

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #423  
HUTCHINSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MANAGEMENT LETTER

JUNE 30, 2014

Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing, PLLP  
Certified Public Accountants  
Litchfield, Minnesota

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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #423

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Quality | Dedication | Integrity

To The Board of Education  
Independent School District #423  
Hutchinson, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Independent School District #423 for the year ended June 30, 2014. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB Circular A-133, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated September 16, 2014. 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 District are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during fiscal year 2014. 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 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:

- Due from Other Minnesota School Districts
- Due from State Department of Education
- Due from Federal Department of Education
- Estimated useful lives of depreciable capital assets

Management's estimate of Due from Other Minnesota School Districts is based on amounts that have been billed to other school districts under the excess special education cost tuition billing system. The District has made a good faith effort to accurately calculate such amounts billed but until the resident school district has an opportunity to review such underlying details as membership days, disability codes, and rates it will not be known whether such amounts will be collected or not. Management expects any difference between amounts billed and amounts ultimately collected will be insignificant.

Management's estimate of Due from State Department of Education is based on amounts anticipated to be received from the state for various aid entitlements for fiscal 2013-14. The most significant of these is the aid portion of general education revenue. 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 statewide 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 fiscal year 2014 is not finalized until well into fiscal year 2015. Management expects any differences between estimated and actual data will be insignificant.

Management's estimate of Due from Federal Department of Education is based on amounts anticipated to be received through the state for various federal aid entitlements for fiscal 2013-14. Many federal entitlements require that supporting financial reporting information be provided by the UFARS accounting system, SERVS and the EDRS reporting system. To the extent that these three separate systems are not in agreement and reported in a timely manner, the estimated aid entitlement may be adversely affected. Management expects any differences between estimated and actual data will be insignificant.

Management's estimate of useful lives for depreciable assets is based on guidance recommended by the Minnesota Department of Education and other sources. The useful life of a depreciable asset determines the amount of depreciation that will be recorded in any given reporting period as well as the amount of accumulated depreciation that is reported at the end of a reporting period.

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

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. The material misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management.

#### *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 November 10, 2014.

#### *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 and the Schedules of Funding Progress and Employer Contributions as listed in the table of contents, which are required supplementary information 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 required supplementary information and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the required supplementary information.

We were engaged to report on the statements and schedules listed in the table of contents as supplementary information, which accompany the financial statements but are not required supplementary information. 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 Elected Officials and Personnel page, which accompany the financial statements but are not required supplementary information. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Education and management of Independent School District #423 and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing, PLLP*

CONWAY, DEUTH & SCHMIESING, PLLP  
Certified Public Accountants  
Litchfield, Minnesota

November 10, 2014

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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #423

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS ON ACCOUNTING ISSUES AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

We noted certain matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider being deficiencies in internal control under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis.

INTERNAL CONTROL

The objective of internal accounting control is to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance as to the safeguarding of assets against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and the reliability of financial records for preparing financial statements and maintaining accountability for assets. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that the cost of a system of internal accounting control should not exceed the benefits derived and also recognizes that the valuation of these factors necessarily requires estimates and judgments by management.

It should be recognized that within the District, an inherent risk is present with certain positions. It is very common for districts such as Independent School District #423, Hutchinson, Minnesota, to assign many major responsibilities to a few key individuals in an attempt to operate within limited budgets. The audit did not raise any specific concerns with any position. The inherent risk is again addressed only to maintain the awareness of the internal control structure and to encourage the Board's continual review of financial information at monthly meetings.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Throughout the course of the audit, we spoke to management regarding certain items that we see as an opportunity to improve. None of these were considered significant within the scope of the audit. The items discussed requiring action have been resolved or are in the process of resolution.

The following item is an area of concern, which should be addressed:

HEALTH & FLEX INTERNAL SERVICE FUND

The District changed from a self-insured health insurance plan to a commercial plan during the year ended June 30, 2009. The Health & Flex Service Fund accounted for the transactions of the self-insured plan and remained open during 2009 and 2010 to settle lag claims. Since this plan is no longer in place, we recommend the Board of Education close the fund unless a conversion back to a self-insured plan is expected in the near future.

UPCOMING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD STATEMENT NO. 68

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 68, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans - an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 25*, which revises and establishes new financial reporting requirements for governments that provide pension benefits to its employees and retirees. The implementation of this Statement will lead to significant financial accounting and reporting changes for the District's pension expense and related liability. The Statement will require the District to recognize, as a liability on its government-wide financial statements, its long-term obligation for pension benefits. The Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014.

We recommend that management of the District begin the process of evaluating the impact of implementation of this standard. Changes will be necessary to your financial records and will benefit the District to begin this process now. If requested, Conway, Deuth and Schmiesing, PLLP will assist in the implementation. These services will be billed separate from, and in addition to, your annual audit engagement fees. Please contact us with any questions.