

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

AUDIT COMMUNICATIONS

JUNE 30, 2021

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I. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH  
GOVERNANCE

September 30, 2021

Board of Education of Talbot County, Maryland  
Easton, Maryland

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Board of Education of Talbot County, Maryland for the year ended June 30, 2021. 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 letter to you dated May 17, 2021. 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 Board of Education of Talbot County, Maryland are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. During fiscal year 2021, the Board adopted new accounting guidance from the Government Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*. Accordingly, as discussed in Note 12, the cumulative effect of the accounting change is reported as a restatement of beginning of the year net position and fund balance. In addition, the Board no longer reports agency funds and the new classification of fiduciary custodial funds reports a beginning net position. We noted no transactions entered into by the Board 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 Board's financial statements were:

Management's estimate of depreciation expense is based upon the estimated useful life of the assets. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop depreciation expense in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statement taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the net OPEB (other postemployment benefits) liability and related deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB expense which is recorded on the government-wide statements is based on an actuarial study performed by a third party. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the accrual/expense in determining that it is reasonable in relationship to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the net pension liability and related deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and pension expense which is recorded on the government-wide statements is based on an actuarial study performed by a third party. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the accrual, deferred outflows/inflows, and expense in determining that it is reasonable in relationship to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements were:

The disclosure of pensions in Note 7 to the financial statements describes the Board's pension plans, pension liabilities, pension expense, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions as well as the significant assumptions used in the actuarial valuation.

The disclosure of other post-employment benefits ("OPEB") in Note 9 to the financial statements describes the Board's defined benefit healthcare plan, net OPEB liability, OPEB expense, deferred outflows or resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to other post-employment benefits as well as the significant assumptions used in the actuarial valuation.

The disclosure in Note 12 to the financial statements which discusses the implementation of GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*.

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 determined their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. 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 Representation*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 30, 2021.

### *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 Board'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 Auditing 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 Board'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, schedule of revenues, expenditures and encumbrances budget and actual – general fund, schedule of revenues, expenditures and encumbrances budget and actual – restricted grants fund, schedule of changes in the Board's net OPEB liability and related ratios, schedule of investment returns, schedule of the Board's proportionate share of the net pension liability, and the schedule of contributions; which are required supplementary information (RSI) 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.

We were engaged to report on the additional supplementary information, which accompanies 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.

### Restriction on Use

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TGM Group LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TGM Group LLC

## II. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Herbert J. Geary III  
Roy J. Geiser  
Chris A. Hall  
Ronald W. Hickman  
Mark A. Welsh



September 30, 2021

Board of Education of Talbot County, Maryland  
Easton, Maryland

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board of Education of Talbot County, Maryland as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Board's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances 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 Board's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control.

However, during our audit we became aware of deficiencies in internal control other than significant deficiencies and material weaknesses and matters that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. The memorandum that accompanies this letter summarizes our comments and suggestions regarding those matters. We previously communicated to you about the Board's internal control in our letter dated September 30, 2021. This letter does not affect our report dated September 30, 2021 on the financial statements of the Board of Education of Talbot County, Maryland.

We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed many of these comments and suggestions with various Board personnel, and we will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations.

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

We wish to thank the employees of the Board of Education of Talbot County, Maryland for the assistance and cooperation provided us during our engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'TGM Group LLC'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Salisbury, Maryland

## **On the Horizon - Implementation of New Accounting Principles**

### **Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 87, Leases**

In June 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 87, *Leases*. The requirements for this statement are now effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021. The objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting for leases. This Statement increases the usefulness of governmental entity financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that were previously classified as operating leases. 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. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governmental entity leasing activities.

For lessees, the liability will be reduced as payments are made and the asset will be amortized over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset. The notes to the financial statements for lessees will need to include a description of the leasing arrangements, the amount of the lease assets recognized, and a schedule of future lease payments. For lessors, the lease receivable will be reduced and an inflow of resources (revenue) from the deferred inflow of resources recognized in a systematic and rational manner over the term of the lease. The notes to the financial statements for lessors should include a description of leasing arrangements and the total amount of inflows of resources recognized from leases.

At the beginning of the period of implementation, leases should be recognized and measured using the facts and circumstances that exist at that time. Short-term leases with contracts of 12 months or less, including options to extend, are excluded.