

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 30, 2024



Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP P 314.231.6232
One South Memorial Drive F 314.880.9307
Suite 900
St. Louis, MO 63102

Board of Education
Columbia Public School District
1818 W Worley Street
Columbia, MO 65203

We have audited the financial statements of Columbia Public School District (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024 and have issued our report thereon dated December 9, 2024. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated April 12, 2024, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion(s) about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

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

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

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

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

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

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

Significant Risks Identified

We have identified the following significant risks:

- Management override of controls - due to the ability of management to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. *(Required to be identified as a significant risk in all audits by AU-C 240.29)*
- Net pension liability and total OPEB liability in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements are based on estimates requiring subjective judgment.

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the District is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2024. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures

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

The most sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements are:

Management's estimate of the net pension liability and total OPEB liability in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements is based on amounts actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of applicable GASB statements.

We evaluated the factors and assumptions used to develop the accounting estimates and determined that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

Financial Statement Disclosures

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

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

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

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards also require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole and each applicable opinion unit. We did not identify any uncorrected misstatements as a result of our audit.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. The attached Adjusting Journal Entries Report summarizes material misstatement that we identified as a result of our audit procedures and was brought to the attention of, and corrected by, management.

Disagreements with Management

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

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the attached letter dated December 9, 2024.

Management's Consultations with Other Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

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

Other Information Included in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Pursuant to professional standards, our responsibility as auditors for other information, whether financial or nonfinancial, included in the District's annual comprehensive financial report, does not extend beyond the information identified in the audit report, and we are not required to perform any procedures to corroborate such other information. However, in accordance with such standards, we have read the other information and considered whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements.

Our responsibility also includes communicating to you any information which we believe is a material misstatement of fact. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that such information, or its manner of presentation, is materially inconsistent with the information, or manner of its presentation, appearing in the financial statements.

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

Kearby Eck & Brackel LLP

St. Louis, Missouri
December 9, 2024

Columbia Public School District
Adjusting Journal Entries
6/30/2024
2205

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Adjusting Journal Entry #1 - To reverse duplicate entry to record tax payment.			
2171	Salaries payable	1,334,744	
1111	Pooled cash		1,334,744
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,334,744	1,334,744
		<hr/>	<hr/>



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ASLIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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Heather McArthur
Chief Financial Officer &
Board of Education Treasurer

December 9, 2024

Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP
One Memorial Drive, Suite 900
St. Louis, MO 63102

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia Public School District (the "District"), as of June 30, 2024, and for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing opinions on whether the basic financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position, results of operations and cash flows, where applicable of the various opinion units of the District in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted for governments in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information such that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves as of December 9, 2024:

Financial Statements

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated April 12, 2024, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements of the various opinion units referred to above in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of the system 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.
- We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.



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- We acknowledge our responsibility for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements.
- We have reviewed, approved, and taken responsibility for the financial statements and related notes.
- We have identified and communicated to you all previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- The methods, data, and significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement, or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.
- All related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP.
- All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which U.S. GAAP requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- The effects of all known actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- We have reviewed and approved the various adjusting journal entries that were proposed by you for recording in our books and records and reflected in the financial statements.
- All component units, as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, are included and other joint ventures and related organizations are properly disclosed.
- All funds and activities are properly classified.



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- All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements—and Management's Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments*, GASB Statement No. 37, *Basic Financial Statements—and Management's Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments: Omnibus* as amended, and GASB Statement No. 65, *Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*, for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are considered important to financial statement users.
- All components of net position, nonspendable fund balance, and restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
- Our policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position/fund balance are available is appropriately disclosed and net position/fund balance is properly recognized under the policy.
- All revenues within the statement of activities have been properly classified as program revenues, general revenues, contributions to term or permanent endowments, or contributions to permanent fund principal.
- All expenses have been properly classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations, if any, have been made on a reasonable basis.
- All interfund and intra-entity transactions and balances have been properly classified and reported.
- Deposit and investment risks have been properly and fully disclosed.
- Capital assets, including infrastructure assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and if applicable, depreciated.
- All required supplementary information is measured and presented within the prescribed guidelines.



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- With regard to investments and other instruments reported at fair value:
 - The underlying assumptions are reasonable and they appropriately reflect management's intent and ability to carry out its stated courses of action.
 - The measurement methods and related assumptions used in determining fair value are appropriate in the circumstances and have been consistently applied.
 - The disclosures related to fair values are complete, adequate, and in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
 - There are no subsequent events that require adjustments to the fair value measurements and disclosures included in the financial statements.
- With respect to the preparation of the Data Collection Form, we have performed the following:
 - Made all management decisions and performed all management functions;
 - Assigned a competent individual to oversee the services;
 - Evaluated the adequacy of the services performed;
 - Evaluated and accepted responsibility for the result of the service performed; and
 - Established and maintained controls, including a process to monitor the system of internal control.
- Nonexchange and exchange financial guarantees, either written or oral, under which it is more likely than not that a liability exists have been properly recorded, or if we are obligated in any manner, are disclosed.
- With regard to pensions and OPEB:
 - We believe that the actuarial assumptions and methods used to measure pension and OPEB liabilities and costs for financial accounting purposes are appropriate in the circumstances.

Information Provided

- We have provided you with:
 - Access to all information, of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements of the various opinion units referred to above, such as records, documentation, meeting minutes, and other matters;
 - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit;



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- Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - A written acknowledgement of all the documents that we expect to issue that will be included in the annual report and the planned timing and method of issuance of that annual report;
 - A final version of the annual report (including all the documents that, together, comprise the annual report) in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditor's report.
-
- The financial statements and any other information included in the annual report are consistent with one another, and the other information does not contain any material misstatements.
 - All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
 - We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
 - We have provided to you our evaluation of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including significant conditions and events present, and we believe that our use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - Management;
 - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
 - We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, vendors, regulators, or others.
 - We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
 - We have disclosed to you the identity of all the entity's related parties and the nature of all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.



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- There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with or deficiencies in accounting, internal control, or financial reporting practices.
- The District has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.
- We have disclosed to you all guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the District is contingently liable.
- We have disclosed to you all nonexchange financial guarantees, under which we are obligated and have declared liabilities and disclosed properly in accordance with GASB Statement No. 70, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Financial Guarantees*, for those guarantees where it is more likely than not that the entity will make a payment on any guarantee.
- We have disclosed to you all significant estimates and material concentrations known to management that are required to be disclosed in accordance with GASB Statement No. 62 (GASB-62), *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements*. Significant estimates are estimates at the balance sheet date that could change materially within the next year. Concentrations refer to volumes of business, revenues, available sources of supply, or markets or geographic areas for which events could occur that would significantly disrupt normal finances within the next year.
- We have identified and disclosed to you the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on financial statement amounts, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- There are no:
 - Violations or possible violations of laws or regulations, or provisions of contracts or grant agreements whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, including applicable budget laws and regulations.



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- Unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with GASB-62.
 - Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by GASB-62
 - Continuing disclosure consent decree agreements or filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and we have filed updates on a timely basis in accordance with the agreements (Rule 240, 15c2-12).
- The District has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset or future revenue been pledged as collateral, except as disclosed to you.
 - We have complied with all aspects of grant agreements and other contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.

Supplementary Information in Relation to the Financial Statements as a Whole

- With respect to the combining and individual fund statements and schedules, schedules of state compliance, assessed valuation and taxy level and schedule of expenditures of federal awards accompanying the financial statements:
 - We acknowledge our responsibility for the presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAP and the Uniform Guidance.
 - We believe the supplementary information referred to above, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP and the Uniform Guidance.
 - The methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period.
 - We believe the significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information, and the basis for our assumptions and interpretations, are reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances.
 - When the supplementary information is not presented with the audited financial statements, management will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by the entity of the supplementary information and the auditors' report thereon.



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Required Supplementary Information

- With respect to the management's discussion and analysis and other required supplementary information accompanying the financial statements:
 - We acknowledge our responsibility for the presentation of the required supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAP, GASB 68 and GASB 75.
 - We believe the required supplementary information, including its form and content, is measured and fairly presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP, GASB 68, and GASB 75.
 - The methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period.
 - We believe the significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information and the basis for our assumptions and interpretations, are reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances.

Single Audit

- With respect to federal awards, we represent the following to you:
 - We are responsible for understanding and complying with, and have complied with, the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).
 - We are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.
 - We believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.
 - The methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period.
 - We believe the significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and the basis for our assumptions and interpretations, are reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances.
 - We are responsible for including the auditors' report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains the schedule and that indicates that the auditor has reported on such information.
 - We have identified and disclosed all of our government programs and related activities subject to the Uniform Guidance compliance audit.



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- When the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date of issuance by the entity of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and the auditors' report thereon.
- We have, in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, identified in the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, expenditures made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal agencies in the form of grants, federal cost-reimbursement contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property (including donated surplus property), cooperative agreements, interest subsidies, food commodities, direct appropriations, and other assistance.
- We have provided to you our interpretations of any compliance requirements that are subject to varying interpretations.
- We have made available to you all federal awards (including amendments, if any) and any other correspondence relevant to federal programs and related activities that have taken place with federal agencies or pass-through entities.
- We have received no requests from a federal agency to audit one or more specific programs as a major program.
- We have identified and disclosed to you all amounts questioned and any known noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements of federal awards, including the results of other audits or program reviews, or stated that there was no such noncompliance. We also know of no instances of noncompliance with direct and material compliance requirements occurring subsequent to period covered by the auditors' report.
- We have disclosed to you any communications from federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities concerning possible noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including communications received from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditors' report.
- We have made available to you all documentation related to compliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including information related to federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements.
- Federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements are supported by the books and records from which the basic financial statements have been prepared (and are prepared on a basis consistent with the schedule of expenditures of federal awards).
- The copies of federal program financial reports provided to you are true copies of the reports submitted, or electronically transmitted, to the respective federal agency or pass-through entity, as applicable.
- We have properly classified amounts claimed or used for matching in accordance with related guidelines in the Uniform Guidance, as applicable.



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- We have charged costs to federal awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
 - We have disclosed to you the findings received and related corrective actions taken for previous audits, attestation engagements, and internal or external monitoring that directly relate to the objectives of the compliance audit, including findings received and corrective actions taken from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditors' report.
 - The reporting package does not contain personally identifiable information.
 - We have disclosed to you the nature of any subsequent events that provide additional evidence with respect to conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period that affect noncompliance during the reporting period.
- In addition:
 - We are responsible for understanding and complying with the requirements of federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards related to each of our federal programs and have identified and disclosed to you the federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that are considered to have a direct and material effect on each major federal program; and we have complied with these direct and material compliance requirements.
 - We are responsible for establishing and maintaining, and have established and maintained, effective internal control over compliance for federal programs that provide reasonable assurance that we are managing our federal awards in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award that could have a material effect on our federal programs. Also, no changes have been made in the internal control over compliance or other factors that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective action taken by management with regard to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance, have occurred subsequent to the period covered by the auditors' report.
 - We are responsible for and have accurately completed the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form and we are responsible for taking corrective action on audit findings of the compliance audit and have developed a corrective action plan that meets the requirements of the Uniform Guidance.

Heather McArthur, Chief Financial Officer

James Cherrington, Director of Business Services