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September 25, 2018

Management and the Board of Education
Southgate Community School District
14600 Dix Toledo Road
Southgate, MI 48195

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Southgate Community School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2018, and have issued our report dated September 25, 2018. 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 Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter dated May 21, 2018. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the School District are described in Note 1 of the financial statements. The School District has adopted the new Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements as noted in the notes to the financial statements, effective July 1, 2017.

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

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 Southgate Community School District's financial statements were:

- The useful lives of its capital assets. Useful lives are estimated based on the expected length of time during which the asset is able to deliver a given level of service.
- Net pension liability, and related deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources. The estimate is based on an actuarial report.
- Net OPEB liability, and related deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources. The estimate is based on an actuarial report.
- Management's estimate of the accrued compensated absences is based on current hourly rates and policies regarding payment of sick and vacation banks.

- Management's estimate of the District Wide liability for the Center Program settlement is based on the current calculation formula provided by WRESA.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole and free from bias.

Disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear.

Accounting Standards and Regulatory Updates

Accounting Standards

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has released the following Statements:

Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* establishes criteria for determining the timing and pattern of recognition of a liability and a corresponding deferred outflow of resources for asset retirement obligations (AROs). An ARO is a legally enforceable liability associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. The requirements of this Statement are effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities* improves the guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported. The criteria generally is on (1) is the government controlling the assets of the fiduciary activity and (2) the beneficiaries with whom a fiduciary relationship exists. The four fiduciary funds that should be reported, if applicable are: (1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, (2) investment trust funds, (3) private-purpose trust funds, and (4) custodial funds. Custodial funds generally will report fiduciary activities that are not held in a trust or similar arrangement that meets specific criteria. The requirements of this Statement are effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Statement No. 87, *Leases* increases the usefulness of the School District's financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. A lessee will be required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use a lease asset, and a lessor will be required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about the School District's leasing activities. The requirements of this Statement are effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Statement No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements* improves the information that is disclosed in notes to the School District's financial statements related to debt, including direct borrowings and direct placements. It also clarifies which liabilities districts should include when disclosing information related to debt. It requires that additional essential information related to debt be disclosed in notes to financial statements, including unused lines of credit; assets pledged as collateral for the debt; and terms specified in debt agreements related to significant events of default with finance-related consequences, significant termination events with finance-related consequences, and significant subjective acceleration clauses. It will also require that existing and additional information be provided for direct borrowings and direct placements of debt separately from other debt. The requirements of this Statement are effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period* enhances the relevance and comparability of information about capital assets and the cost of borrowing for a reporting period and to simplify accounting for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period. It requires that interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period be recognized as an expense in the period in which the cost is incurred for financial statements prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. As a result, interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period will not be included in the historical cost of a capital asset reporting in a business-type activity or enterprise fund. Interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period should be recognized as an expenditure for financial statements prepared using the current

financial resources measurement. The requirements of this Statement are effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

The School District is evaluating the impact the above pronouncements will have on its financial reporting.

Regulatory and Other Updates

Cybersecurity Posture

Cybersecurity posture, an overall measure of cybersecurity strength, is more prevalent than ever as organizations continue to face cybersecurity risks. Billions of emails are sent every day, some of which contain attachments with malicious files or malicious embedded links aimed at negatively impacting unsuspecting organizations. A recent study showed as many as four out of five U.S. companies have suffered from an attack. Not only can a successful attack cost thousands of dollars and put a strain on IT resources while remediation efforts are underway, but sensitive information may be breached.

Risk assessment is a first step in mitigating cybersecurity risks and improving your School District's overall cybersecurity posture. The National Institute of Standards and Technology published *Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity*, which "enables organizations, regardless of size, degree of cybersecurity risk, or cybersecurity sophistication, to apply the principles and best practices of risk management to improving the security and resilience of critical infrastructure." The framework is designed to cover five areas including identification, protection, detection, responsiveness and recovery. The publication can be found at www.nist.gov.

Placing significant emphasis on evaluating your School District's cybersecurity posture, and channeling sufficient resources towards proper risk assessment, implementation, and education will reduce the likelihood of a cybersecurity threat, and help lessen the impact of a breach.

Uniform Guidance – Implementation of Federal Grant Procurement Standards

In May 2017, the federal government granted an additional one-year delay for implementation of the procurement standards under the Uniform Guidance. The grace period then extended through December 25, 2017. Therefore entities with fiscal years beginning on or after December 26, 2017 must have procurement standards, for federal expenditures, that meet the more stringent requirements of 2 CFR 200.317 to 326. For school districts, it will apply to fiscal year 2019 and therefore, must be in place starting July 1, 2018. It is imperative that your procurement policies – whatever they are documented as – be followed. The Uniform Guidance and the old guidance in the OMB Circulars provide minimum requirements that must be covered by an entity's procurement policies. If an entity's policies are stricter than the federal rules, the entity policies still must be followed. As you adopt new procurement policies, we also recommend that you consider separate policies for federal and non-federal expenditures to ease the administrative burden of certain federal requirements.

Michigan Department of Education has put out sample procedures covering all the required items, including procurement, on their website.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 School Aid

The School Aid budget for FY 2019 was signed in June, 2018. Following are some significant highlights of the bill:

- The per pupil Foundation Grants for FY 2019 will increase by a range of \$120 to \$240 using the "2X formula." The increase will be added to the FY 2018 foundation grant resulting in the lowest foundation for FY 2018 being \$7,871 and the maximum state guaranteed foundation being \$8,409.
- The Pupil Membership Blend will remain at 90% of the current school year October count and 10% of the prior school year February count.
- The Section 31a At-Risk funding is maintained at \$499,000,000. Eligibility expanded to include grades K-12, from K-3, and shall use resources to address early literacy and numeracy through an evidence-based framework that uses data-driven problem solving through a multi-tiered system of supports. Adds language that for schools in which more than 40% of pupils are identified as At-Risk, a district may use the funds it receives to implement schoolwide reforms that are guided by the district's comprehensive

needs assessment and are included in the district improvement plan. Allows for up to 5% to be used for professional development.

- The per pupil funding under Section 20f will be equal to the per pupil funding in 2017-18.
- A New Section 31m has been created as a separate account to improve mental health and support services for K-12 pupils. A deposit of \$30 million has been allocated for this purpose.
- A new Section 54d appropriates \$5 million in grant funds for intermediate districts to provide pilot programs for children from birth to 3 years of age with developmental disability and/or delay.
- Section 147c has a MPSERS rate cap funding set at \$1.03 billion, which is an increase of \$72 million. The rate cap is estimated at \$690 per pupil.
- Section 147e includes \$37.6 million allocated as a direct reimbursement for additional retirement costs for specific qualified participants due to PA 92 of 2017.

Budget Assumptions & Early Warning

Each school district that has a General Fund balance less than 5% of total unrestricted general revenue for either of the 2015-2016 or 2016-2017 school fiscal years is required to submit budget assumptions to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI).

Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act (UBAA)

The UBAA establishes budget and accounting requirements for local governments and school districts, including public school academies. It also establishes oversight requirements for MDE as well as the Michigan Attorney General. Material violations of the UBAA, including but not limited to General Fund deficits, should be reported as financial statement findings in the audit report. UBAA states that if it becomes apparent during the year that the probable revenues will be less than the budgeted revenues, the fiscal officer shall present recommendations to the legislative body which, if fiscal adopted, would prevent expenditures from exceeding available revenues for the fiscal year. UBAA states that an officer of the School District shall not incur expenditures against an appropriation account in excess of the amount appropriated by the board. Noncompliance includes, but is not limited to, over-expending the budget authorized by the board. MDE is analyzing the General Fund only, and at the total revenues, expenditures and financing sources (uses) levels, rather than at the line item level. MDE has stated a 0% tolerance for UBAA noncompliance.

Current Operating Expenditures (COE) for UAAL

Effective for the plan year ended September 30, 2019, the percentage change in Current Operating Expenditures (COE) from one year to the next will be used to adjust the payroll on which the UAAL rate is charged. FY 2017 (September) reported payroll will be adjusted by the percent change in COE from 2016 to 2017 to establish the FY19 adjusted payroll. The capped UAAL rate of 20.96% continues to be used in the calculation. ORS has put examples on their website to walk the School District through the calculation.

- UAAL contributions will no longer be calculated on member wages reported throughout the FY.
- This did not affect the 2018 fiscal year, but will impact the 2019 fiscal year.
- The FY 2019 payment process for contributions will be spread out over all Employer Statements in State FY 2019 (October 2018 through September 2019).

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 that the auditor accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those the auditor believes to be trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures that were more than trivial.

There were no uncorrected misstatements that were more than trivial.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report we had no disagreements with management during the audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated as of the date of the audit report.

Management's Consultations with Other 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 School 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 School 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.

Emphasis of Matters in Independent Auditors' Report

Our report will include the following emphasis of matter paragraph:

Adoption of New Accounting Standards

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, during the year ended June 30, 2018, the School District adopted GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Reports

Other information that is required to be reported to you is included in the: Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*; Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program; Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Compliance; Independent Auditors' Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance; and the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. Please read all information included in those reports to ensure you are aware of relevant information.

Report on Required Supplementary Information

With respect to the required supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, which includes management's discussion and analysis, schedule of the school district's proportionate share of the net pension liability, schedule of the school district's pension contributions, schedule of the school district's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability, schedule of the school district's OPEB contributions, and budgetary comparison information, we 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 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.

Report on Other Supplementary Information

With respect to the other supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, 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 discussed these matters with various personnel in the School District during the audit and we would also be pleased to meet with you to discuss these matters at your convenience, if you request.

Restriction on Use

These communications are intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Education, and others within the School District, and are not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than those specified parties.

Yeo & Yeo, P.C.

Ann Arbor, Michigan