981	-	(1,488,393)	23,597,588	1,481,062
Compensated absences.....	\$ 355,793	\$ 54,201	\$ (20,000)	\$ 389,994	\$ 20,000
Other postemployment benefits.....	10,930,240	1,746,856	(677,468)	11,999,628	-
Net pension liability.....	6,029,006	12,474	-	6,041,480	-
Total (as revised).....	\$ <u>42,401,020</u>	\$ <u>1,813,531</u>	\$ <u>(2,185,861)</u>	\$ <u>42,028,690</u>	\$ <u>1,501,062</u>

NOTE 7 – GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATIONS

GASB Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, establishes a hierarchy for fund balance classifications and the constraints imposed on the uses of those resources. GASB 54 provides for two major types of fund balances, which are nonspendable and spendable. Nonspendable fund balances are balances that cannot be spent because they are not expected to be converted to cash or they are

legally or contractually required to remain intact. Examples of this classification are prepaid items, inventories, and principal (corpus) of an endowment fund.

In addition to the nonspendable fund balance, GASB 54 has provided a hierarchy of spendable fund balances, based on a hierarchy of spending constraints.

- Restricted: fund balances that are constrained by external parties, constitutional provisions, or enabling legislation.
- Committed: fund balances that contain self-imposed constraints of the government from its highest level of decision making authority.
- Assigned: fund balances that contain self-imposed constraints of the government to be used for a particular purpose.
- Unassigned: fund balance of the general fund that is not constrained for any particular purpose.

Massachusetts General Law Ch. 71 §16G^{1/2} allows for the establishment of a Stabilization fund that can be used to set aside funds for any purpose that a regional school district may borrow for or for such other purpose as approved by the Department of Revenue - Director of Accounts. The creation of a fund requires a majority vote of the School Committee and the member Towns. Appropriations from the fund require a two-thirds vote of the School Committee. At year-end, the balance of the capital stabilization fund totaled \$161,448 and is reported as restricted fund balance within the general fund. The District established the capital stabilization fund to accumulate reserves for future capital purposes.

As of June 30, 2015, the governmental fund balances consisted of the following:

	General	School Choice Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Fund Balances				
Restricted for:				
School choice.....	\$ -	\$ 1,505,037	\$ -	\$ 1,505,037
Gifts & private grant funds.....	-	-	39,460	39,460
State & federal grant funds.....	-	-	224,427	224,427
Student activity funds.....	-	-	210,870	210,870
Athletic funds.....	-	-	1,764	1,764
MS/HS maintenance funds.....	-	-	45,149	45,149
Other special revenue funds.....	-	-	119,911	119,911
Other capital project funds.....	-	-	13,533	13,533
Debt service.....	240,427	-	-	240,427
Capital outlay stabilization.....	161,448	-	-	161,448
Assigned to:				
Administration.....	1,999	-	-	1,999
Instructional services.....	17,040	-	-	17,040
Operations and maintenance.....	10,559	-	-	10,559
Programs with other districts.....	13,077	-	-	13,077
Unassigned.....	378,088	-	(78,641)	299,447
Total Fund Balances.....	<u>\$ 822,638</u>	<u>\$ 1,505,037</u>	<u>\$ 576,473</u>	<u>\$ 2,904,148</u>

NOTE 8 – RISK FINANCING

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters for which the District carries commercial insurance. The District participates in premium-based health care plans for its active employees and its retirees'.

NOTE 9 – PENSION PLAN*Plan Descriptions*

The District is a member of the Essex Regional Retirement System (ERRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan covering eligible employees of the 47 member units. The system is administered by five board members (Board) on behalf of all current employees and retirees except for current teachers and retired teachers. Chapter 32 of the MGL assigns authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan.

The District is a member of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS), a cost-sharing multi-employer defined benefit plan. MTRS is managed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Commonwealth) on behalf of municipal teachers and municipal teacher retirees. The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor and is responsible for 100% of the contributions and future benefit requirements of the MTRS. The MTRS covers certified teachers in cities (except Boston), towns, regional school districts, charter schools, educational collaboratives and Quincy College. The MTRS is part of the Commonwealth's reporting entity and the audited financial report may be obtained by visiting <http://www.mass.gov/osc/publications-and-reports/financial-reports/>.

Special Funding Situation

The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make 100% of all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the District to the MTRS. Therefore, the District is considered to be in a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* and the Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor in MTRS. Since the District does not contribute directly to MTRS, there is no net pension liability to recognize. The total of the Commonwealth provided contributions have been allocated based on each employer's covered payroll to the total covered payroll of employers in MTRS as of the measurement date of June 30, 2014. The District's portion of the collective pension expense, contributed by the Commonwealth, of \$2,121,865 is reported in the general fund as intergovernmental revenue and pension expense in the current fiscal year. The portion of the Commonwealth's collective net pension liability associated with the District is \$30,541,499 as of the measurement date.

Benefits Provided

Both Systems provide retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Massachusetts Contributory Retirement System benefits are, with certain minor exceptions, uniform from system to system. The System provides for retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest three-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012, average salary is the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the five consecutive years that produce the highest average, or, if greater, during the last five years (whether or not consecutive) preceding retirement. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, level of compensation, and group classification. Members become vested after ten years of creditable service.

Employees who resign from service and who are not eligible to receive a retirement allowance or are under the age of 55 are entitled to request a refund of their accumulated total deductions. Survivor benefits are extended to eligible beneficiaries of members whose death occurs prior to or following retirement.

Cost-of-living adjustments granted between 1981 and 1997 and any increase in other benefits imposed by the Commonwealth's state law during those years are borne by the Commonwealth and are deposited into the pension fund. Cost-of-living adjustments granted after 1997 must be approved by the Board and are borne by the System.

Contributions

Chapter 32 of the MGL governs the contributions of plan members and member units. Active plan members are required to contribute to the System at rates ranging from 5% to 9% of gross regular compensation with an additional 2% contribution required for compensation exceeding \$30,000. The percentage rate is keyed to the date upon which an employee's membership commences. The member units are required to pay into the ERRS a legislatively mandated actuarial determined contribution that is apportioned among the employers based on active current payroll. The District's proportionate share of the required contribution equaled its actual contribution for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$456,811, 19.2% of covered payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with plan member contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by plan members during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability.

Pension Liabilities

At June 30, 2015, the District reported a liability of \$6,041,480 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2014, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2014. Accordingly, update procedures were used to roll forward the total pension liability to the measurement date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members. At December 31, 2014, the District's proportion was 1.781%, which did not change from its proportion measured at December 31, 2013.

Pension Expense

For the year ended June 30, 2015, the District recognized pension expense of \$495,560. At June 30, 2015, the District reported deferred inflows of resources related to pensions of \$26,275, from the net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments. Since the System performs an actuarial valuation bi-annually, there are not reported differences between expected and actual experience or a change of assumptions as of December 31, 2014.

The District's deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Year ended June 30:</u>	
2016.....	\$ 6,569
2017.....	6,569
2018.....	6,569
2019.....	<u>6,568</u>
Total.....	\$ <u>26,275</u>

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the January 1, 2014 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement that was updated to December 31, 2014:

Valuation date.....	January 1, 2014
Actuarial cost method.....	Entry Age Normal Cost Method.
Amortization method.....	Closed - Approximate level percent of payroll.
Remaining amortization period.....	20 years for the fresh start base.
Asset valuation method.....	Market value adjusted by accounts payable and receivables adjusted to phase in over 5 years investment gains or losses above or below the expected rate of investment return. The actuarial value of assets must be no less than 90% of the adjusted market value nor more than 110% of the adjusted market value.
Projected salary increases.....	Select and Ultimate. 7.50% year one, 6.50% year two, 6.00% year three, 5.50% year four, 5.00% year five, 3.75% ultimate rate.
Cost of living adjustments.....	3.0% of the first \$13,000 of a members retirement allowance is assumed to be granted every year.
Rates of retirement.....	Varies based upon age for general employees, police and fire employees.
Rates of disability.....	Disability is assumed to be 45% ordinary and 55% accidental for Groups 1 and 2 and 10% ordinary and 90% accidental for Group 4.
Mortality Rates:	
Pre-Retirement.....	The RP-2000 Employee Mortality Table (sex distinct) projected with a Scale BB and Generational Mortality. During employment the healthy employee mortality table is used. Post-employment the healthy annuitant table is used.
Disabled Retiree.....	The RP-2000 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table (sex distinct) projected with scale BB and Generational Mortality set-forward by 2 years. Death is assumed to be due to the same cause as the disability 40% of the time.
Investment rate of return/Discount rate.....	8% per year.

Investment policy

The pension plan’s policy in regard to the allocation of invested assets is established and may be amended by the Board. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the pension plan.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan’s target asset allocation as of January 1, 2014, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return	Long-Term Expected Asset Allocation
Core bonds.....	0.97%	13.00%
Value-added bonds.....	3.80%	10.00%
Large cap equities.....	4.61%	14.50%
Mid/small cap equities.....	4.85%	3.50%
International equities.....	5.10%	16.00%
Emerging market equities.....	6.31%	6.00%
Private equity.....	6.55%	10.00%
Real estate.....	3.40%	10.00%
Timber natural resources.....	3.64%	4.00%
Hedge funds.....	3.64%	9.00%
Cash/portfolio completion.....	0.00%	4.00%
		100.00%

Rate of return

For the year ended December 31, 2014, the annual money-weighted rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expense, was 8.48%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

Discount rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 8.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate

The following presents the net pension liability, calculated using the discount rate of 8%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (7%) or 1-percentage-point higher (9%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (7.00%)	Current Discount Rate (8.00%)	1% Increase (9.00%)
The District's proportionate share of the net pension liability.....	\$ 7,467,337	\$ 6,041,480	\$ 4,894,162

NOTE 10 – POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS

Plan Description – The Manchester Essex Regional School District administers a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan (Retiree Health Plan). The plan provides lifetime healthcare insurance for eligible retirees and their spouses through the District’s group health insurance plan, which covers both active and retired members. Chapter 32B of the MGL assigns authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan. Benefit provisions are negotiated between the District and the unions representing District employees and are renegotiated each bargaining period. The Retiree Health Plan does not issue a publicly available financial report.

Funding Policy – Contribution requirements are negotiated between the District and union representatives. The required contribution is based on a pay-as-you-go financing requirement. All retirees and beneficiaries pay a 20% share of their postretirement medical costs for MEDEX and HMO plans. Participants electing the PPO plan pay the difference between 80% of the HMO plan and the full cost of the PPO plan.

Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation – The District’s annual other postemployment benefit (OPEB) cost (expense) is calculated based on the annual required contribution of the employer (ARC), an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement #45. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover the normal cost each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed thirty years.

The components of the District’s annual OPEB cost for the year, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and changes in the District’s net OPEB obligation are summarized in the following table:

Annual required contribution.....	\$	1,595,216
Interest on net OPEB obligation.....		655,814
Adjustment to annual required contribution.....		<u>(504,174)</u>
Annual OPEB Cost (expense).....		1,746,856
Annual Employer Contributions.....		<u>(677,468)</u>
Increase/Decrease in net OPEB obligation.....		1,069,388
Net OPEB obligation - beginning of year.....		<u>10,930,240</u>
Net OPEB obligation - end of year.....	\$	<u><u>11,999,628</u></u>

The District’s annual OPEB cost, the percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed to the plan, and the net OPEB obligation for 2015 was as follows:

<u>Year Ended</u>	<u>Annual OPEB Cost</u>	<u>Percentage Annual OPEB Cost Contributed</u>	<u>Net OPEB Obligation</u>
6/30/2015	\$ 1,746,856	39%	\$ 11,999,628
6/30/2014	2,492,240	22%	10,930,240
6/30/2013	2,366,423	23%	8,992,069

Funded Status and Funding Progress – As of July 1, 2015, the most recent actuarial valuation date, the actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$18,000,092. The District has funded \$50,000, which resulted in a funded ratio of 0.28%. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability for benefits totaled \$17,950,092 and the covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) totaled \$14,478,974. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability was 124% of covered payroll.

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and the healthcare cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The schedule of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, presents multiyear trend information about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits.

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 the plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit 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.

In the July 1, 2015 actuarial valuation, actuarial liabilities were determined using the entry age normal cost method. The actuarial assumptions included a 6.0% investment return assumption, which is based on the expected yield on the assets of the District, calculated based on the funded level of the plan at the valuation date, and an annual medical trend rate of 7.0% initially, graded to 4.5% over 6 years. The UAAL is being amortized over a 30 year period on an open basis. The remaining amortization period at June 30, 2015, is 30 years.

NOTE 11 – CONTINGENCIES

The District participates in a number of federal award programs. Although the grant programs have been audited in accordance with the provisions of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 through June 30, 2015, these programs are still subject to financial and compliance audits. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the granting agencies cannot be determined at this time, although it is expected such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

Various legal actions and claims are pending. Litigation is subject to many uncertainties, and the outcome of individual litigated matters is not always predictable. Although the amount of liability, if any, at June 30, 2015, cannot be ascertained, management believes any resulting liability should not materially affect the financial position at June 30, 2015.

NOTE 12 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through December 15, 2015, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 13 – REVISION OF NET POSITION

The beginning net position of governmental activities has been revised to reflect the implementation of GASB Statement #68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions. The implementation of this standard resulted in a \$6,029,006 decrease in net position reported as of June 30, 2014, which totaled \$10,943,450. Accordingly, the revised net position as of June 30, 2014, totals \$4,914,444.

NOTE 14 – IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS

During 2015, the following GASB pronouncements were implemented:

- GASB Statement #67, Financial Reporting for Pension Plans; GASB Statement #68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions; and GASB Statement #71 Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date. *Financial statement changes include the recognition of a net pension liability, pension expense and deferred outflows/inflows of resources depending on the nature of the change each year. The financial statements also recognized a restatement of the beginning net position to reflect the net pension liability at the beginning of the year. The notes to the basic financial statements and the required supplementary information were expanded to include additional required schedules and disclosures.*
- GASB Statement #69, Governmental Combinations and Disposals of Government Operations. *This pronouncement did not impact the basic financial statements.*

The following GASB pronouncements will be implemented in the future:

- The GASB issued Statement #72, Fair Value Measurement and Application, which is required to be implemented in 2016.
- The GASB issued Statement #73, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68. The provisions of this Statement are effective for 2016—except those provisions that address employers and governmental non-employer contributing entities for pensions that are not within the scope of Statement 68, which is required to be implemented in 2017.
- The GASB issued Statement #74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans, which is required to be implemented in 2017.
- The GASB issued Statement #75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions, which is required to be implemented in 2018.
- The GASB issued Statement #76, The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for State and Local Governments, which is required to be implemented in 2016.
- The GASB issued Statement #77, Tax Abatement Disclosures, which is required to be implemented in 2017.

Management is currently assessing the impact the implementation of these pronouncements will have on the basic financial statements.

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Required Supplementary Information

GENERAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

	Budgeted Amounts			
	Amounts Carried forward From Prior Year	Current Year Initial Budget	Original Budget	Final Budget
REVENUES:				
Member town assessments..... \$	-	\$ 20,816,189	\$ 20,816,189	\$ 20,816,189
Intergovernmental.....	-	2,878,344	2,878,344	2,878,344
Departmental and other.....	-	35,000	35,000	35,000
Investment income.....	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
TOTAL REVENUES.....	-	23,749,533	23,749,533	23,749,533
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
Salaries:				
Administration.....	-	735,592	735,592	545,523
Instructional services.....	-	12,582,214	12,582,214	12,898,973
Other student services.....	-	736,165	736,165	695,447
Operation and maintenance.....	-	426,224	426,224	367,679
Fixed charges.....	-	-	-	20,000
Other operating expenditures:				
Administration.....	258	246,550	246,808	215,402
Instructional services.....	3,240	927,945	931,185	989,559
Other student services.....	3,000	736,800	739,800	791,022
Operation and maintenance.....	-	1,214,480	1,214,480	1,289,135
Fixed charges.....	-	2,988,291	2,988,291	2,921,020
Programs with other school districts.....	40,000	961,094	1,001,095	868,094
Debt service:				
Maturing debt.....	-	1,450,000	1,450,000	1,450,000
Interest.....	-	959,450	959,450	959,450
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	46,498	23,964,805	24,011,304	24,011,304
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES.....	(46,498)	(215,272)	(261,771)	(261,771)
BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year.....	-	826,917	826,917	826,917
BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE, End of year..... \$	(46,498)	\$ 611,645	\$ 565,146	\$ 565,146

See notes to required supplementary information.

Actual Budgetary Amounts	Amounts Carried Forward To Next Year	Variance to Final Budget
\$ 20,816,189	\$ -	\$ -
2,890,758	-	12,414
36,955	-	1,955
6,795	-	(13,205)
<u>23,750,697</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,164</u>
508,372	-	37,151
12,693,811	-	205,162
691,895	-	3,552
362,191	-	5,488
20,000	-	-
146,300	1,999	67,103
924,956	17,040	47,563
710,133	-	80,889
1,249,525	10,559	29,051
3,407,321	-	(486,301)
792,470	13,077	62,547
1,450,000	-	-
959,450	-	-
<u>23,916,424</u>	<u>42,675</u>	<u>52,205</u>
<u>(165,727)</u>	<u>(42,675)</u>	<u>53,369</u>
826,917	-	-
<u>\$ 661,190</u>	<u>\$ (42,675)</u>	<u>\$ 53,369</u>

Pension Plan Schedules

The Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability presents multi-year trend information on the District's net pension liability and related ratios.

The Schedule of District's Contributions presents multi-year trend information on the District's required and actual contributions to the pension plan and related ratios.

The Schedule of the Special Funding Amounts of the Net Pension Liability for the Massachusetts Teachers Contributory Retirement System presents multi-year trend information on the liability and expense assumed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of the District along with related ratios.

These schedules are intended to present information for ten years. Until a ten year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

**SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
ESSEX REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

	December 31, 2014
District's proportion of the net pension liability (asset).....	1.781%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset).....	\$ 6,041,480
District's covered employee payroll (*).....	\$ 2,375,119
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll.....	254.37%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability.....	52.27%

Note: 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.

*Covered employee payroll as reported in the January 1, 2014, funding
valuation report.

See notes to required supplementary information.

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
ESSEX REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

		December 31, 2014
Actuarially determined contribution (a).....	\$	456,811
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution.....		456,811
Contribution deficiency (excess).....	\$	-
Covered-employee payroll (*).....	\$	2,375,119
Contributions as a percentage of covered- employee payroll.....		19.23%

Note: 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.

(a) Based on the results of the January 1, 2012 actuarial
valuation (including assumptions and methods) which
determined budgeted appropriations for fiscal 2015.

*Covered employee payroll as reported in the January 1, 2014
funding valuation report.

See notes to required supplementary information.

**SCHEDULE OF THE SPECIAL FUNDING AMOUNTS
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers which creates a special funding situation. Since the District does not contribute directly to MTRS, there is no net pension liability to recognize. This schedule discloses the Commonwealth's 100% share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the District; the portion of the collective pension expense as both a revenue and pension expense recognized by the District; and the Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total liability.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Commonwealth's 100% Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the District</u>	<u>District's Expense and Revenue Recognized for the Commonwealth's Support</u>	<u>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Liability</u>
2015.....	\$ 30,541,499	\$ 2,121,865	61.64%

Note: 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 notes to required supplementary information.

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Other Postemployment Benefit Plan Schedules

The Schedule of Funding Progress compares, over time, the actuarial accrued liability for benefits with the actuarial value of accumulated plan assets.

The Schedule of Employer Contributions compares, over time, the actuarial required contributions with the actual contributions made.

The Schedule of Actuarial Methods and Assumptions presents factors that significantly affect the identification of trends in the amounts reported.

OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN
SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Schedule of Funding Progress

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (A)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) Projected Unit Credit (B)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (B-A)	Funded Ratio (A/B)	Covered Payroll (C)	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll ((B-A)/C)
7/1/2015	\$ 50,000	\$ 18,000,092	\$ 17,950,092	0.3%	\$ 14,478,974	124.0%
7/1/2013	-	25,010,077	25,010,077	0.0%	13,920,467	179.7%
7/1/2010	-	18,148,331	18,148,331	0.0%	12,198,757	148.8%

Schedule of Employer Contributions

Year Ended	Annual Required Contribution	Actual Contributions Made	Percentage Contributed
2015	\$ 1,595,216	\$ 677,468	42%
2014	2,453,708	554,069	23%
2013	2,318,685	535,124	23%
2012	2,227,041	461,382	21%
2011	2,103,399	410,917	20%
2010	2,338,490	398,051	17%

See notes to required supplementary information.

OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN
ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Actuarial Methods:

Valuation date.....	July 1, 2015
Actuarial cost method.....	Entry age normal
Remaining amortization period.....	30 years, open basis

Actuarial Assumptions:

Investment rate of return.....	6.0%
Healthcare cost trend rate.....	7.0% graded to 4.5% over 6 years

Plan Membership:

Current retirees, beneficiaries, and dependents.....	126
Current active members.....	<u>231</u>
Total.....	<u><u>357</u></u>

See notes to required supplementary information.

NOTE A – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Budgetary Information

The District adopts a balanced budget that is approved by the Committee. The Superintendent of Schools presents an annual budget to the Committee, which includes estimates of revenues and other financing sources and recommendations of expenditures and other financing uses. The Committee, which has full authority to amend and/or reject the budget or any line item, adopts the expenditure budget by majority vote. Increases in the budget subsequent to the approval of the annual budget require majority Committee approval.

The majority of the District’s appropriations are non-continuing which lapse at the end of the year.

The District adopts an annual budget for the General Fund in conformity with the guidelines described above. The original 2015 approved budget for the General Fund authorized \$24.0 million in appropriations.

The District’s accounting office has the responsibility to ensure that budgetary control is maintained on a bottom line, total budget basis. Budgetary control is exercised through the District’s accounting system.

2. Budgetary - GAAP Reconciliation

For budgetary financial reporting purposes, the Uniform Municipal Accounting System basis of accounting (established by the Commonwealth) is followed, which differs from the GAAP basis of accounting. A reconciliation of budgetary-basis to GAAP-basis results for the general fund for the year ended June 30, 2015, is presented below:

Net change in fund balance, budgetary basis.....	\$ (165,727)
<u>Basis of accounting differences:</u>	
Recognition of revenue for on-behalf payments.....	2,121,865
Recognition of expenditures for on-behalf payments.....	<u>(2,121,865)</u>
Excess of revenues and other financing sources net change in fund balance, GAAP basis.....	<u>\$ (165,727)</u>

NOTE B – PENSION PLAN

Schedule of the District’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

The Schedule of the District’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability details the District’s allocated percentage of the net pension liability (asset), the District’s proportionate share of the net pension liability, and the District’s covered employee payroll. It also demonstrates the District’s net position as a percentage of the District’s pension liability and the District’s net pension liability as a percentage of District’s covered payroll.

Schedule of District’s Contributions

Governmental employers are required to pay an annual appropriation as established by PERAC. The District’s appropriation includes the amounts to pay the pension portion of each member’s retirement allowance, an amount to amortize the actuarially determined unfunded liability to zero in accordance with the system’s funding schedule, and additional appropriations in accordance with adopted early retirement incentive programs. The District’s appropriations are payable on July 1 and January 1. The District may choose to pay the entire appropriation in

July at a discounted rate. Accordingly, actual District contributions may be less than the "total appropriation". The pension fund appropriation is allocated to the District based on covered payroll.

Schedule of the Special Funding Amounts of the Net Pension Liability

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers which creates a special funding situation. Since the District does not contribute directly to MTRS, there is no net pension liability to recognize. This schedule discloses the Commonwealth's 100% share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the District; the portion of the collective pension expense as both a revenue and pension expense recognized by the District; and the Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total liability.

Changes in Assumptions - None

Changes in Plan Provisions - None

NOTE C – OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PLAN

The District administers a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan ("The Retiree Health Plan"). The plan provides lifetime healthcare insurance for eligible retirees and their spouses through the District's group health insurance plan, which covers both active and retired members.

The District currently finances its other postemployment benefits (OPEB) on a combined pre-funded and a pay-as-you-go basis. As a result, the funded ratio (actuarial value of assets expressed as a percentage of the actuarial accrued liability) is 0.28%. In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards, the District has recorded its OPEB cost equal to the actuarially determined annual required contribution (ARC) which includes the normal cost of providing benefits for the year and a component for the amortization of the total unfunded actuarial accrued liability of the plan.

The Schedule of Funding Progress and Employer Contributions presents multi-year trend information which compares, over time, the actuarial accrued liability for benefits with the actuarial value of accumulated plan assets and the actuarial required contributions with the actual contributions made.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit 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. The Schedule of Actuarial Methods and Assumptions presents factors that significantly affect the identification of trends in the amounts reported.