

October 7, 2022

Management and the Board of Education  
Berkley School District  
Oak Park, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and aggregate remaining fund information of Berkley School District (the School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022. We are required to communicate certain matters to you in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards that are related to internal control and the audit.

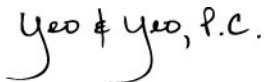
Our communication includes the following appendices:

- I. Auditors' Communication of Significant Matters with Those Charged with Governance
- II. Matters for Management's Consideration

Matters for management's consideration are not required to be communicated but we believe are valuable for management.

We discussed these matters with various personnel in the School District during the audit including management. We would also be pleased to meet with you to discuss these matters at your convenience.

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



Auburn Hills, Michigan

## Appendix I

### Auditors' Communication of Significant Matters with Those Charged with Governance

Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *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 in our engagement letter dated June 1, 2022. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### Significant Audit Matters

##### 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 the footnotes of the financial statements. The School District has adopted the following Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements effective July 1, 2021:

- Statement No. 87, *Leases* increases the usefulness of the 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 leasing activities.
- Statement No. 99, *2022 Omnibus* enhances comparability in accounting and financial reporting and improves the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees.

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 statements 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 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 other postemployment (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 probability of meeting time restrictions for compensated absences and severance pay, which is based on the probability that a staff member will meet certain time requirements of working in the District.

We have 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.

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

A significant risk is an identified and assessed risk of material misstatement that, in the auditors' professional judgment, requires special audit consideration. Within our audit, we focused on the following areas.

- Management override of controls
- Improper revenue recognition
- Implementation of new accounting standard
- Compensation absences valuation

## **Additional Information**

### 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. 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. Additionally, cyber insurance coverage may be difficult or costly to obtain without adequate safeguards in place within your organization.

Risk assessment is a first step in mitigating cybersecurity risks and improving your organization'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](http://www.nist.gov).

Once you have performed a risk assessment, it's time to take action. A few simple solutions that are recommended to prevent cyber-attacks include:

- **Document your program** – Identify specific roles and responsibilities as well as adopting security policies and procedures for your organization to follow, is generally a good practice to have guidelines to follow in the event of an attack. Annually, risks should be reassessed, and the program should be modified to address any identified risks.
- **Offsite back up location** – Frequent data backups are a good safeguard; but if your entire network is compromised, restoring a backup saved to the network, becomes problematic. Routinely backing up data and storing offsite, allows for your organization to get back up and running as quickly as possible, if your network is attacked.
- **Require routine password changes** – Frequently, people have a bad habit of using the same password for multiple applications. Inevitably, at some point that password will likely be compromised in one of those applications. Requiring users to change their password routinely, reduces the risk of your system being accessed with a compromised password. Requiring a complex password to be of a certain length and contain a mixture of character types, reduces your risk even further.
- **Utilizing multifactor authentication (MFA)** – knowing that people may use the same password to access multiple applications, this extra security layer makes it more difficult for attackers to gain access to your system. Microsoft claims that MFA can block over 99.9 percent of account compromise attacks.
- **Provide cybersecurity training** – Security awareness training provides a human firewall to protect your system. Training sessions and automated simulated attacks are utilized to help train people on how to spot phishing email attacks. Yeo & Yeo is able to provide security training to your employees.

Placing significant emphasis on evaluating your organization'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.

### **Accounting Standards**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has released additional Statements. Details regarding these Statements are described in the footnotes of the financial statements.

### **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. There were no known misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures that were more than trivial.

There were no known uncorrected misstatements that were more than trivial.

### **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 auditors' 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 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 auditors' 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.

### **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**

We applied certain limited procedures to management's discussion and analysis and the remaining required supplementary information (RSI) as described in the table of contents of the financial statements that supplements 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.

## **Report on Other Supplementary Information**

We were engaged to report on other supplementary information as described in the table of contents of the financial statements, which accompany the financial statements but 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.

## **Appendix II**

### **Matters for Management's Consideration**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Berkley School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, we considered the School District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control.

However, during our audit we became aware of the following matter for management's that is an opportunity for improving compliance. This letter does not affect our report dated October 7, 2022, on the financial statements of Berkley School District.

#### **Sinking Fund Expenditures**

During the preliminary audit work it was found that the purchase of equipment was charged to the Sinking Fund which is not allowable. A journal entry was posted by the client before the end of the year to move these expenses out of the Sinking Fund. The auditor recommends purchases are reviewed to ensure they are in compliance with the Sinking Fund before being posted.