Management Report

for

Special School District No. 6
South St. Paul, Minnesota

June 30, 2023

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MMKR
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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To the School Board and Management of
Special School District No. 6
South St. Paul, Minnesota

We have prepared this management report in conjunction with our audit of Special School District No. 6's (the District) financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023. We have organized this report into the following sections:

- Audit Summary
- Financial Trends in Public Education in Minnesota
- Financial Trends of Your District
- Accounting and Auditing Updates

We would be pleased to further discuss any of the information contained in this report or any other concerns that you would like us to address. We would also like to express our thanks for the courtesy and assistance extended to us during the course of our audit.

The purpose of this report is solely to provide those charged with governance of the District, management, and those with responsibility for oversight of the District's financial reporting process comments resulting from our audit and information relevant to school district financing in Minnesota. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A.

Minneapolis, Minnesota
October 4, 2023

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AUDIT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of our audit work, key conclusions, and other information that we consider important or that is required to be communicated to the School Board, administration, or those charged with governance of the District.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*, AND TITLE 2 U.S. CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 200, *UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS* (UNIFORM GUIDANCE)

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information to you verbally and in our audit engagement letter. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously discussed and coordinated in order to obtain sufficient audit evidence and complete an effective audit.

AUDIT OPINION AND FINDINGS

Based on our audit of the District's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023:

- We have issued unmodified opinions on the District's basic financial statements. Our report included a paragraph emphasizing the District's implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements,* during the year. Our opinion was not modified with respect to this matter.

- In regard to the District's internal controls over financial reporting, we reported one deficiency that we consider to be a material weakness:

    - Due to the limited size of the District's office staff, the District has limited segregation of duties in several areas. An ideal system of internal accounting control contemplates an adequate segregation of duties so that no one individual handles a transaction from inception to completion. While we recognize that your organization may not be large enough to permit an adequate segregation of duties in all respects, it is important that you are aware of this condition.

- The results of our testing disclosed no instances of noncompliance required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

- We reported that the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements.

- Except as described below, the results of our tests indicate that the District has complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs:

    - As described in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs, the District did not comply with requirements regarding allowable costs for its federal special education cluster programs (including COVID-19 funding) – federal ALN 84.027 and 84.173.

- We reported one deficiency in the District's internal controls over compliance that we considered to be a material weakness with the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs:

    - During our audit, we noted that the District did not have adequate internal controls in place to ensure all salary costs charged to the federal special education cluster programs met the standard for an allowable or allocable cost as defined by the Uniform Guidance allowable costs standards, which resulted in a reportable instance of noncompliance.

- We reported no findings based on our testing of the District's compliance with Minnesota laws and regulations.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Budget-to-Actual Revenue and Expenditure Reports

During our audit, we noted that a review of budget-to-actual documentation for federal grants and monitoring takes place within the finance department. However, we noted there is a lack of information communicated directly with the individuals overseeing the relevant grant(s). This was not considered pervasive enough to warrant a significant deficiency in internal controls, but important enough to share as a best-practice recommendation.

Federal Cash Management Review and Approval

During our testing of federal awards, we noted that an appropriate review and approval of federal reimbursement requests was not being performed prior to completion of federal draws. We recommend that the District review these procedures for cash management over all federal reimbursement requests and ensure the process includes an appropriate review and documentation of approval prior to submitting reimbursement draw requests for federal grants.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the District are described in Note 1 of the notes to basic financial statements.

No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. However, the District implemented the following governmental accounting standard during the year:

As described in Note 1 of the notes to the basic financial statements, the District implemented GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* (SBITAs), during fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. This standard changed the way SBITA transactions are reported by the District, which resulted in a restatement of $111,265 to beginning net position in the current year.

We noted no transactions entered into by the District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND MANAGEMENT JUDGMENTS

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

General education revenue and certain other revenues are computed by applying an allowance per student to the number of students served by the District. Student attendance is accumulated in a state-wide database—MARSS. Because of the complexity of student accounting and because of certain enrollment options, student information is input by other school districts and the MARSS data for the current fiscal year is not finalized until after the District has closed its financial records. General education revenue and certain other revenues are computed using preliminary information on the number of students served in the resident district and also utilizing some estimates, particularly in the area of enrollment options.

Special education state aid includes an adjustment related to tuition billings to and from other school districts for special education services, which are computed using formulas derived by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Because of the timing of the calculations, this adjustment for the current fiscal year is not finalized until after the District has closed its financial records. The impact of this adjustment on the receivable and revenue recorded for state special education aid is calculated using preliminary information available to the District.

The District has recorded activity for other post-employment benefits (OPEB) and pension benefits. These obligations are calculated using actuarial methodologies, primarily described in GASB Statement Nos. 68 and 75. These actuarial calculations include significant assumptions, including projected changes, healthcare insurance costs, investment returns, retirement ages, proportionate share, and employee turnover.

The depreciation and amortization of capital assets involves estimates pertaining to useful lives.

The District's self-insured activities require recording a liability for claims incurred, but not yet reported, which are based on estimates.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used by management to develop the estimates discussed on the previous page in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The disclosures included in the notes to the basic financial statements related to OPEB and pension benefits are particularly sensitive, due to the materiality of the liabilities, and the large and complex estimates involved in determining the disclosures.

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

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

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

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

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

DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

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

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 4, 2023.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

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

OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

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

OTHER MATTERS

We applied certain limited procedures to the management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) and the pension and OPEB-related required supplementary information (RSI) that supplement the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, and the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS) Compliance Table accompanying the financial statements, which are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory section and other district information, which accompany the financial statements, but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

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FINANCIAL TRENDS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA

This section provides some state-wide funding and financial trends in public education in Minnesota.

BASIC GENERAL EDUCATION REVENUE

The largest single funding source for Minnesota school districts is basic general education aid. Each year, the Legislature sets a basic formula allowance. Total basic general education revenue is calculated by multiplying the formula allowance by the number of pupil units for which a district is entitled to aid. Pupil units are calculated using a legislatively determined weighting system applied to average daily membership (ADM). Over the years, various modifications have been made to this calculation, including changes in weighting and special consideration for declining enrollment districts.

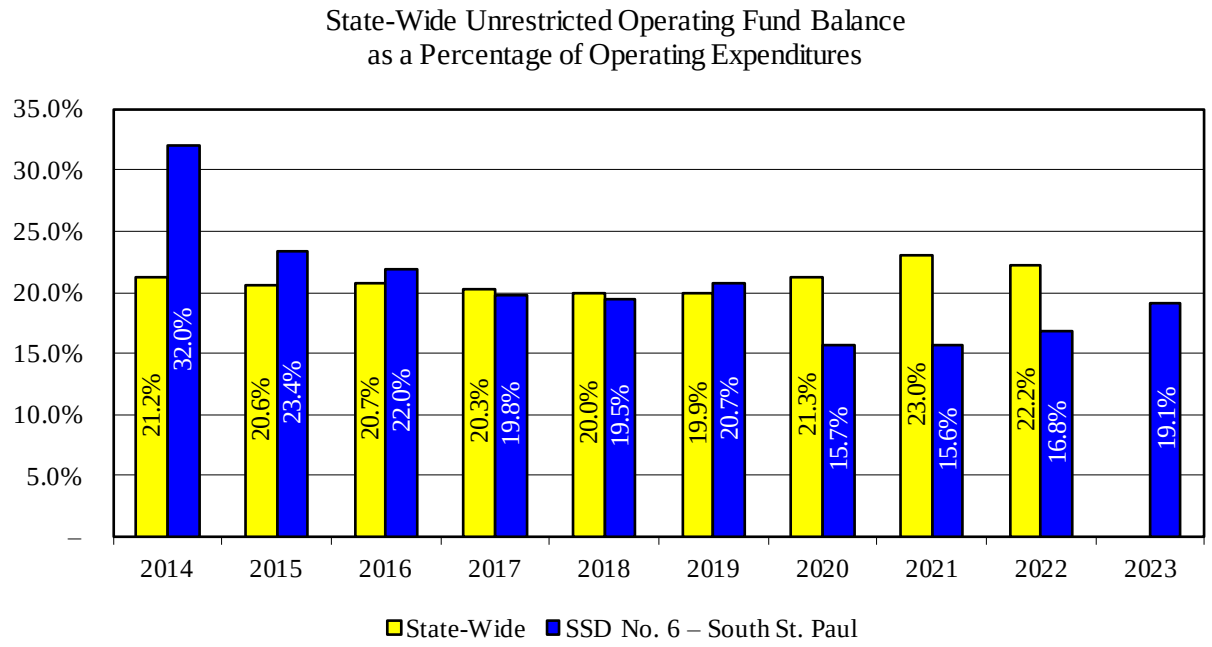
The table below presents a summary of the formula allowance for the past decade and as approved for the next two fiscal years. The 2023 Legislature approved per pupil increases of $275 for fiscal 2024 and $143 for fiscal 2025. The amount of the formula allowance and the percentage change from year-to-year excludes temporary funding changes, the "roll-in" of aids that were previously funded separately, and changes that may vary dependent on actions taken by individual districts. The $529 increase in 2015 was offset by changes to pupil weightings and the general education aid formula that resulted in an increase equivalent to approximately $105, or 2.00 percent, state-wide.

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,	Formula Allowance	
	Amount	Percent Increase
2014	$ 5,302	1.50 %
2015	$ 5,831	2.00 %
2016	$ 5,948	2.00 %
2017	$ 6,067	2.00 %
2018	$ 6,188	2.00 %
2019	$ 6,312	2.00 %
2020	$ 6,438	2.00 %
2021	$ 6,567	2.00 %
2022	$ 6,728	2.45 %
2023	$ 6,863	2.00 %
2024	$ 7,138	4.00 %
2025	$ 7,281	2.00 %

For fiscal 2026 and beyond, the actual increase will be equal to the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U), with a floor of 2 percent and a cap of 3 percent. CPI-U is determined based upon the prior two fourth-quarter totals. The inclusion of inflationary increases to this formula does not prevent future legislative increases from being approved.

STATE-WIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL HEALTH

One of the most common and comparable statistics used to evaluate school district financial health is the unrestricted operating fund balance as a percentage of operating expenditures.



Note: State-wide information is not available for fiscal 2023.

The calculation above reflects only the unrestricted fund balance of the General Fund, and the corresponding expenditures, which is the same method the state uses for the calculation of statutory operating debt. We have also included the comparable percentages for your district.

The average unrestricted fund balance as a percentage of operating expenditures maintained by Minnesota school districts decreased gradually from 21.2 percent at the end of fiscal 2014 to 19.9 percent at the end of fiscal 2019, a period of relative stability in the state's economic condition and school funding. This ratio began rising again during the fiscal years impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing to 23.0 percent at the end of fiscal 2021. In 2022 the state-wide ratio decreased to 22.2 percent as districts returned to more traditional learning models and program operations with the relaxation of pandemic restrictions.

The District's unrestricted operating fund balance as a percentage of operating expenditures was 19.1 percent at the end of the current year, as compared to 16.8 percent at June 30, 2022.

Having an appropriate fund balance is an important factor in assessing the District's financial health because a government, like any organization, requires a certain amount of equity to operate. It is important to review fund balance levels on an ongoing basis to ensure a sufficient equity reserve is available to support programs and cash flow of the District.

The table below shows a comparison of governmental fund revenue per ADM received by Minnesota school districts and your district. Revenues for all governmental funds are included, except for the Capital Projects – Building Construction and Post-Employment Benefits Debt Service Funds. Other financing sources, such as proceeds from sales of capital assets, insurance recoveries, bond sales, loans, and interfund transfers, are also excluded.

Governmental Funds Revenue per Student (ADM) Served

	State-Wide		Metro Area		SSD No. 6 – South St. Paul		
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2023
General Fund							
Property taxes	$ 2,576	$ 2,645	$ 3,411	$ 3,506	$ 2,330	$ 2,507	$ 2,659
Other local sources	438	571	323	446	284	328	519
State	10,514	10,504	10,517	10,536	10,901	10,861	11,420
Federal	992	1,335	956	1,397	695	1,400	1,323
Total General Fund	14,520	15,055	15,207	15,885	14,210	15,096	15,921
Special revenue funds							
Food Service	576	803	568	770	436	779	704
Community Service	612	731	684	836	607	762	805
Debt Service Fund	1,512	1,508	1,549	1,537	698	970	1,062
Total revenue	$ 17,220	$ 18,097	$ 18,008	$ 19,028	$ 15,951	$ 17,607	$ 18,492
ADM served per MDE School District Profiles Report (current year estimated)					3,126	3,094	2,973

Note: Excludes the Capital Projects – Building Construction and Post-Employment Benefits Debt Service Funds.

Source of state-wide and metro area data: School District Profiles Report published by the MDE

ADM used in the table above is based on enrollments consistent with those used in the MDE School District Profiles Report, which include extended time ADM, and may differ from ADM reported in other tables. Changes in enrollment also impact comparisons in the table above and on the next page when revenue and expenditures are based on fixed costs, such as debt levies and principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness.

The mix of local and state revenues vary from year-to-year, primarily based on funding formulas and the state's financial condition. The mix of revenue components from district to district varies, due to factors such as the strength of property values, mix of property types, operating and bond referendums, enrollment trends, density of population, types of programs offered, and countless other criteria.

The District's revenues per ADM have been below both the metro area and state-wide averages in recent years.

The District earned $54,975,063 in the governmental funds reflected above in fiscal 2023, an increase of $498,739 (0.9 percent) from the prior year. Total revenue per ADM served increased by $885 (5.0 percent) per student, with declining enrollment. Property taxes were up as approved with the annual levy process. Other local sources increased over the prior year, largely due to more investment earnings. State sources were up with the increase in the basic formula allowance as discussed earlier, along more state compensatory funding, and improved funding for state special education. Federal sources in the General Fund were down with less pandemic-related funding entitlements recognized in the current year. Food service revenues were down with the end of the federal program providing free meals for all students in the current year. Increased programming and participation contributed to the per student revenue increase in the Community Service Special Revenue Fund. Debt Service Fund revenue per capita was up in the current year, due to a planned increase in the regular debt service levy.

The following table reflects similar comparative data available from the MDE for all governmental fund expenditures, excluding the Capital Projects – Building Construction and Post-Employment Benefits Debt Service Funds. Other financing uses, such as bond refundings and transfers, are also excluded.

Governmental Funds Expenditures per Student (ADM) Served

	State-Wide		Metro Area		SSD No. 6 – South St. Paul		
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2023
General Fund							
Administration and district support	$ 1,184	$ 1,249	$ 1,205	$ 1,300	$ 1,076	$ 1,288	$ 1,317
Elementary and secondary regular instruction	6,198	6,494	6,527	6,838	6,307	6,564	6,711
Vocational education instruction	197	210	179	191	53	58	67
Special education instruction	2,626	2,724	2,792	2,883	2,775	2,804	3,128
Instructional support services	812	816	917	939	1,204	1,120	1,135
Pupil support services	1,228	1,429	1,285	1,558	842	1,043	1,137
Sites, buildings, and other	1,083	1,113	1,052	1,076	1,373	1,432	1,547
Total General Fund – noncapital	13,328	14,035	13,957	14,785	13,630	14,309	15,042
General Fund capital expenditures	793	876	815	897	529	429	401
Total General Fund	14,121	14,911	14,772	15,682	14,159	14,738	15,443
Special revenue funds							
Food Service	532	670	522	659	479	683	689
Community Service	610	689	682	774	546	689	745
Debt Service Fund	1,576	1,599	1,609	1,561	772	1,000	1,052
Total expenditures	$16,839	$17,869	$17,585	$18,676	$15,956	$17,110	$17,929
ADM served per MDE School District Profiles Report (current year estimated)					3,126	3,094	2,973

Note: Excludes the Capital Projects – Building Construction and Post-Employment Benefits Debt Service Funds.

Source of state-wide and metro area data: School District Profiles Report published by the MDE

Expenditure patterns also vary from district to district for various reasons. Factors affecting the comparison include the growth cycle or maturity of the District, average employee experience, availability of funding, population density, and even methods of allocating costs.

The District's expenditures per ADM have also been below the averages presented above in recent years.

The District spent $53,303,077 in the governmental funds reflected above in fiscal 2023, an increase of $362,919 (0.7 percent) from the prior year. On a per student basis, this represents an increase of $819 (4.8 percent) with declining enrollment. General Fund expenditures increased $705 per student. The largest per ADM increases were in special education instruction ($324) and elementary and secondary regular instruction ($147). Food Service Special Revenue Fund spending per ADM was similar to the prior year, while Community Service Special Revenue Fund was up with more programming and participation as previously discussed. Debt Service Fund spending per student was also up in the current year, as supported by the increase in the related debt levy and investment earnings in the fund.

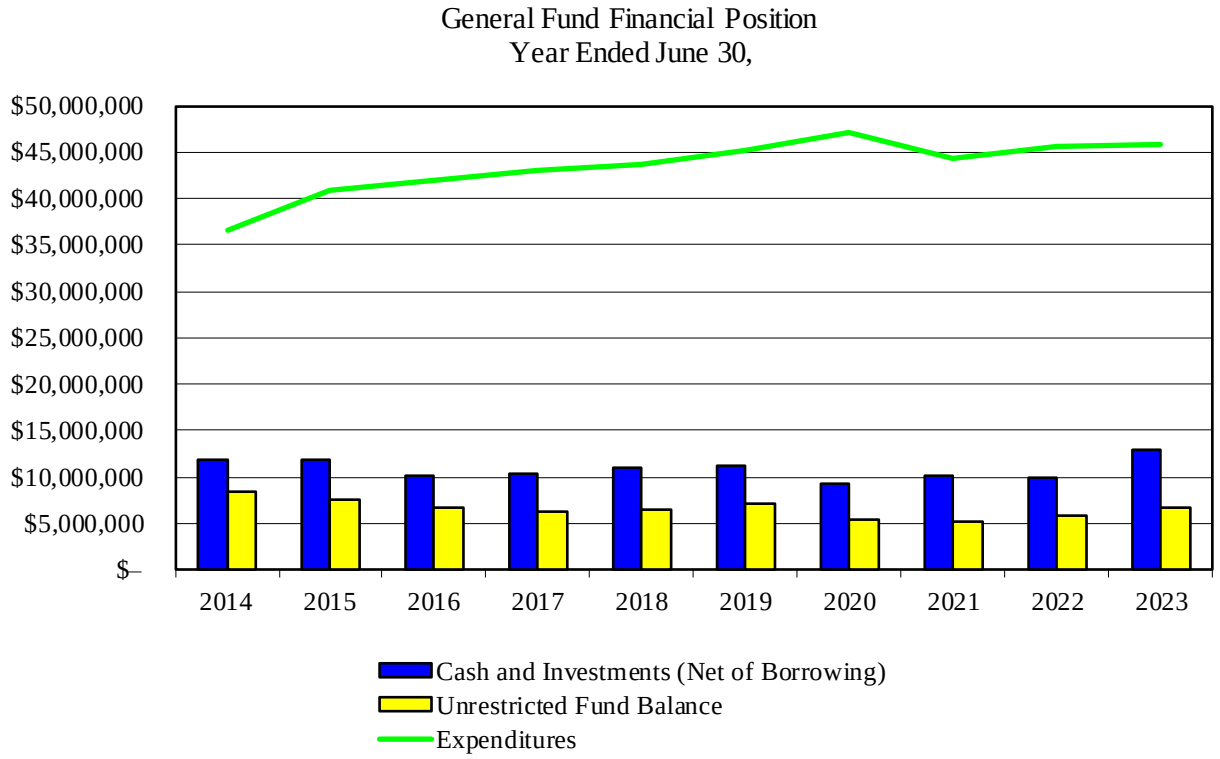
SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic caused numerous financial and operational challenges for districts in recent years; creating instability in student populations, requiring numerous shifts in the delivery of educational services, and resulting in substantial new and unfamiliar federal revenue streams, to name a few. Challenges remain, with tight labor markets, inflationary increases, and the end of many federal pandemic-related funding programs. District school boards, administrators, and employees continue to manage these issues, as districts strive to provide a safe and effective learning experience for their students.

FINANCIAL TRENDS OF YOUR DISTRICT

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL POSITION

The following graph displays the District's General Fund trends of financial position and changes in the volume of financial activity. Unrestricted fund balance and cash balance are two indicators of financial health, while annual expenditures are often used to measure the size of the operation.



The District ended fiscal year 2023 with a General Fund cash and investments balance of $12,888,468 (net of borrowing), an increase of $2,972,810 from the previous year. Unrestricted fund balance (consisting of any assigned and unassigned fund balances) at year-end totaled $6,681,736, an increase of $803,669. Total fund balance of the General Fund increased by $1,420,874, compared to an increase of $359,465 approved in the final budget.

GENERAL FUND COMPONENTS OF FUND BALANCE

The following table presents the components of the General Fund balance for the past five years:

	June 30,				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Restricted fund balances (1)	$ 1,288,366	$ 505,727	$ 870,719	$ 2,390,529	$ 3,007,734
Unrestricted fund balances					
Assigned	2,669,807	2,213,778	1,345,563	1,047,952	1,814,872
Unassigned	4,433,711	3,258,226	3,924,141	4,830,115	4,866,864
Total fund balances	$ 8,391,884	$ 5,977,731	$ 6,140,423	$ 8,268,596	$ 9,689,470
Unrestricted fund balances as a percentage of total expenditures	15.7%	11.6%	11.9%	12.9%	14.6%
Unassigned fund balances as a percentage of total expenditures	9.8%	6.9%	8.9%	10.6%	10.6%

(1) Includes deficits in restricted fund balance accounts allowed to accumulate deficits under UFARS, which are part of unassigned fund balance on the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America-based financial statements.

The table above reflects the total General Fund unrestricted fund balance and percentages, which differs from those used in the previous discussion of state-wide fund balances, which are based on a state formula.

The resources represented by this fund balance are critical to a district's ability to maintain adequate cash flow throughout the year, to retain its programs, and to cushion against the impact of unexpected costs or funding shortfalls.

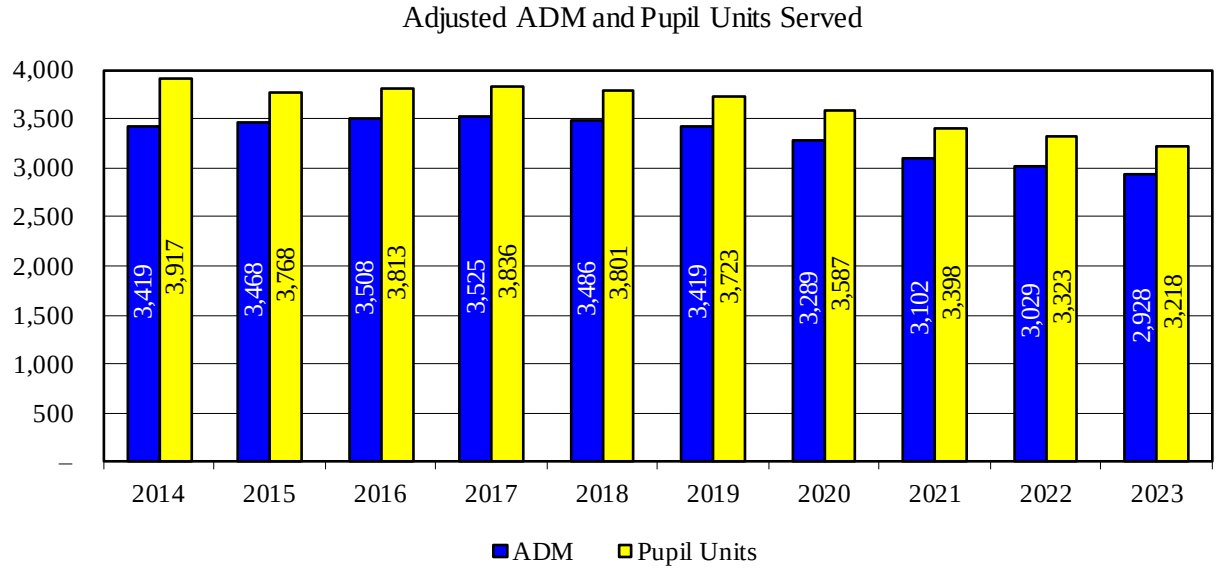
Minimum Fund Balance Policy

The School Board has formally adopted a fund balance policy regarding the minimum unassigned fund balance for the General Fund. The policy establishes that the District will strive to maintain a minimum unassigned General Fund balance of 8.0 percent of the annual budget.

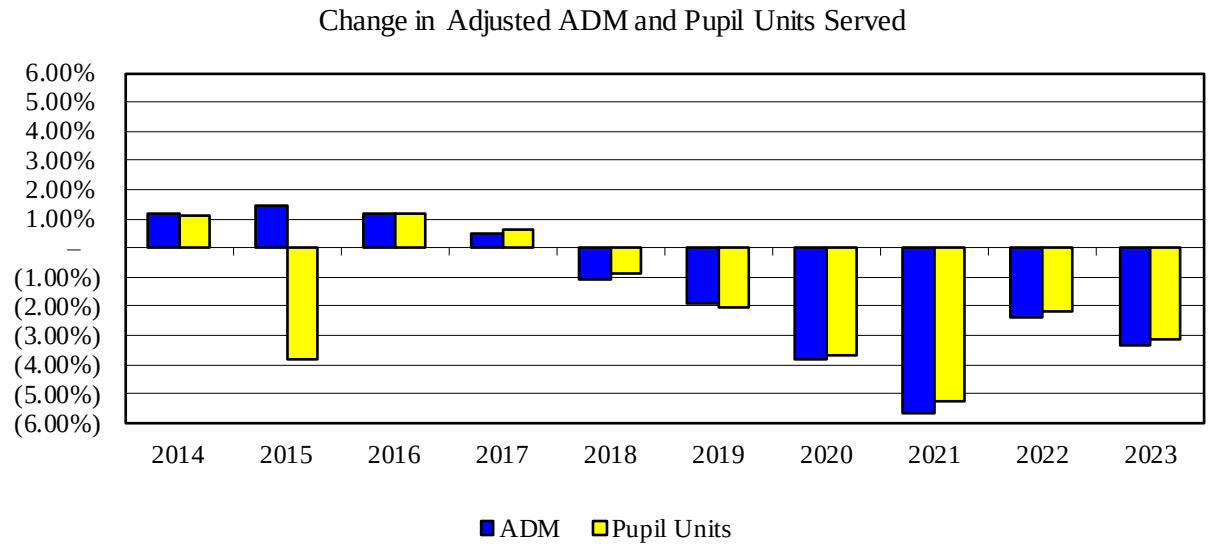
At June 30, 2023, unrestricted fund balance in the General Fund represented 14.6 percent of annual expenditures, or less than 8 weeks of operations, assuming level spending throughout the year.

AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP AND PUPIL UNITS

The following graph presents the District's ADM and resulting pupil units served for the past 10 years:



The following graph shows the rate of change in ADM served by the District from year-to-year, along with the change in the resulting pupil units:



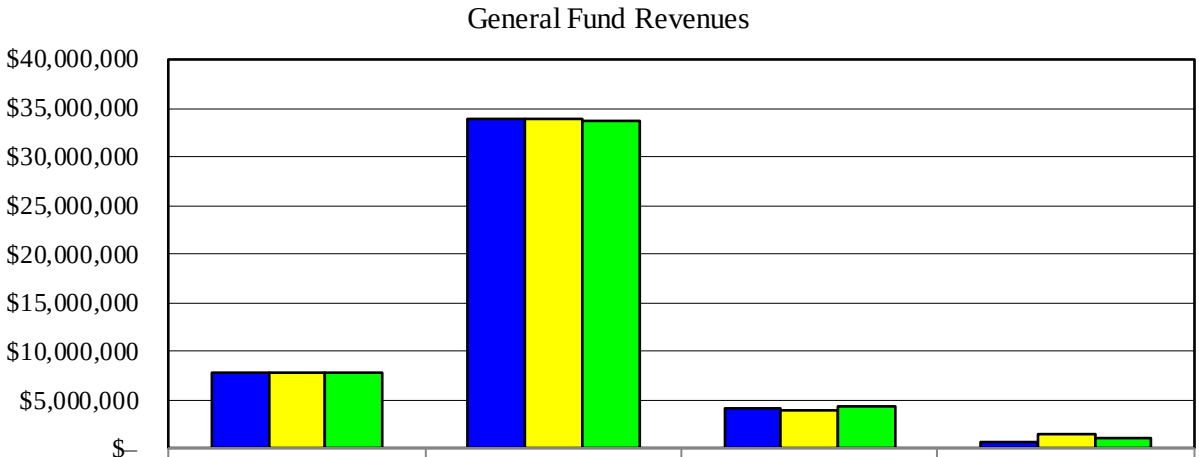
Note: The change in pupil units for 2015 includes the effect of legislative reductions to pupil units.

ADM is a measure of students attending class, which is then converted to pupil units (the base for determining revenue) using a statutory formula. Not only is the original budget based on ADM estimates, the final audited financial statements are based on updated, but still estimated ADM, since the counts are not finalized until around January of the following year. When viewing revenue budget variances, one needs to consider these ADM changes, the impact of the prior year final adjustments, which affect this year's revenue, and also the final adjustments caused by open enrollment gains and losses.

The District served an estimated ADM of 2,928 in 2023, a decrease of 101 ADM, or 3.3 percent, from the prior year. The number of pupil units served by the District for fiscal 2023 was 3,218, a decrease of 105 (3.2 percent) from the prior year.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

The following graph presents the District's General Fund revenues for 2023:



	Property Taxes	State Sources	Federal Sources	Other
Budget	$7,713,579	$33,895,157	$4,166,381	$720,332
Actual	$7,905,472	$33,952,732	$3,931,927	$1,542,717
Prior Year	$7,756,124	$33,603,981	$4,330,057	$1,014,983

Total General Fund revenues were $47,332,848 for the year ended June 30, 2023, which was $837,399 (1.8 percent) over the final budget, and $627,703 (1.3 percent) more than the prior year.

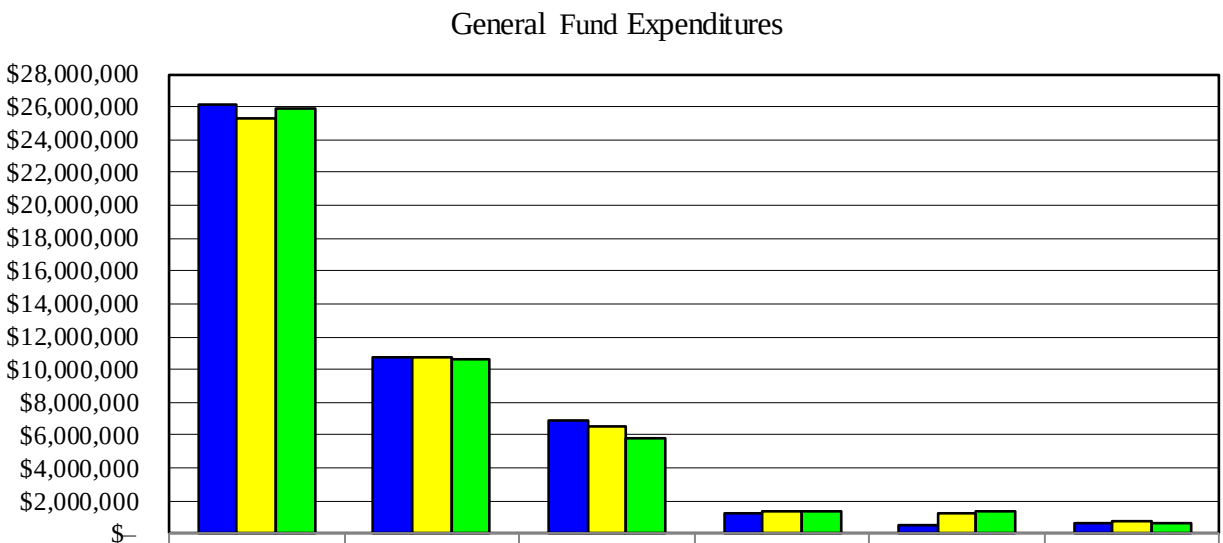
Conservative budgeting practices contributed to the favorable revenue variances in property taxes ($191,893), state sources ($57,575), and other sources ($822,385). Other sources include investment earnings, which was over budget due to improved investment returns, which was not anticipated in the final budget. Federal sources, were $234,454 under budget, as the District did not spend its full entitlements in the current year that will carry over for use in fiscal 2024.

The District experienced increases over the prior year in the same sources that were over budget. Property taxes were up with the approved levy. State sources increased with improved funding for basic general education, compensatory, and special education funding. Other sources were up with the improved investment earnings generated for the District. Federal sources were less than the prior year with the District utilizing more pandemic-related education stabilization funds in the prior year.

The graph above reflects the concentration of state sources (71.7 percent), and property taxes (16.7 percent) that provide the majority of the revenue available to finance General Fund operations.

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

The following graph presents the District's General Fund expenditures for 2023:



	Salaries	Employee Benefits	Purchased Services	Supplies and Materials	Capital Expenditures	Other Expenditures
Budget	$26,131,526	$10,757,563	$6,852,515	$1,299,125	$512,537	$582,718
Actual	$25,331,902	$10,759,868	$6,514,848	$1,407,196	$1,190,701	$707,459
Prior Year	$25,900,719	$10,597,185	$5,790,238	$1,378,746	$1,328,830	$608,502

Total General Fund expenditures were $45,911,974 for the year ended June 30, 2023, which was $224,010 (0.5 percent) under the final budget and $307,754 (0.7 percent) more than the prior year.

Salary and employee benefits, which account for 78.6 percent of General Fund spending, were $406,134 (1.1 percent) less than the prior year and $797,319 (2.2 percent) under budget, mainly due to difficulty filling open positions and declining enrollment.

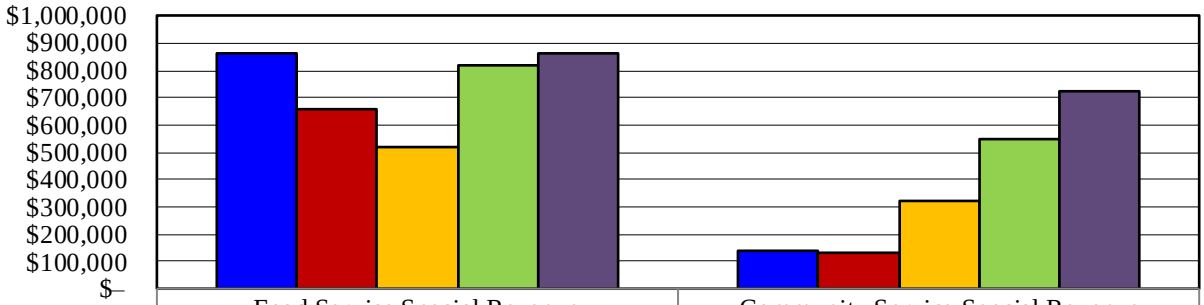
As presented in the graph above, expenditures variances to budget were both favorable and unfavorable, and spread across all district programs. Spending in excess of budget for supplies and materials, capital, and other expenditures was offset by savings in salaries and purchased services. General Fund spending was close in total to budgeted appropriations.

The largest changes from the prior year occurred with an increase in purchased services in special education and pupil support services, partially offset by the decrease in personnel costs previously discussed.

OTHER FUNDS OF THE DISTRICT

The following graph shows what is referred to as the other operating funds. The remaining nonoperating funds are only included in narrative form below, since their level of fund balance can fluctuate significantly, due to such things as issuing and spending the proceeds of refunding or building bonds and, therefore, the trend of fund balance levels is not necessarily a key indicator of financial health. It does not mean that these funds cannot experience financial trouble or that their fund balances are unimportant.

Other Operating Funds
Total Fund Balances



	Food Service Special Revenue	Community Service Special Revenue
2019	$860,324	$140,440
2020	$657,171	$134,009
2021	$523,334	$321,789
2022	$822,309	$549,213
2023	$864,943	$728,068

Food Service Special Revenue Fund

The District's Food Service Special Revenue Fund ended the year with an increase in fund balance of $42,634 in 2023, compared to a budgeted decrease of $7,536. Revenues were $244,606 over budget, while expenditures were over budget by $194,436. The Food Service Special Revenue Fund had a year-end fund balance of $864,943, representing 42.2 percent of annual expenditures, totaling $2,048,968. Participation levels were difficult to anticipate with funding changes financing school lunch programs, contributing to the variances in revenues and expenditures compared to budget.

This operation has maintained a healthy fund balance for several years and has also been able to assist in funding a portion of several capital improvements to food service facilities in recent years. The District should continue reviewing upcoming capital needs of the operation and incorporate that information in establishing an optimal level of fund balance that is also within state and federal fund balance limits.

Community Service Special Revenue Fund

The District's Community Service Special Revenue Fund ended the year with an increase in fund balance of $178,855, compared to a budgeted increase of $209,400. Revenues were $286,600 over budget, while expenditures were over budget by $317,145. The Community Service Special Revenue Fund had a year-end fund balance of $728,068, representing 32.9 percent of annual expenditures, totaling $2,214,159. Program participation was greater than anticipated causing revenues and expenditures to exceed budget.

The Community Service Special Revenue Fund, like the Food Service Special Revenue Fund, needs to be self-sustaining. In addition to cost controls, financial analysis of the costs of providing programs, including overhead, is important. Fees and tuition charges should be sufficient to cover these costs, as well as potential funding shortfalls from state, federal, or property tax sources.

Debt Service Fund

The funding of debt service is controlled in accordance with each outstanding debt issue's financing plan. It is important to remember that resources of the Debt Service Fund are restricted to the payment of outstanding debt obligations of the District. As of June 30, 2023, the District has $841,031 available for the payment of debt. During fiscal 2023, the District issued bonds, which were used to refund outstanding debt in advance of their original due date, in order to reduce future debt levies for district taxpayers.

Internal Service Funds

Dental Self-Insurance

The District established an internal service fund to account for the District's self-insured dental plan. As of June 30, 2023, net position totaled $281,907, an increase of $40,151 over the prior year.

Medical Self-Insurance

The District established an internal service fund to account for the District's self-insured medical plan. As of June 30, 2023, net position totaled $9,027,756, an increase of $1,634,150 over the prior year.

Other Post-Employment Benefits

In fiscal year 2010, the District established an internal service fund to finance the costs of retiree health OPEB as they accrue. The proceeds of the District's $5.4 million OPEB bonds were contributed into this fund from the District's governmental funds. The assets in this fund are being held in a revocable trust account the District established to finance its OPEB liabilities, and can only be used to pay OPEB costs. However, because the District elected to make the trust revocable (meaning that under certain specific and very restrictive circumstances, the District may take the assets back out of the trust and use them for other purposes), these assets must be accounted for in the internal service funds, which are included in the District's government-wide financial statements.

The District's Other Post-Employment Benefits Internal Service Fund ended the year with cash and investments of $4,717,877 available to pay future OPEB benefits. Net position improved from the prior year deficit balance of $4,918,299, to a net position deficit of $4,381,554 at the end of the current year. This is an increase of $536,745 from current year activity.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The District's financial statements include fund-based information that focuses on budgetary compliance, and the sufficiency of the District's current assets to finance its current liabilities. The governmental reporting model also requires the inclusion of two government-wide financial statements designed to present a clear picture of the District as a single, unified entity. These government-wide financial statements provide information on the total cost of delivering educational services, including capital assets and long-term liabilities.

Theoretically, net position represents district resources available for providing services after its debts are settled. However, those resources are not always in expendable form, or there may be restrictions on how some of those resources can be used. Therefore, this statement divides net position into three components: net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted. The following table presents a summarized reconciliation of the District's governmental fund balances to net position, and the separate components of net position for the last two years:

	June 30,		
	2023	2022	Change
Net position – governmental activities			
Total fund balances – governmental funds	$ 12,123,512	$ 10,376,339	$ 1,747,173
Total capital assets, net of depreciation/amortization	39,692,675	40,748,697	(1,056,022)
Bonds payable and certificates of participation (including unamortized premium)	(27,601,718)	(30,103,561)	2,501,843
Financed purchase payable	(85,201)	(169,446)	84,245
Pension adjustments	(32,535,078)	(41,292,982)	8,757,904
Other adjustments	4,331,749	2,113,999	2,217,750
Total net position – governmental activities	$ (4,074,061)	$(18,326,954)	$ 14,252,893
Net position			
Net investment in capital assets	$ 12,090,957	$ 10,645,136	$ 1,445,821
Restricted	4,990,571	4,022,170	968,401
Unrestricted	(21,155,589)	(32,994,260)	11,838,671
Total net position	$ (4,074,061)	$(18,326,954)	$ 14,252,893

Some of the District's fund balances translate into restricted net position by virtue of external restrictions (statutory restrictions) or by the nature of the fund they are in (e.g., Food Service Special Revenue Fund balance can only be spent for food service program costs). The unrestricted net position category consists mainly of the General Fund unrestricted fund balances, offset against noncapital long-term obligations, such as vacation payable, net pension, and net OPEB liabilities.

Total net position increased by $14,252,893 over fiscal year 2022. This variance includes an increase of $111,265 for the change in accounting principle, as previously discussed. The District's net investment in capital assets increased $1,445,821 this year. The change in this category of net position typically depends on the relationship between the rate at which the District is adding additional capital assets, the rate capital assets are being depreciated and amortized, and how that compares to the rate at which the District is repaying the debt issued to purchase or construct those assets.

The restricted portion of the District's net position increased in amounts restricted for capital asset acquisition, debt service, food service, community service, and for other state funding restrictions. The change in unrestricted net position includes changes in the District's proportionate share of the Public Employees Retirement Association and the Teachers Retirement Association pension plan liabilities and related deferments. The improved financial position of the General Fund and internal service funds overall also contributed to the increase in unrestricted net position.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING UPDATES

The following is a summary of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards expected to be implemented in the next few years.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 100, *ACCOUNTING CHANGES AND ERROR CORRECTIONS—AN AMENDMENT OF GASB STATEMENT NO. 62*

The primary objective of this statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability.

The requirements of this statement will improve the clarity of the accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections, which will result in greater consistency in application in practice. In turn, more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information will be provided to financial statement users for making decisions or assessing accountability. In addition, the display and note disclosure requirements will result in more consistent, decision useful, understandable, and comprehensive information for users about accounting changes and error corrections.

The requirements of this statement are effective for accounting changes and error corrections made in fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 101, *COMPENSATED ABSENCES*

The objective of this statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures.

This statement requires that liabilities for compensated absences be recognized for (1) leave that has not been used and (2) leave that has been used, but not yet paid in cash, or settled through noncash means. A liability should be recognized for leave that has not been used if (a) the leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates, and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. Leave is attributable to services already rendered when an employee has performed the services required to earn the leave. Leave that accumulates is carried forward from the reporting period in which it is earned to a future reporting period during which it may be used for time off or otherwise paid or settled.

This statement requires that a liability for certain types of compensated absences—including parental leave, military leave, and jury duty leave—not be recognized until the leave commences. This statement also requires that a liability for specific types of compensated absences not be recognized until the leave is used. This statement also establishes guidance for measuring a liability for leave that has not been used, generally using an employee's pay rate as of the date of the financial statements. A liability for leave that has been used, but not yet paid or settled, should be measured at the amount of the cash payment or noncash settlement to be made. Certain salary-related payments that are directly and incrementally associated with payments for leave also should be included in the measurement of the liabilities.

With respect to financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus, this statement requires that expenditures be recognized for the amount that normally would be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

The requirements of this statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

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