



**Powers &
Sullivan, LLC**
CPAs AND ADVISORS

***MANCHESTER ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT***

MANAGEMENT LETTER

JUNE 30, 2023



Powers & Sullivan, LLC
CPAs AND ADVISORS

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To the Honorable School Committee
Manchester Essex Regional School District
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts 01944

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the Manchester Essex Regional School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Manchester Essex Regional School District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's internal control.

However, during our audit we became aware of other matters that we believe represent opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. The memorandum that accompanies this letter summarizes our comments and suggestions concerning those matters.

We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed these comments and suggestions with various District personnel and 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.

The District's written response to the matters identified in our audit has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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

Powers & Sullivan, LLC

February 15, 2024

MANCHESTER ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT LETTER

JUNE 30, 2023

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Reassess Organizational Structure/Roles and Responsibilities

Prior Year Comment

We believe that the District should assess the current roles and responsibilities in the business office and consider adding a payroll and purchasing clerk position to the organizational structure. The existing financial data analyst position would perform most accounting functions under the direction of Director of Finance and Operations as well as oversee a payroll and purchasing clerk that would have primary responsibility for processing payroll. This organizational structure would bring the accounting staff in line with similar sized school Districts and would increase the controls over the District's accounting functions. The additional position would also give the finance department the ability to implement its formal monthly and year-end closing process more consistently, which would allow for a timelier closing process. This would also help to facilitate a timelier filing of year-end reports with the Department of Revenue for certification of excess and deficiency, submission of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's End-of-Year Financial Report and completion of the District's annual financial statement audit.

Current Status

The District hired a payroll and purchasing clerk in fiscal 2023.

Consider Adopting Formal Financial Policies

Prior Year Comment

In the prior year, we indicated that the District has not adopted formal policies documenting the District's financial goals and objectives. For example, financial policies will establish benchmarks for excess and deficiency, fund balance levels, a long-term capital and debt plan, and other important financial indicators. Other policies that should be considered are purchase order requirements, and allowable use of District credit cards.

These policies and procedures will provide a framework for management to utilize when making important financial decisions.

Current Status

The School Committee's policy subcommittee is currently working on drafting financial policies.

Continuing Recommendation

We continue to recommend that the District document and adopt financial policies. Once adopted, the policies should be updated for any changes that are put into effect.

Management Response

The MERSD School Committee recently updated its financial policies to align with the most recent guidance from the MA Association of School Committees. Additionally, the School Committee's policy subcommittee has begun working on drafting a financial reserves policy.

Prepayment of Debt Service

Comment

The District has various debt issuances, of which principal and interest payments are appropriated each fiscal year to fund the payments. On June 29, 2023 (fiscal 2023), the District prepaid \$157,494 of debt interest that was due on July 15, 2023 (fiscal 2024). Since the fiscal 2024 appropriation is not effective until July 1, 2023, there was no appropriation available in fiscal 2023 to fund this prepayment.

Prepaying expenditures without a valid appropriation will result in a reduction of the District's excess and deficiency. This could be problematic for the District if excess and deficiency is being planned for a specific purpose or if it is needed for an unanticipated event and becomes unavailable due to prepayment.

Recommendation

We recommend that the District implement procedures to ensure that debt payments are paid in accordance with the required debt schedules and that payments are made in the proper fiscal period.

Management Response

The incoming Director of Finance & Operations will review existing debt payment systems and protocols and implement revised procedures to ensure debt payments are made in the appropriate fiscal period.



**Powers &
Sullivan, LLC**
CPAs AND ADVISORS

***MANCHESTER ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT***

***REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

MANCHESTER ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2023

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Honorable School Committee
Manchester Essex Regional School District
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts 01944

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Manchester Essex Regional School District (District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have 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 about 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 do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 15, 2024, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ponce & Allen, LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

February 15, 2024

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Management's Discussion and Analysis

As management of the Manchester Essex Regional School District (District), we offer readers of these basic financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities for the year ended June 30, 2023. The District complies with financial reporting requirements issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the authoritative standard setting body that provides guidance on how to prepare financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Users of these financial statements (such as investors and rating agencies) rely on the GASB to establish consistent reporting standards for all governments in the United States. This consistent application is the only way users (including citizens, the media, legislators and others) can assess the financial condition of one government compared to others.

Overview of the Basic Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to the Manchester Essex Regional School District's basic financial statements. These basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This approach focuses on both the District as a whole (government-wide) and the fund financial statements. The government-wide financial statements provide both long-term and short-term information about the District as a whole. The fund financial statements focus on the individual parts of the District's operations, reporting the District's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements. Both presentations (government-wide and fund) allow the user to address relevant questions, broaden the basis of comparison and enhance the District's accountability. An additional part of the basic financial statements are the notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-wide financial statements. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of finances, in a manner similar to private-sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows of resources, with the difference reported as *net position*. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, *regardless of the timing of related cash flows*. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future periods (e.g., uncollected revenues and earned but unused vacation leave).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions that are principally supported by member town assessments and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*). The governmental activities include administration, instructional services, other student services, operations and maintenance, employee benefits and other fixed charges, school construction assistance, programs with other school districts, interest and depreciation.

Fund financial statements. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Fund accounting is used to ensure and

demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and fiduciary funds.

Governmental funds. *Governmental funds* are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund statements focus on *near-term inflows of spendable resources*, as well as on *balances of spendable resources* available at the end of the year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

The Manchester Essex Regional School District adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general fund. A budgetary comparison schedule has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Fiduciary funds. Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are *not* reflected in the government-wide financial statement because the resources of those funds are *not* available to support the District's own programs.

Notes to the basic financial statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain *required supplementary information* concerning the District's budgetary basis of accounting, pension and other postemployment benefits.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

Net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. For the governmental activities, the Manchester Essex Regional School District's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$11.7 million at the close of 2023.

Net position of \$38.0 million reflects its net investment in capital assets (e.g., buildings, vehicles, equipment and textbooks), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The District uses these capital assets to provide services to pupils; consequently, these assets are *not* available for future spending. Although the investment in its capital assets is reported net of its related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

Restricted net position of \$1.0 million represents the unexpended balances of state and federal grants and gifts.

The remaining balance of unrestricted net position reports a deficit balance totaling \$27.3 million that is due to the recognition of a \$23.4 million net other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability and a \$6.9 million net pension liability.

The following table reflects the key elements of net position:

	2023	2022
Assets:		
Current assets.....	\$ 8,542,979	\$ 9,951,455
Capital assets, nondepreciable.....	163,809	64,049
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation....	83,121,926	84,834,281
Total assets.....	91,828,714	94,849,785
Deferred outflows of resources.....	1,766,444	2,117,536
Liabilities:		
Current liabilities (excluding debt).....	2,245,475	3,174,212
Noncurrent liabilities (excluding debt).....	30,759,686	28,102,068
Current debt.....	4,046,480	4,283,123
Noncurrent debt.....	42,251,628	44,998,108
Total liabilities.....	79,303,269	80,557,511
Deferred inflows of resources.....	2,580,112	5,825,879
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets.....	37,979,721	36,910,335
Restricted.....	1,015,426	652,311
Unrestricted.....	(27,283,370)	(26,976,715)
Total net position.....	\$ 11,711,777	\$ 10,585,931
Program Revenues:		
Charges for services.....	\$ 1,160,203	\$ 920,017
Operating grants and contributions.....	6,057,842	5,803,565
Capital grants and contributions.....	202,345	1,555,988
General Revenues:		
Member town assessments.....	29,478,692	28,542,350
Unrestricted investment income.....	201,185	18,379
Nonrestricted grants.....	3,986,637	3,725,810
Total revenues.....	41,086,904	40,566,109
Expenses:		
Administration.....	1,131,672	983,309
Instructional services.....	18,190,885	18,148,546
Other student services.....	2,872,076	2,883,306
Operations and maintenance.....	2,105,744	2,209,862
Employee benefits and other fixed charges.....	9,309,660	8,186,213
Programs with other districts.....	2,307,275	1,567,833
Interest.....	1,430,548	1,563,754
Depreciation.....	2,613,198	1,954,140
Total expenses.....	39,961,058	37,496,963
Change in net position.....	1,125,846	3,069,146
Net position, beginning of year.....	10,585,931	7,516,785
Net position, end of year.....	\$ 11,711,777	\$ 10,585,931

Governmental activities increased the District's net position by \$1.1 million. This increase is primarily related to the recognition of \$202,000 of capital grants for school construction assistance, a 359,000 increase in the nonmajor governmental funds due to expected timing differences between the receipt and expenditure of grant funds, the amortization of \$333,000 of premiums from the issuance of bonds, and a \$229,000 increase from the change in the net pension and net OPEB liabilities and the related deferred inflows/outflows of resources.

Total expenses increased by \$2.5 million (7%) during the year. This increase was primarily due to a \$1.1 million increase in employee benefits and other fixed charges that mainly relates to the increase in on-behalf payments made by the Commonwealth for teachers' retirement benefits. Additionally, expenditures related to programs with other districts increased by \$739,000 and depreciation expense increased by \$659,000.

The District contributed \$579,000 to the other postemployment benefits (OPEB) trust fund in 2023 to fund future health care costs. The balance in this fund at the close of 2023 was \$4.9 million.

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

As noted earlier, the District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental funds. The focus of *governmental funds* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing financing requirements. In particular, *unassigned fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the year.

As of the end of the current year, governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$5.8 million, a decrease of \$573,000 from the prior year.

The general fund is the chief operating fund. At the end of the current year, unassigned fund balance of the general fund was \$1.7 million while total fund balance was \$2.4 million. Restricted fund balance totaled \$118,000 and is restricted for debt service. Committed fund balance totaled \$98,000 and relates to the capital stabilization fund. Assignments of fund balance for encumbrances and subsequent years' expenditures totaled \$237,000 and \$287,000 respectively. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents 5% of total general fund expenditures while total fund balance represents 7% of that same amount.

The general fund decreased by \$280,000 in 2023. The decrease is primarily due to a decrease in the capital stabilization fund of \$290,000.

The school choice fund accounts for the activities related to the state's school choice program. These funds are available for expenditure by the School Committee without further appropriation. At the end of the current year, the fund balance totaled \$1.5 million.

The Memorial School construction fund is used to account for expenditures related to the elementary school building project. The District recorded expenditures of \$825,000 and recognized MSBA revenue of \$202,000, resulting in a fund balance deficit of \$104,000 at year-end.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

The District has \$45.0 million in long-term debt outstanding at year-end, which is related to the Middle/High School construction project and the Memorial School construction project.

The District has been approved for a \$12.3 million capital grant from the Commonwealth school building assistance program for the Memorial School construction project. Under this program, assistance is paid to support construction costs and reduce the total debt service of the District. Through the end of 2023, the District has received \$11.7 million of capital grant reimbursements from the MSBA, which is equal to approximately 36% of approved construction costs submitted for reimbursement. The District anticipates receiving an additional \$203,000 of grant proceeds in 2024, which has been recognized as a receivable as of June 30, 2023.

Capital asset additions totaled \$1.0 million, the majority of which relates to the Memorial School construction project and a new turf field.

Please refer to notes 4, 6 and 7 for more information on capital and debt activity.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Business Manager, Manchester Essex Regional School District, 36 Lincoln Street, Manchester, MA 01944.

Basic Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023

	<i>Primary Government</i>
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS	
CURRENT:	
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 6,644,118
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:	
Intergovernmental.....	1,741,367
Prepaid expense.....	<u>157,494</u>
Total current assets.....	<u>8,542,979</u>
NONCURRENT:	
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation:	
Nondepreciable.....	163,809
Depreciable.....	<u>83,121,926</u>
Total noncurrent assets.....	<u>83,285,735</u>
TOTAL ASSETS.....	<u>91,828,714</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred outflows related to pensions.....	1,367,604
Deferred outflows related to other postemployment benefits....	<u>398,840</u>
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES.....	<u>1,766,444</u>
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT:	
Warrants payable.....	1,178,639
Accrued payroll.....	16,709
Accrued interest.....	733,255
Other liabilities.....	286,872
Compensated absences.....	30,000
Notes payable.....	1,300,000
Bonds payable.....	<u>2,746,480</u>
Total current liabilities.....	<u>6,291,955</u>
NONCURRENT:	
Compensated absences.....	428,424
Net other postemployment benefits liability.....	23,396,040
Net pension liability.....	6,935,222
Bonds payable.....	<u>42,251,628</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities.....	<u>73,011,314</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	<u>79,303,269</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred inflows related to pensions.....	325,297
Deferred inflows related to other postemployment benefits.....	<u>2,254,815</u>
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES.....	<u>2,580,112</u>
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets.....	37,979,721
Restricted for:	
Gifts and grants.....	1,015,426
Unrestricted.....	<u>(27,283,370)</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION.....	<u>\$ 11,711,777</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Program Revenues					
<u>Functions/Programs</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Capital Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Net (Expense) Revenue</u>	
Primary Government:						
<i>Governmental Activities:</i>						
Administration.....	\$ 1,131,672	\$ 224,994	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (906,678)	
Instructional services.....	18,190,885	238,266	527,085	-	(17,425,534)	
Other student services.....	2,872,076	696,943	515,955	-	(1,659,178)	
Operations and maintenance.....	2,105,744	-	173,462	-	(1,932,282)	
Employee benefits and other fixed charges..	9,309,660	-	4,075,128	-	(5,234,532)	
School construction assistance.....	-	-	-	202,345	202,345	
Programs with other districts.....	2,307,275	-	766,212	-	(1,541,063)	
Interest.....	1,430,548	-	-	-	(1,430,548)	
Depreciation.....	2,613,198	-	-	-	(2,613,198)	
Total Governmental Activities.....	\$ 39,961,058	\$ 1,160,203	\$ 6,057,842	\$ 202,345	\$ (32,540,668)	

See notes to basic financial statements.

(Continued)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	<u>Primary Government</u>
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Changes in net position:	
Net (expense) revenue from previous page.....	\$ <u>(32,540,668)</u>
<i>General revenues:</i>	
Member town assessments.....	29,478,692
Unrestricted investment income.....	201,185
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs.....	<u>3,986,637</u>
Total general revenues.....	<u>33,666,514</u>
Change in net position.....	1,125,846
<i>Net position:</i>	
Beginning of year.....	<u>10,585,931</u>
End of year.....	\$ <u><u>11,711,777</u></u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

(Concluded)

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
BALANCE SHEET**

JUNE 30, 2023

	General	School Choice Fund	Memorial School Construction	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 1,845,388	\$ 1,472,325	\$ 1,363,516	\$ 1,962,889	\$ 6,644,118
Receivables, net of uncollectibles:					
Intergovernmental.....	1,450,171	-	203,470	87,726	1,741,367
Prepaid expenditure.....	157,494	-	-	-	157,494
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$ 3,453,053	\$ 1,472,325	\$ 1,566,986	\$ 2,050,615	\$ 8,542,979
LIABILITIES					
Warrants payable.....	\$ 725,709	\$ 12,807	\$ 371,422	\$ 68,701	\$ 1,178,639
Accrued payroll.....	16,709	-	-	-	16,709
Other liabilities.....	286,872	-	-	-	286,872
Notes payable.....	-	-	1,300,000	-	1,300,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	1,029,290	12,807	1,671,422	68,701	2,782,220
FUND BALANCES					
Restricted.....	118,250	1,459,518	-	1,981,914	3,559,682
Committed.....	98,335	-	-	-	98,335
Assigned.....	524,554	-	-	-	524,554
Unassigned.....	1,682,624	-	(104,436)	-	1,578,188
TOTAL FUND BALANCES.....	2,423,763	1,459,518	(104,436)	1,981,914	5,760,759
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES.....	\$ 3,453,053	\$ 1,472,325	\$ 1,566,986	\$ 2,050,615	\$ 8,542,979

See notes to basic financial statements.

**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TOTAL FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

JUNE 30, 2023

Total governmental fund balances.....	\$ 5,760,759
Capital assets (net) used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.....	83,285,735
The statement of net position includes certain deferred inflows of resources and deferred outflows of resources that will be amortized over future periods. In governmental funds, these amounts are not deferred.....	(813,668)
In the statement of activities, interest is accrued on outstanding long-term debt, whereas in governmental funds interest is not reported until due.....	(733,255)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds:	
Bonds payable.....	(44,998,108)
Net pension liability.....	(6,935,222)
Net other postemployment benefits liability.....	(23,396,040)
Compensated absences.....	(458,424)
Net effect of reporting long-term liabilities.....	<u>(75,787,794)</u>
Net position of governmental activities.....	\$ <u>11,711,777</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	General	School Choice Fund	Memorial School Construction	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
Member town assessments.....	\$ 29,478,692	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,478,692
Intergovernmental.....	3,381,017	605,620	202,345	2,178,820	6,367,802
Intergovernmental - teachers' retirement.....	4,075,128	-	-	-	4,075,128
Departmental and other.....	73,308	-	-	861,901	935,209
Contributions.....	-	-	-	28,888	28,888
Investment income.....	201,168	-	-	17	201,185
TOTAL REVENUES.....	37,209,313	605,620	202,345	3,069,626	41,086,904
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
Salaries:					
Administration.....	812,064	-	-	-	812,064
Instructional services.....	16,197,834	-	-	762,933	16,960,767
Other student services.....	742,767	-	-	270,402	1,013,169
Operation and maintenance.....	273,541	-	-	15,146	288,687
Other operating expenditures:					
Administration.....	316,350	-	-	3,258	319,608
Instructional services.....	1,032,515	-	-	203,412	1,235,927
Other student services.....	951,691	63,675	-	843,541	1,858,907
Operations and maintenance.....	1,953,324	-	-	38,962	1,992,286
Employee benefits and other fixed charges.....	5,075,322	325,000	-	63,458	5,463,780
Pension benefits - teachers' retirement.....	4,075,128	-	-	-	4,075,128
Programs with other school districts.....	1,552,044	245,269	-	509,962	2,307,275
Capital outlay.....	-	-	825,374	-	825,374
Debt service:					
Maturing debt.....	2,650,000	-	-	-	2,650,000
Interest.....	1,856,596	-	-	-	1,856,596
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	37,489,176	633,944	825,374	2,711,074	41,659,568
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES.....	(279,863)	(28,324)	(623,029)	358,552	(572,664)
FUND BALANCES AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....	2,703,626	1,487,842	518,593	1,623,362	6,333,423
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR.....	\$ 2,423,763	\$ 1,459,518	\$ (104,436)	\$ 1,981,914	\$ 5,760,759

See notes to basic financial statements.

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds.....		\$ (572,664)
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.		
Capital outlay.....	1,000,603	
Depreciation expense.....	<u>(2,613,198)</u>	
Net effect of reporting capital assets.....		(1,612,595)
The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are unavailable and amortized in the Statement of Activities.		
Net amortization of premium from issuance of bonds.....	333,123	
Debt service principal payments.....	<u>2,650,000</u>	
Net effect of reporting long-term debt.....		2,983,123
Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.		
Net change in compensated absences accrual.....	5,809	
Net change in accrued interest on long-term debt.....	92,925	
Net change in deferred outflow/(inflow) of resources related to pensions.....	1,945,817	
Net change in net pension liability.....	(1,905,549)	
Net change in deferred outflow/(inflow) of resources related to other postemployment benefits...	946,858	
Net change in net other postemployment benefits liability.....	<u>(757,878)</u>	
Net effect of recording long-term liabilities.....		<u>327,982</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities.....		\$ <u><u>1,125,846</u></u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023

	Other Postemployment Benefit Trust Fund	Private Purpose Trust Funds
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 645,612	\$ 15,738
PRIT Investments.....	4,249,914	-
TOTAL ASSETS.....	4,895,526	15,738
NET POSITION		
Restricted for OPEB.....	4,895,526	-
Held in trust for other purposes.....	-	15,738
TOTAL NET POSITION.....	\$ 4,895,526	\$ 15,738

See notes to basic financial statements.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Other Postemployment Benefit Trust Fund	Private Purpose Trust Funds
ADDITIONS:		
Contributions:		
Employer contributions.....	\$ 578,666	\$ -
Employer contributions to pay benefit payments.....	1,049,326	-
Private donations.....	-	1,157
	<u>1,627,992</u>	<u>1,157</u>
Total contributions.....		
	<u>1,627,992</u>	<u>1,157</u>
Net investment income:		
Investment income.....	251,234	-
Less: investment expense.....	(20,452)	-
	<u>230,782</u>	<u>-</u>
Net investment income (loss).....		
	<u>230,782</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS.....	<u>1,858,774</u>	<u>1,157</u>
DEDUCTIONS:		
Benefit payments.....	1,049,326	-
Educational scholarships.....	-	2,350
	<u>1,049,326</u>	<u>2,350</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS.....		
	<u>1,049,326</u>	<u>2,350</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET POSITION.....	809,448	(1,193)
NET POSITION AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....	4,086,078	16,931
NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR.....	<u>\$ 4,895,526</u>	<u>\$ 15,738</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Manchester Essex Regional School District (District) have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the recognized standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The significant accounting policies are described herein.

A. Reporting Entity

The District was formed in 2001 under Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws that, by agreement, serves the Towns of Manchester-by-the-Sea and Essex (Member Towns). A seven-member School Committee governs the District, which consists of elected members from the Member Towns.

For financial reporting purposes, the District has included all funds, organizations, agencies, boards, commissions and institutions. The District has also considered all potential component units for which it is financially accountable as well as other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the District are such that exclusion would cause the basic financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. As required by GAAP, these basic financial statements present the District (the primary government) and its component units. The District has no component units that require inclusion in these basic financial statements.

B. Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements***Government-Wide Financial Statements***

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., statement of net position and statement of activities) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. *Governmental activities* are primarily supported by member town assessments and intergovernmental revenues.

Fund Financial Statements

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds even though fiduciary funds are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and displayed in a single column.

Major Fund Criteria

Major funds must be reported if the following criteria are met:

- If total assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of an individual governmental fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding element (assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows or resources, etc.) for all funds of that category, *and*
- If the total assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding element for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

Additionally, any other governmental fund that management believes is particularly significant to the basic financial statements may be reported as a major fund.

Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when the liabilities are incurred. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a particular function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment.

Other items not identifiable as program revenues are reported as general revenues.

The effect of interfund activity has been removed from the government-wide financial statements.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the flow of current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for unmatured interest on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences, claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with current expendable available resources.

Investment income is susceptible to accrual. Other receipts and revenues become measurable and available when the cash is received and are recognized as revenue at that time.

Entitlements and shared revenues are recorded at the time of receipt or earlier if the susceptible to accrual criteria is met. Expenditure driven grants recognize revenue when the qualifying expenditures are incurred and all other grant requirements are met.

The following major governmental funds are reported:

The *general fund* is the primary operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources, except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

The *school choice fund* is a special revenue fund used to account for activities related to the state's school choice program.

The *Memorial School construction fund* is a capital project fund used to account for the construction of the new Memorial elementary school.

The nonmajor governmental funds consist of other special revenue and capital projects funds that are aggregated and presented in the *nonmajor governmental funds* column on the governmental funds financial statements. The following describes the general use of these fund types:

The *special revenue fund* is used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than permanent funds or capital projects.

The *capital projects fund* is used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets of the governmental funds.

Fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and use the accrual basis of accounting. Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held in a trustee capacity for others that cannot be used to support the governmental programs.

The following fiduciary funds are reported:

The *other postemployment benefit trust fund* is used to accumulate resources to provide funding for future other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liabilities.

The *private purpose trust funds* are used to account for trust arrangements that exclusively benefit other individuals.

D. Cash and Investments

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition. Investments are carried at fair value.

E. Fair Value Measurements

The District reports required types of financial instruments in accordance with the fair value standards. These standards require an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs (such as quoted prices in active markets) and minimize the use of unobservable inputs (such as appraisals or valuation techniques) to determine fair value. Fair value standards also require the government to classify these financial instruments into a three-level hierarchy, based on the priority of inputs to the valuation technique or in accordance with net asset value practical expedient rules, which allow for either Level 2 or Level 3 depending on lock up and notice periods associated with the underlying funds.

Instruments measured and reported at fair value are classified and disclosed in one of the following categories:

Level 1 – Quoted prices are available in active markets for identical instruments as of the reporting date. Instruments, which are generally included in this category, include actively traded equity and debt securities, U.S. government obligations, and mutual funds with quoted market prices in active markets.

Level 2 – Pricing inputs are other than quoted in active markets, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date, and fair value is determined through the use of models or other valuation methodologies. Certain fixed income securities, primarily corporate bonds, are classified as Level 2 because fair values are estimated using pricing models, matrix pricing, or discounted cash flows.

Level 3 – Pricing inputs are unobservable for the instrument and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the instrument. The inputs into the determination of fair value require significant management judgment or estimation.

In some instances, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy and is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Market price is affected by a number of factors, including the type of instrument and the characteristics specific to the instrument. Instruments with readily available active quoted prices generally will have a higher degree of market price observability and a lesser degree of judgment used in measuring fair value. It is reasonably possible that change in values of these instruments will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect amounts reported in these financial statements. For more information on the fair value of the District's financial instruments, see Note 2 – Cash and Investments.

F. Accounts Receivable

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The recognition of revenue related to accounts receivable reported in the government-wide financial statements and fiduciary funds financial statements are reported under the accrual basis of accounting. The recognition of revenue related to accounts receivable reported in the governmental funds financial statements are reported under the modified accrual basis of accounting.

Intergovernmental

Various federal and state grants for operating and capital purposes are applied for and received annually. For non-expenditure driven grants, receivables are recorded as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. For expenditure driven grants, receivables are recorded when the qualifying expenditures are incurred, and all other grant requirements are met.

These receivables are considered 100% collectible and therefore do not report an allowance for uncollectibles.

G. Inventories

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Inventories are recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase. Such inventories are not material in total to the government-wide and fund financial statements, and therefore are not reported.

H. Capital Assets

Government-Wide Financial Statements

Capital assets, which include buildings and improvements, vehicles and equipment, text and library books, and modular classrooms, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost, or at estimated historical cost, if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets; donated works of art, historical treasures and similar assets; and capital assets received in service concession arrangements are recorded at acquisition value.

All purchases and construction costs in excess of \$10,000 are capitalized at the date of acquisition or construction, respectively, with expected useful lives of greater than one year.

Capital assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis. The estimated useful lives of capital assets are as follows:

<u>Capital Asset Type</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life (in years)</u>
Buildings and improvements.....	40
Vehicles and equipment.....	7 - 15
Text books and library books.....	3 - 10
Modular classrooms.....	10

The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the assets or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized and are treated as expenses when incurred. Improvements are capitalized.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

Capital asset costs are recorded as expenditures in the acquiring fund in the year of the purchase.

I. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

Government-Wide Financial Statements (Net Position)

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District reported deferred outflows of resources related to pensions and other postemployment benefits in this category.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District reported deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and other postemployment benefits in this category.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

In addition to liabilities, the governmental funds balance sheet will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents assets that have been recorded in the governmental fund financial statements but the revenue is not available and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until it becomes available. The District did not have any elements that qualified for reporting in this category.

J. Interfund Receivables and Payables

During the course of its operations, transactions occur between and within individual funds that may result in amounts owed between funds.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

Transactions of a buyer/seller nature between and within governmental funds are eliminated from the governmental activities in the statement of net position. Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities are reported in the statement of net position as “internal balances”.

Fund Financial Statements

Transactions of a buyer/seller nature between and within funds are *not* eliminated from the individual fund statements. Receivables and payables resulting from these transactions are classified as “Due from other funds” or “Due to other funds” on the balance sheet.

K. Interfund Transfers

During the course of its operations, resources are permanently reallocated between and within funds. These transactions are reported as transfers in and transfers out.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

Transfers between and within governmental funds are eliminated from the governmental activities in the statement of net position. Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities are reported in the statement of activities as “Transfers, net”.

Fund Financial Statements

Transfers between and within funds are *not* eliminated from the individual fund statements and are reported as transfers in and transfers out.

L. Net Position and Fund Equity*Government-Wide Financial Statements (Net Position)*

Net position reported as “Net investment in capital assets” includes capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, less the principal balance of outstanding debt used to acquire capital assets. Unspent proceeds of capital related debt are not considered to be capital assets.

Net position is reported as restricted when amounts are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for a specific future use.

Net position has been restricted for “gifts and grants” which represent assets that have restrictions placed on them from outside parties.

Sometimes the District will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted net position and unrestricted net position in the government-wide financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the District’s policy to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before unrestricted net position is applied.

Fund Financial Statements (Fund Balances)

Governmental fund balances are classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned based on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

The governmental fund balance classifications are as follows:

“Nonspendable” fund balance includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

“Restricted” fund balance includes amounts subject to constraints placed on the use of resources that are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or that are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

“Committed” fund balance includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the government’s highest level of decision-making authority.

“Assigned” fund balance includes amounts that are constrained by the District’s intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed.

“Unassigned” fund balance includes the residual classification for the general fund. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund.

The District’s spending policy is to spend restricted fund balance first, followed by committed (with the exception of the capital stabilization fund; which is appropriated on an as-needed basis), assigned and unassigned fund balance. Most governmental funds are designated for one purpose at the time of their creation. Therefore, any expenditure from the fund will be allocated to the applicable fund balance classifications in the order of the aforementioned spending policy. The general fund and certain other funds may have more than one purpose.

M. Investment Income

Investment income derived from major and nonmajor governmental funds is legally assigned to the general fund unless otherwise directed by Massachusetts General Law (MGL).

N. Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of both the Essex Regional Retirement System (ERRS) and the Massachusetts Teachers’ Retirement System (MTRS) and additions to/deductions from the Systems fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the Systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

O. Use of Estimates*Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements*

The preparation of basic financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure for contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the basic financial statements and the reported amounts of the revenues and expenditures/expenses during the year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.

P. Total Column*Government-Wide Financial Statements*

The total column presented on the government-wide financial statements represents consolidated financial information.

Fund Financial Statements

The total column on the fund financial statements is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column is not the equivalent of consolidated financial information.

Q. Individual Fund Deficits

A deficit exists within the Memorial School Construction Fund. This deficit will be funded by grant proceeds and bond proceeds in future years.

NOTE 2 – CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The District maintains a cash and investment pool that is available for use by all funds. Each fund type's portion of this pool is displayed on the balance sheet as "Cash and Cash Equivalents". The deposits and investments of the trust funds are held separately from those of other funds.

Statutes authorize the investment in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, agencies and instrumentalities, certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements, money market accounts, bank deposits and the State Treasurer's Investment Pool (Pool). The Treasurer may also invest trust funds in securities, other than mortgages or collateral loans, which are legal for the investment of funds of savings banks under the laws of the Commonwealth.

The Pool meets the criteria of an external investment pool. The Pool is administered by the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT), which was established by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth who serves as Trustee. The fair value of the position in the Pool is the same as the value of the Pool shares.

The OPEB trust fund is invested in the Pension Reserve Investment Trust (PRIT), which meets the criteria of an external investment pool. PRIT is administered by the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (PRIM), which was established by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who serves as a Trustee. The fair value of the position in the PRIT is the same as the value of the PRIT shares. The District does not have the ability to control any of the investment decisions relative to its funds in PRIT.

As of June 30, 2023, \$645,612 from the OPEB trust fund is included within the District's cash and cash equivalents balances and \$4,249,914 is invested in PRIT; which are included in the following disclosures.

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits

In the case of deposits, this is risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The District's policy for custodial credit risk allows deposits in excess of Federal Depository Insurance (FDIC). To mitigate the risk of uninsured deposits, the District requires banks to be SEC or state/federal bank regulated, of good reputation and have their long-term debt highly rated by national rating agencies. The District will also diversify its deposits by institution in order to minimize the impact of potential losses from any one institution. Collateralization will be required on certificates of deposit. In order to anticipate market changes and provide a level of security for all funds, the collateralization level will be (100%) market value of principal. At year-end, the carrying amount of deposits totaled \$3,083,382 and the bank balance totaled \$3,920,431. Of the bank balance, \$755,709 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance, \$757,213 was collateralized and \$2,407,509 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and uncollateralized.

Credit Risk

As of June 30, 2023, the District had \$4,249,914 in PRIT Investments and \$4,222,086 of MMDT deposits, which are unrated.

Custodial Credit Risk – Investments

For an investment, this is the risk that, in the event of a failure by the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral security that are in possession of an outside party. The District's investments in PRIT and MMDT are not subject to custodial credit risk.

Interest Rate Risk

The effective weighted duration rate for PRIT investments ranged from 1.98 to 14.64 years.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The District did not have any investments that were subject to concentration of credit risk.

Fair Market Value of Investments

PRIT investments are valued using the net asset value (NAV) method. This investment pool was established by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, who serves as Trustee. PRIT is administered by the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (PRIM). The fair values of the positions in each investment Pool are the same as the value of each Pool's shares. The District does not have the ability to control any of the investment decisions relative to its funds in PRIT.

MMDT investments are valued at amortized cost. Under the amortized cost method, an investment is valued initially at its cost and adjusted for the amount of interest income accrued each day over the term of the investment to account for any difference between the initial cost and the amount payable at its maturity. If amortized cost is determined not to approximate fair value, the value of the portfolio securities will be determined under procedures established by the Advisor.

NOTE 3 – RECEIVABLES

At June 30, 2023, receivables for the individual major and nonmajor governmental funds totaled \$1,741,367. Of the receivable balance, \$1,325,808 relates to member town assessments, \$124,363 relates to state aid, \$203,470 relates to school construction assistance and \$87,726 relates to various grants. These receivables are considered to be 100% collectible.

NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2023, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities:				
<u>Capital assets not being depreciated:</u>				
Construction in progress.....	\$ 64,049	\$ 163,809	\$ (64,049)	\$ 163,809
<u>Capital assets being depreciated:</u>				
Buildings and improvements.....	101,381,354	825,374	-	102,206,728
Vehicles and equipment.....	250,621	75,469	-	326,090
Text books and library books.....	92,095	-	-	92,095
Modular classrooms.....	439,297	-	-	439,297
Total capital assets being depreciated.....	102,163,367	900,843	-	103,064,210
<u>Less accumulated depreciation for:</u>				
Buildings and improvements.....	(16,577,988)	(2,586,826)	-	(19,164,814)
Vehicles and equipment.....	(207,155)	(10,051)	-	(217,206)
Text books and library books.....	(104,646)	(16,321)	-	(120,967)
Modular classrooms.....	(439,297)	-	-	(439,297)
Total accumulated depreciation.....	(17,329,086)	(2,613,198)	-	(19,942,284)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net.....	84,834,281	(1,712,355)	-	83,121,926
Total governmental activities capital assets, net.....	\$ 84,898,330	\$ (1,548,546)	\$ (64,049)	\$ 83,285,735

Depreciation expense was not allocated to governmental functions and appears unallocated on the statement of activities.

NOTE 5 – INTERFUND TRANSFERS

The District did not record any interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2023.

NOTE 6 – SHORT-TERM FINANCING

Short-term debt may be authorized and issued to fund the following:

- Current operating costs prior to the collection of revenues through issuance of revenue or tax anticipation notes (RANS or TANS).

- Capital project costs and other approved expenditures incurred prior to obtaining permanent financing through issuance of bond anticipation notes (BANS) or grant anticipation notes (GANS).

Short-term loans are general obligations and carry maturity dates that are limited by statute. Interest expenditures and expenses for short-term borrowings are accounted for in the general fund.

Details related to the District's short-term debt activity are shown in the table below:

Type	Purpose	Rate (%)	Due Date	Balance at June 30, 2022	Renewed/ Issued	Retired/ Redeemed	Balance at June 30, 2023
BAN	Bond Anticipation Note...	2.00%	03/23/23	\$ 1,300,000	\$ -	\$ (1,300,000)	\$ -
BAN	Bond Anticipation Note...	4.00%	03/01/24	-	1,300,000	-	1,300,000
Total Governmental Funds.....				\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ (1,300,000)	\$ 1,300,000

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM DEBT

State law permits the District, under the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 16, to authorize indebtedness for capital acquisition and construction. Furthermore, written notice of the amount of debt authorized and the general purpose of the debt must be given to the Board of Selectmen in each of the member Town's comprising the District.

Details related to the outstanding indebtedness at June 30, 2023, and the debt service requirements are as follows:

Project	Maturities Through	Original Loan Amount	Interest Rate (%)	Outstanding at June 30, 2023
Refunding bonds of 2016	2033	\$ 14,835,000	2.00-4.00	\$ 9,675,000
Memorial school construction	2049	32,290,000	3.63-5.00	27,970,000
Refunding bonds of 2021	2030	2,155,000	5.00	1,475,000
Memorial school construction	2042	3,230,000	2.00-5.00	3,065,000
Total Bonds Payable.....				42,185,000
Add: Unamortized premium on bonds				2,813,108
Total Bonds Payable, net.....				\$ 44,998,108

The District has been approved for a \$12.3 million capital grant from the Commonwealth school building assistance program for the Memorial School construction project. Under this program, assistance is paid to support construction costs and reduce the total debt service of the District. Through the end of 2023, the District has received \$11,702,124 of capital grant reimbursements from the MSBA, which is equal to approximately 36% of approved construction costs submitted for reimbursement. The District anticipates receiving an additional \$203,470 of grant proceeds in 2024, which has been recognized as a receivable as of June 30, 2023.

The District has authorized and unissued debt related to the Memorial School construction project totaling \$16,712,925 as of June 30, 2023.

Debt service requirements for principal and interest for Governmental bonds payable in future years are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2024.....	\$ 2,455,000	\$ 1,738,563	\$ 4,193,563
2025.....	2,455,000	1,615,813	4,070,813
2026.....	2,455,000	1,493,063	3,948,063
2027.....	2,455,000	1,370,313	3,825,313
2028.....	2,430,000	1,262,563	3,692,563
2029.....	2,410,000	1,155,638	3,565,638
2030.....	2,400,000	1,049,250	3,449,250
2031.....	2,175,000	938,250	3,113,250
2032.....	2,160,000	848,300	3,008,300
2033.....	2,150,000	758,888	2,908,888
2034.....	1,235,000	682,950	1,917,950
2035.....	1,235,000	636,750	1,871,750
2036.....	1,235,000	590,550	1,825,550
2037.....	1,235,000	544,350	1,779,350
2038.....	1,235,000	498,150	1,733,150
2039.....	1,235,000	451,950	1,686,950
2040.....	1,235,000	405,750	1,640,750
2041.....	1,235,000	359,550	1,594,550
2042.....	1,235,000	313,350	1,548,350
2043.....	1,075,000	268,750	1,343,750
2044.....	1,075,000	231,125	1,306,125
2045.....	1,075,000	193,500	1,268,500
2046.....	1,075,000	155,875	1,230,875
2047.....	1,075,000	116,906	1,191,906
2048.....	1,075,000	77,938	1,152,938
2049.....	1,075,000	38,969	1,113,969
Total.....	\$ 42,185,000	\$ 17,797,054	\$ 59,982,054

Changes in Long-term Liabilities

During the year ended June 30, 2023, the following changes occurred in long-term liabilities:

	Beginning Balance	Bonds and Notes Issued	Bonds and Notes Redeemed	Other Increases	Other Decreases	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities:							
Long-term bonds payable.....	\$ 44,835,000	\$ -	\$ (2,650,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,185,000	\$ 2,455,000
Add: Unamortized premium on bonds..	3,146,231	-	-	-	(333,123)	2,813,108	291,480
Total bonds payable.....	47,981,231	-	(2,650,000)	-	(333,123)	44,998,108	2,746,480
Compensated absences.....	464,233	-	-	-	(5,809)	458,424	30,000
Net pension liability.....	5,029,673	-	-	2,573,543	(667,994)	6,935,222	-
Net other postemployment benefits liability.....	22,638,162	-	-	2,616,652	(1,858,774)	23,396,040	-
Total governmental activity long-term liabilities.....	\$ 76,113,299	\$ -	\$ (2,650,000)	\$ 5,190,195	\$ (2,865,700)	\$ 75,787,794	\$ 2,776,480

NOTE 8 – GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATIONS

The District classifies fund balances according to the constraints imposed on the uses of those resources. There are two major types of fund balances, which are nonspendable and spendable. Nonspendable fund balances are balances that cannot be spent because they are not expected to be converted to cash or they are legally or contractually required to remain intact. Examples of this classification are prepaid items, inventories, and principal (corpus) of an endowment fund.

In addition to the nonspendable fund balance, accounting standards have provided a hierarchy of spendable fund balances, based on a hierarchy of spending constraints.

- **Restricted:** fund balances that are constrained by external parties, constitutional provisions, or enabling legislation.
- **Committed:** fund balances that contain self-imposed constraints of the government from its highest level of decision-making authority.
- **Assigned:** fund balances that contain self-imposed constraints of the government to be used for a particular purpose.
- **Unassigned:** fund balance of the general fund that is not constrained for any particular purpose.

As of June 30, 2023, the governmental fund balances consisted of the following:

	General	School Choice Fund	Memorial School Construction	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Fund Balances:					
Restricted for:					
School choice.....	\$ -	\$ 1,459,518	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,459,518
Gifts and private grant funds.....	-	-	-	125,096	125,096
State and federal grant funds.....	-	-	-	890,330	890,330
Student activity funds.....	-	-	-	211,200	211,200
MS/HS maintenance funds.....	-	-	-	68,926	68,926
Other special revenue funds.....	-	-	-	611,894	611,894
Other capital project funds.....	-	-	-	13,533	13,533
Athletic revolving funds.....	-	-	-	190	190
School lunch funds.....	-	-	-	60,745	60,745
Debt service.....	118,250	-	-	-	118,250
Committed to:					
Capital stabilization fund.....	98,335	-	-	-	98,335
Assigned to:					
Instructional services.....	39,221	-	-	-	39,221
Programs with other districts.....	198,231	-	-	-	198,231
Excess and deficiency used for subsequent year budget.....	287,102	-	-	-	287,102
Unassigned.....	1,682,624	-	(104,436)	-	1,578,188
Total Fund Balances.....	\$ 2,423,763	\$ 1,459,518	\$ (104,436)	\$ 1,981,914	\$ 5,760,759

Massachusetts General Law Ch. 71 §16G½ allows for the establishment of a Stabilization fund for any purpose for which regional school districts may borrow money or for such other district purpose as the commissioner of elementary and secondary education may approve. The stabilization fund may be appropriated by vote of two-thirds of all of the members of the regional district school committee. At year-end, the balance of the stabilization fund totaled \$98,335 and is reported as committed fund balance within the General Fund.

NOTE 9 – RISK FINANCING

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters for which the District carries commercial insurance. The District participates in premium-based health care plans for its active employees and its retirees.

NOTE 10 – PENSION PLAN*Plan Descriptions*

The District is a member of the Essex Regional Retirement System (ERRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan covering eligible employees of the member units. The system is administered by five board members (Board) on behalf of all current employees and retirees except for current teachers and retired teachers. Chapter 32 of the MGL assigns authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan.

The District is a member of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS), a cost-sharing multi-employer defined benefit plan. MTRS is managed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Commonwealth) on behalf of municipal teachers and municipal teacher retirees. The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor and is responsible for 100% of the contributions and future benefit requirements of the MTRS. The MTRS covers certified teachers in cities (except Boston), towns, regional school districts, charter schools, educational collaboratives and Quincy College. The MTRS is part of the Commonwealth's reporting entity and the audited financial report may be obtained by visiting <https://www.macomptroller.org/gasb-68-reports/>.

Special Funding Situation

The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make 100% of all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the District to the MTRS. Therefore, the District is considered to be in a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* and the Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor in MTRS. Since the District does not contribute directly to MTRS, there is no net pension liability to recognize. The total of the Commonwealth provided contributions have been allocated based on each employer's covered payroll to the total covered payroll of employers in MTRS as of the measurement date of June 30, 2022. The District's portion of the collective pension expense, contributed by the Commonwealth, of \$4,075,128, is reported in the general fund as intergovernmental revenue and pension expense in the current fiscal year. The portion of the Commonwealth's collective net pension liability associated with the District is \$49,539,748, as of the measurement date.

Benefits Provided

Both Systems provide retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Massachusetts Contributory Retirement System benefits are, with certain minor exceptions, uniform from system to system. The System provides for retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest three-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012, average salary is the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the five consecutive years that produce the highest average, or, if greater, during the last five years (whether or not consecutive) preceding retirement. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, level of compensation, and group classification. Members become vested after ten years of creditable service.

Employees who resign from service and who are not eligible to receive a retirement allowance or are under the age of 55 are entitled to request a refund of their accumulated total deductions. Survivor benefits are extended to eligible beneficiaries of members whose death occurs prior to or following retirement.

Cost-of-living adjustments granted between 1981 and 1997 and any increase in other benefits imposed by the Commonwealth's state law during those years are borne by the Commonwealth and are deposited into the pension fund. Cost-of-living adjustments granted after 1997 must be approved by the Board and are borne by the System.

Contributions

Chapter 32 of the MGL governs the contributions of plan members and member units. Active plan members are required to contribute to the System at rates ranging from 5% to 9% of gross regular compensation with an additional 2% contribution required for compensation exceeding \$30,000. The percentage rate is keyed to the date upon which an employee's membership commences. The member units are required to pay into the ERRS a legislatively mandated actuarially determined contribution that is apportioned among the employers based on active current payroll. The District's proportionate share of the required contribution equaled its actual contribution for the year ended December 31, 2022, and totaled \$667,994, 28.03% of covered payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with plan member contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by plan members during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability.

Pension Liabilities

At June 30, 2023, the District reported a liability of \$6,935,222, for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022. Accordingly, update procedures were used to roll forward the total pension liability to the measurement date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members. At December 31, 2022, the District's proportion was 1.50%, which increased by 0.05% from its proportion measured at December 31, 2021.

Pension Expense

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the District recognized pension expense of \$627,726, deferred outflows of resources related to pensions of \$1,367,604 and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions of \$325,297.

The balances of deferred outflows/(inflows) at June 30, 2023, consist of the following:

Deferred Category	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Total
Differences between expected and actual experience.....	\$ 216	\$ (119,105)	\$ (118,889)
Difference between projected and actual earnings, net.....	643,085	-	643,085
Changes in assumptions.....	378,463	-	378,463
Changes in proportion and proportionate share of contributions...	345,840	(206,192)	139,648
Total deferred outflows/(inflows) of resources.....	\$ 1,367,604	\$ (325,297)	\$ 1,042,307

The District's deferred outflows/(inflows) of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:

2024.....	\$	149,803
2025.....		250,606
2026.....		220,979
2027.....		420,919
Total.....	\$	<u>1,042,307</u>

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the January 1, 2022, actuarial valuation was determined using the actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement date that was rolled forward to December 31, 2022:

Valuation date.....	January 1, 2022
Interest on employee contributions...	3.50%
Salary increases.....	Based on years of service, ranging from 7.50% at 0 years of service decreasing to 3.75% after 5 years of service.
Net investment return/Discount rate..	7.00%
Mortality rates:	
Pre-Retirement.....	RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021.
Healthy Retiree.....	RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021.
Disabled Retiree.....	RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table set forward two years projected generationally with Scale MP-2021.

Investment Policy

The pension plan's policy in regard to the allocation of invested assets is established and may be amended by PRIT and the Board. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the pension plan.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target allocation and projected arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class, after deducting inflation, but before investment expense, used in the derivation of the long-term investment rate of return assumption are summarized on the following page.

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity.....	21.20%	7.10%
International developed markets equity.....	12.20%	6.90%
International emerging markets equity.....	4.70%	9.60%
Core fixed income.....	13.80%	4.70%
High-yield fixed income.....	7.00%	3.80%
Private equity.....	17.70%	10.20%
Real estate.....	11.20%	5.70%
Timberland.....	3.20%	7.00%
Hedge funds, PCS.....	9.00%	6.50%
Total.....	100.00%	

Rate of Return

For the year ended December 31, 2022, the annual money-weighted rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expense, was -11.36%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the net pension liability, calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.00%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.00%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
The District's proportionate share of the net pension liability.....	\$ 8,809,757	\$ 6,935,222	\$ 5,361,246

Changes of Assumptions – None.

Changes in Plan Provisions – None.

NOTE 11 – POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS*Plan Description*

The Manchester Essex Regional School District administers a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan (Plan). The Plan provides lifetime healthcare insurance for eligible retirees and their spouses through the District's group health insurance plan, which covers both active and retired members. Chapter 32B of the MGL assigns authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan. Benefit provisions are negotiated between the District and the unions representing District employees and are renegotiated each bargaining period. The Plan does not issue a publicly available financial report.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Plan and additions to/deductions from the Plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the Plan. For this purpose, the Plan recognizes benefit payments when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value, except for money market investments that have a maturity at the time of purchase of one year or less, which are reported at cost.

Funding Policy

Contribution requirements are negotiated between the District and union representatives. The required contribution is based on a pay-as-you-go financing requirement. Retirees enrolled in a health insurance plan prior to 7/1/18 pay 20% of the stated premiums for the MEDEX and HMO plans. Among all other retirees, those hired prior to 7/1/15 pay 25% and those hired after 7/1/15 pay 30% of the premiums. Those electing the PPO plan pay the difference between the PPO cost and the portion MERSD pays for the HMO plan. As of July 1, 2022, this represents 35.9%.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed special legislation that has allowed the District to establish a postemployment benefit trust fund and has enabled the District to raise funds necessary to begin pre-funding its OPEB liabilities. The District has named the Health Care Security Board of Trustees (HCSBT) as Trustees of the OPEB trust fund and as such has authorized the OPEB trust funds to be invested entirely in the State Retirement Benefits Trust Fund (SRBT Fund). Massachusetts General Law directs the HCSBT to invest the SRBT Fund in the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund. The Trustees have adopted a trust agreement detailing their duties and responsibilities as Trustees. The PRIT Fund is subject to oversight by the Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board. A nine-member Board of Trustees governs the PRIM Board. The Board of Trustees has the authority to employ an Executive Director, outside investment managers, custodians, consultants, and others as it deems necessary to formulate policies and procedures and to take such other actions as necessary and appropriate to manage the assets of the PRIT Fund.

During 2023, the District pre-funded future OPEB liabilities by contributing \$578,666 to the OPEB trust fund in excess of the pay-as-you-go required contribution. As of June 30, 2023, the balance of this fiduciary fund totaled \$4,895,526. While the District has not formally adopted a policy of pre-funding future OPEB liabilities, language has been included in the teachers collective bargaining agreement stipulating the formula that is used to pre-fund annually.

Investment Policy

The District's policy in regard to the allocation of invested assets is established and may be amended by a majority vote of the School Committee. The OPEB plan's assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the OPEB plan. The long-term real rate of return on OPEB investments was determined using PRIM's investment policy.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms

The following table represents the Plan's membership at July 1, 2022:

Active members.....	191
Inactive members currently receiving benefits.....	182
Total.....	<u>373</u>

Components of the Net OPEB Liability

The following table represents the components of the Plan's net OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023:

Total OPEB liability.....	\$ 28,291,567
Less: OPEB plan's fiduciary net position.....	<u>(4,895,527)</u>
Net OPEB liability.....	<u>\$ 23,396,040</u>
The OPEB plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability.....	17.30%

Significant Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The total OPEB liability in the July 1, 2022, actuarial valuation was determined by using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement date that was rolled forward to June 30, 2023:

Valuation date.....	July 1, 2022
Actuarial cost method.....	Individual entry age normal.
Discount rate.....	7.50%, net of investment expenses.
Medical care inflation	4.50%.
Participation.....	85% of future retirees are assumed to participate in the retiree medical plan.

Mortality - Teachers.....	It is assumed that mortality is represented by the RP-2014 White Collar Mortality Scale MP-2017, fully generational. Generational adjusting is based on Scale MP-2017.
Mortality - Non-teachers.....	It is assumed that both pre-retirement mortality and beneficiary mortality is represented by the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with Scale MP-2015, fully generational. Mortality for retired members for Group 1 and 2 is represented by the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table set forward 5 years for males and 3 years for females, fully generational. Mortality for disabled members for Group 1 and 2 is represented by the RP-2000 Mortality Table set forward 6 years. Generational adjusting is based on Scale MP-2015.

Rate of Return

The annual money-weighted rate of return on OPEB plan investments was 5.65%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of OPEB plan investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The Plan's expected future real rate of return is added to the expected inflation to produce the long-term expected nominal rate of return.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the OPEB plan's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023, are summarized in the following table.

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity.....	21.2%	7.1%
International equity.....	12.2%	6.9%
Emerging markets equity.....	4.7%	9.6%
Core fixed income.....	13.8%	4.2%
Value-added fixed income.....	7.0%	7.8%
Private equity.....	17.7%	10.2%
Real estate.....	11.2%	5.7%
Timberland.....	3.2%	7.0%
Hedge funds/Portfolio completion strategies...	8.6%	6.5%
Overlay.....	0.4%	0.0%
Total.....	100.00%	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.50% as of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term

expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability.

Changes in Net OPEB Liability

	Increase (Decrease)		
	Total OPEB Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net OPEB Liability (a) - (b)
Balances at June 30, 2022.....	\$ 26,724,240	\$ 4,086,078	\$ 22,638,162
Changes for the year:			
Service cost.....	695,509	-	695,509
Interest.....	1,921,143	-	1,921,143
Benefit payments.....	(1,049,326)	(1,049,326)	-
Employer contributions.....	-	578,666	(578,666)
Employer contributions for OPEB payments.....	-	1,049,326	(1,049,326)
Net investment income.....	-	230,782	(230,782)
Net change.....	1,567,326	809,448	757,878
Balances at June 30, 2023.....	\$ 28,291,566	\$ 4,895,526	\$ 23,396,040

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table presents the net other postemployment benefit liability, calculated using the discount rate of 7.50%, as well as what the net other postemployment benefit liability and service cost would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.50%)	Current Discount Rate (7.50%)	1% Increase (8.50%)
Net OPEB liability.....	\$ 27,439,497	\$ 23,396,040	\$ 20,095,635

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Trend Rate

The following table presents the net other postemployment benefit liability, calculated using the current healthcare trend rate, as well as what the net other postemployment benefit liability and service cost would be if it were calculated using a healthcare trend rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher.

	1% Decrease	Current Trend	1% Increase
Net OPEB liability.....	\$ 19,572,582	\$ 23,396,040	\$ 28,171,713

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the District recognized OPEB expense of \$1,517,437. At June 30, 2023, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

Deferred Category	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Total
Differences between expected and actual experience.....	\$ 262,411	\$ (1,894,738)	\$ (1,632,327)
Difference between projected and actual earnings, net.....	136,429	-	136,429
Changes in assumptions.....	-	(360,077)	(360,077)
Total deferred outflows/(inflows) of resources.....	\$ 398,840	\$ (2,254,815)	\$ (1,855,975)

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:

2024.....	\$ (644,244)
2025.....	(568,519)
2026.....	(354,696)
2027.....	(288,516)
Total.....	\$ (1,855,975)

Changes of Assumptions – None.

Changes in Plan Provisions – None.

NOTE 12 – CONTINGENCIES

The District participates in a number of federal award programs. Although the grant programs have been audited in accordance with the provisions of the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, these programs are still subject to financial and compliance audits. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the granting agencies cannot be determined at this time, although it is expected such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

Various legal actions and claims are pending. Litigation is subject to many uncertainties, and the outcome of individual litigated matters is not always predictable. Although the amount of liability, if any, at June 30, 2023, cannot be ascertained, management believes any resulting liability should not materially affect the financial position at June 30, 2023.

NOTE 13 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through February 15, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 14 – IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS

During 2023, the following GASB pronouncements were implemented:

- GASB Statement #91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*. This pronouncement did not impact the basic financial statements.
- GASB Statement #94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*. This pronouncement did not impact the basic financial statements.
- GASB Statement #96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*. This pronouncement did not impact the basic financial statements.
- GASB Statement #99, *Omnibus 2022*. This pronouncement did not impact the basic financial statements.

The following GASB pronouncements will be implemented in the future:

- The GASB issued Statement #100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, which is required to be implemented in 2024.
- The GASB issued Statement #101, *Compensated Absences*, which is required to be implemented in 2025.

Management is currently assessing the impact the implementation of these pronouncements will have on the basic financial statements.

Required Supplementary Information

GENERAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts			
	Amounts Carried Forward From Prior Year	Current Year Initial Budget	Original Budget	Final Budget
REVENUES:				
Member town assessments.....	\$ -	\$ 29,478,692	\$ 29,478,692	\$ 29,478,692
Intergovernmental.....	-	3,349,118	3,349,118	3,349,118
Departmental and other.....	-	40,000	40,000	40,000
Investment income.....	-	29,500	29,500	29,500
TOTAL REVENUES.....	-	32,897,310	32,897,310	32,897,310
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
Salaries:				
Administration.....	-	771,217	771,217	830,817
Instructional services.....	-	16,495,277	16,495,277	16,144,704
Other student services.....	-	828,968	828,968	750,575
Operation and maintenance.....	-	282,579	282,579	296,919
Other operating expenditures:				
Administration.....	-	249,908	249,908	368,260
Instructional services.....	7,956	1,100,285	1,108,241	1,126,101
Other student services.....	-	1,184,300	1,184,300	1,081,560
Operations and maintenance.....	78,235	1,440,031	1,518,266	1,910,868
Employee benefits and other fixed charges.....	-	5,425,288	5,425,288	5,076,580
Programs with other school districts.....	234,559	1,148,134	1,382,693	1,660,353
Debt service:				
Maturing debt.....	-	2,650,000	2,650,000	2,650,000
Interest.....	-	1,856,596	1,856,596	1,856,596
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	320,750	33,432,583	33,753,333	33,753,333
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE.....	(320,750)	(535,273)	(856,023)	(856,023)
FUND BALANCES AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....	-	2,315,034	2,315,034	2,315,034
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR.....	\$ (320,750)	\$ 1,779,761	\$ 1,459,011	\$ 1,459,011

See notes to required supplementary information.

	Actual Budgetary Amounts	Amounts Carried Forward To Next Year	Variance to Final Budget
\$	29,478,692	\$ -	\$ -
	3,381,017	-	31,899
	73,308	-	33,308
	<u>201,168</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>171,668</u>
	<u>33,134,185</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>236,875</u>
	812,064	-	18,753
	16,197,834	-	(53,130)
	742,767	-	7,808
	273,541	-	23,378
	316,350	-	51,910
	1,032,515	39,221	54,365
	951,691	-	129,869
	1,663,067	-	247,801
	5,075,322	-	1,258
	1,552,044	198,231	(89,922)
	2,650,000	-	-
	<u>1,856,596</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>33,123,791</u>	<u>237,452</u>	<u>392,090</u>
	10,394	(237,452)	628,965
	<u>2,315,034</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
\$	<u><u>2,325,428</u></u>	<u><u>(237,452)</u></u>	<u><u>628,965</u></u>

Pension Plan Schedules

The Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability presents multi-year trend information on the District's net pension liability and related ratios.

The Schedule of the District's Contributions presents multi-year trend information on the District's required and actual contributions to the pension plan and related ratios.

The Schedule of the Special Funding Amounts of the Net Pension Liability for the Massachusetts Teachers' Contributory Retirement System presents multi-year trend information on the liability and expense assumed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of the District along with related ratios.

These schedules are intended to present information for ten years. Until a ten-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

**SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
ESSEX REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Year	Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	Covered payroll	Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
December 31, 2022.....	1.50%	\$ 6,935,222	\$ 2,336,314	296.84%	57.57%
December 31, 2021.....	1.45%	5,029,673	2,353,356	213.72%	67.01%
December 31, 2020.....	1.49%	5,930,022	2,274,404	260.73%	59.73%
December 31, 2019.....	1.37%	5,770,239	2,194,958	262.89%	55.46%
December 31, 2018.....	1.50%	6,332,236	1,845,976	343.03%	51.89%
December 31, 2017.....	1.71%	6,421,804	1,771,429	362.52%	55.40%
December 31, 2016.....	1.72%	6,643,169	2,202,134	301.67%	51.12%
December 31, 2015.....	1.80%	6,545,348	2,474,424	264.52%	51.01%
December 31, 2014.....	1.78%	6,041,480	2,375,119	254.37%	52.27%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.

Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S CONTRIBUTIONS
ESSEX REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Year	Actuarially determined contribution	Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	Covered payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll
June 30, 2023.....	\$ 667,994	\$ (667,994)	\$ -	\$ 2,383,040	28.03%
June 30, 2022.....	598,339	(598,339)	-	2,400,423	24.93%
June 31, 2021.....	578,315	(578,315)	-	2,319,892	24.93%
June 30, 2020.....	511,014	(511,014)	-	2,238,857	22.82%
June 30, 2019.....	519,656	(519,656)	-	1,882,896	27.60%
June 30, 2018.....	531,381	(531,381)	-	1,806,858	29.41%
June 30, 2017.....	499,581	(499,581)	-	2,246,177	22.24%
June 30, 2016.....	494,914	(494,914)	-	2,523,912	19.61%
June 30, 2015.....	456,811	(456,811)	-	2,422,621	18.86%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.

Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

**SCHEDULE OF THE SPECIAL FUNDING AMOUNTS
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers which creates a special funding situation. Therefore, there is no net pension liability to recognize. This schedule discloses the Commonwealth's 100% share of the associated collective net pension liability; the portion of the collective pension expense as both a revenue and pension expense recognized; and the Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total liability.

Year	Commonwealth's 100% Share of the Associated Net Pension Liability	Expense and Revenue Recognized for the Commonwealth's Support	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Liability
2023.....	\$ 49,539,748	\$ 4,075,128	57.75%
2022.....	43,189,532	3,465,780	62.03%
2021.....	54,855,177	6,775,400	50.67%
2020.....	48,213,416	5,846,713	53.95%
2019.....	45,707,364	4,631,779	54.84%
2018.....	43,876,284	4,579,496	54.25%
2017.....	42,805,996	4,366,492	52.73%
2016.....	38,894,127	3,154,660	55.38%
2015.....	30,541,499	2,121,865	61.64%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.
Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

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Other Postemployment Benefit Plan Schedules

The Schedule of Changes in the District's Net Other Postemployment Benefit Liability and Related Ratios presents multi-year trend information on changes in the Plan's total OPEB liability, changes in the Plan's net position, and ending net OPEB liability. It also demonstrates the Plan's net position as a percentage of the total liability and the Plan's net other postemployment benefit liability as a percentage of covered employee payroll.

The Schedule of the District's Contributions presents multi-year trend information on the District's actual contributions to the other postemployment benefit plan and related ratios.

The Schedule of Investment Returns presents multi-year trend information on the money-weighted investment return on the Plan's other postemployment assets, net of investment expense.

These schedules are intended to present information for ten years. Until a ten year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE
DISTRICT'S NET OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN**

	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2018	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020
Total OPEB Liability				
Service Cost.....	\$ 1,175,114	\$ 1,227,994	\$ 440,954	\$ 482,624
Interest.....	1,091,736	1,152,138	1,845,100	1,934,076
Differences between expected and actual experience....	-	5,691,547	-	(696,326)
Changes of assumptions.....	-	(7,809,935)	-	-
Benefit payments.....	(740,289)	(1,158,113)	(1,089,097)	(1,178,598)
Net change in total OPEB liability.....	1,526,561	(896,369)	1,196,957	541,776
Total OPEB liability - beginning.....	24,003,228	25,529,789	24,633,420	25,830,377
Total OPEB liability - ending (a).....	<u>\$ 25,529,789</u>	<u>\$ 24,633,420</u>	<u>\$ 25,830,377</u>	<u>\$ 26,372,153</u>
Plan fiduciary net position				
Employer contributions.....	\$ 417,059	\$ 466,537	\$ 498,605	\$ 525,677
Employer contributions for OPEB payments.....	740,289	1,158,113	1,089,097	1,178,598
Net investment income (loss).....	27,209	40,654	50,657	36,079
Benefit payments.....	(740,289)	(1,158,113)	(1,089,097)	(1,178,598)
Net change in plan fiduciary net position.....	444,268	507,191	549,262	561,756
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning of year.....	399,544	843,812	1,351,003	1,900,265
Plan fiduciary net position - end of year (b).....	<u>\$ 843,812</u>	<u>\$ 1,351,003</u>	<u>\$ 1,900,265</u>	<u>\$ 2,462,021</u>
Net OPEB liability - ending (a)-(b).....	<u>\$ 24,685,977</u>	<u>\$ 23,282,417</u>	<u>\$ 23,930,112</u>	<u>\$ 23,910,132</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability.....	3.31%	5.48%	7.36%	9.34%
Covered-employee payroll.....	\$ 15,510,239	\$ 15,014,891	\$ 15,540,412	\$ 14,559,083
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll.....	159.16%	155.06%	153.99%	164.23%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.
Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023
\$	601,705	\$ 628,782	\$ 695,509
	1,977,818	2,084,354	1,921,143
	-	(2,569,892)	-
	-	-	-
	<u>(1,228,089)</u>	<u>(1,142,591)</u>	<u>(1,049,326)</u>
	1,351,434	(999,347)	1,567,326
	<u>26,372,153</u>	<u>27,723,587</u>	<u>26,724,240</u>
\$	<u>27,723,587</u>	<u>26,724,240</u>	<u>28,291,566</u>
\$	550,088	\$ 530,436	\$ 578,666
	1,228,089	1,142,591	1,049,326
	684,153	(140,620)	230,782
	<u>(1,228,089)</u>	<u>(1,142,591)</u>	<u>(1,049,326)</u>
	1,234,241	389,816	809,448
	<u>2,462,021</u>	<u>3,696,262</u>	<u>4,086,078</u>
\$	<u>3,696,262</u>	<u>4,086,078</u>	<u>4,895,526</u>
\$	<u>24,027,325</u>	<u>22,638,162</u>	<u>23,396,040</u>
	13.33%	15.29%	17.30%
\$	15,068,651	\$ 14,785,746	\$ 15,303,247
	159.45%	153.11%	152.88%

**SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S CONTRIBUTIONS
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN**

Year	Actuarially determined contribution	Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	Covered- employee payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered- employee payroll
June 30, 2023.....	\$ 1,938,909	\$ (1,627,992)	\$ 310,917	\$ 15,303,247	10.64%
June 30, 2022.....	1,867,317	(1,673,027)	194,290	14,785,746	11.32%
June 30, 2021.....	1,996,943	(1,778,177)	218,766	15,068,651	11.80%
June 30, 2020.....	1,766,408	(1,704,275)	62,133	14,559,083	11.71%
June 30, 2019.....	1,685,816	(1,587,702)	98,114	15,540,412	10.22%
June 30, 2018.....	1,828,904	(1,624,650)	204,254	15,014,891	10.82%
June 30, 2017.....	1,750,600	(1,157,348)	593,252	15,510,239	7.46%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.

Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN

Year	Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense
June 30, 2023.....	5.65%
June 30, 2022.....	-3.80%
June 30, 2021.....	27.79%
June 30, 2020.....	5.57%
June 30, 2019.....	3.73%
June 30, 2018.....	3.20%
June 30, 2017.....	6.81%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.
Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those
years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

NOTE A – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITYBudgetary Information

The District adopts a balanced budget that is approved by the Committee. The Superintendent of Schools presents an annual budget to the Committee, which includes estimates of revenues and other financing sources and recommendations of expenditures and other financing uses. The Committee, which has full authority to amend and/or reject the budget or any line item, adopts the expenditure budget by majority vote. Increases in the budget subsequent to the approval of the annual budget require majority Committee approval.

The majority of the District's appropriations are non-continuing which lapse at the end of the year.

The District adopts an annual budget for the General Fund in conformity with the guidelines described above. The original 2023 approved budget for the General Fund authorized \$33.8 million in appropriations. There were no supplemental appropriations approved during 2023.

The District's accounting office has the responsibility to ensure that budgetary control is maintained on a bottom line, total budget basis. Budgetary control is exercised through the District's accounting system.

Budgetary - GAAP Reconciliation

For budgetary financial reporting purposes, the Uniform Municipal Accounting System basis of accounting (established by the Commonwealth) is followed, which differs from the GAAP basis of accounting. A reconciliation of budgetary-basis to GAAP-basis results for the general fund for the year ended June 30, 2023, is presented below:

Net change in fund balance - budgetary basis.....	\$	10,394
<u>Perspective differences:</u>		
Activity of the capital stabilization fund recorded in the general fund for GAAP.....		(290,257)
<u>Basis of accounting differences:</u>		
Recognition of revenue for on-behalf payments.....		4,075,128
Recognition of expenditures for on-behalf payments.....		<u>(4,075,128)</u>
Net change in fund balance - GAAP basis.....	\$	<u><u>(279,863)</u></u>

NOTE B – PENSION PLANSchedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

The Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability details the District's allocated percentage of the net pension liability (asset), the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability, and the District's covered payroll. It also demonstrates the District's net position as a percentage of the District's pension liability and the District's net pension liability as a percentage of the District's covered payroll.

Schedule of the District's Contributions

Governmental employers are required to pay an annual appropriation as established by PERAC. The District's appropriation includes the amounts to pay the pension portion of each member's retirement allowance, an amount to amortize the actuarially determined unfunded liability to zero in accordance with the system's funding schedule, and additional appropriations in accordance with adopted early retirement incentive programs. The District's appropriations are payable on July 1 and January 1. The District may choose to pay the entire appropriation in July at a discounted rate. Accordingly, actual District contributions may be less than the "total appropriation". The pension fund appropriation is allocated to the District based on covered payroll.

Schedule of the Special Funding Amounts of the Net Pension Liability

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers which creates a special funding situation. Since the District does not contribute directly to MTRS, there is no net pension liability to recognize. This schedule discloses the Commonwealth's 100% share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the District; the portion of the collective pension expense as both a revenue and pension expense recognized by the District; and the Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total liability.

Changes of Assumptions – None.

Changes in Plan Provisions – None.

NOTE C – OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PLAN

The District administers a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan (Plan). The plan provides lifetime healthcare insurance for eligible retirees and their spouses through the District's group health insurance plan, which covers both active and retired members.

The Other Postemployment Benefit PlanThe Schedule of Changes in the District's Net Other Postemployment Benefit Liability and Related Ratios

The Schedule of Changes in the District's Net Other Postemployment Benefit Liability and Related Ratios presents multi-year trend information on changes in the Plan's total OPEB liability, changes in the Plan's net position, and ending net OPEB liability. It also demonstrates the Plan's net position as a percentage of the total liability and the Plan's net other postemployment benefit liability as a percentage of covered employee payroll.

Schedule of the District's Contributions

The Schedule of the District's Contributions includes the District's annual required contribution to the Plan, along with the contribution made in relation to the actuarially determined contribution and the covered employee payroll. The District is not required to fully fund this contribution. It also demonstrates the contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll. Actuarially determined contribution rates are calculated as of June 30, two years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported.

Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates are as follows:

Valuation date.....	July 1, 2022
Actuarial cost method.....	Individual entry age normal.
Discount rate.....	7.50%, net of investment expenses.
Medical care inflation	4.50%.
Participation.....	85% of future retirees are assumed to participate in the retiree medical plan.
Mortality - Teachers.....	It is assumed that mortality is represented by the RP-2014 White Collar Mortality Scale MP-2017, fully generational. Generational adjusting is based on Scale MP-2017.
Mortality - Non-teachers.....	It is assumed that both pre-retirement mortality and beneficiary mortality is represented by the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with Scale MP-2015, fully generational. Mortality for retired members for Group 1 and 2 is represented by the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table set forward 5 years for males and 3 years for females, fully generational. Mortality for disabled members for Group 1 and 2 is represented by the RP-2000 Mortality Table set forward 6 years. Generational adjusting is based on Scale MP-2015.

Schedule of Investment Returns

The Schedule of Investment Returns includes the money-weighted investment return on the Plan's other postemployment assets, net of investment expense.

Changes of Assumptions – None.

Changes in Plan Provisions – None.



**Powers &
Sullivan, LLC**
CPAs AND ADVISORS

***MANCHESTER ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT***

REPORTS ON FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAMS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

MANCHESTER ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REPORTS ON FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAMS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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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 Auditor's Report

To the Honorable School Committee
Manchester Essex Regional School District
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts 01944

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Manchester Essex Regional School District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Manchester Essex Regional School District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 15, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Manchester Essex Regional School District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's internal control.

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. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses and significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Manchester Essex Regional School District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct

and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ponce & Sullivan, LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

February 15, 2024

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON THE SCHEDULE EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Honorable School Committee
Manchester Essex Regional School District
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts 01944

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Manchester Essex Regional School District's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. The Manchester Essex Regional School District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Manchester Essex Regional School District complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Manchester Essex Regional School District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Manchester Essex Regional School District's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Manchester Essex Regional School District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Manchester Essex Regional School District's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Manchester Essex Regional School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Manchester Essex Regional School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Manchester Essex Regional School District's basic financial statements. We issued our report thereon dated February 15, 2024, which contained unmodified opinions on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.



February 15, 2024

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program or Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Amount Passed Through to Sub-Recipients	Expenditures
CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER:				
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:				
<u>Passed through Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:</u>				
Non-Cash Assistance (Commodities):				
National School Lunch Program.....	10.555	05-166	\$ -	\$ 39,299
Cash Assistance:				
National School Lunch Program.....	10.555	05-166	-	186,798
Total National School Lunch Program.....			-	226,097
Cash Assistance:				
School Breakfast Program.....	10.553	05-166	-	28,382
TOTAL CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER.....			-	254,479
SPECIAL EDUCATION CLUSTER:				
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:				
<u>Passed through Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:</u>				
Special Education Grants to States (IDEA, Part B).....	84.027	240-694261-2023-0698	-	328,616
Special Education Grants to States (IDEA, Part B).....	84.027	240-554034-2022-0698	-	4,950
COVID-19 - Special Education Grants to States (IDEA, Part B).....	84.027	252-558314-2022-0698	-	417
Total Special Education Grants to States (IDEA, Part B).....			-	333,983
Special Education Preschool Grants (IDEA, Preschool).....	84.173	262-694262-2023-0698	-	7,473
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CLUSTER.....			-	341,456
PASS-THROUGH PROGRAMS:				
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:				
<u>Passed through Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:</u>				
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies.....	84.010	305-694233-2023-0698	-	49,242
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants.....	84.367	140-698953-2023-0698	-	19,361
Student Support and Academic Enrichment.....	84.424	309-698940-2023-0698	-	10,000
COVID-19 - Education Stabilization Fund.....	84.425U	119-583152-2022-0698	-	122,716
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.....			-	201,319
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:				
<u>Passed through Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency:</u>				
COVID-19 - Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disaster).....	97.036	DR-4496	-	60,695
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS.....			\$ -	\$ 857,949

See notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Note 1 – Basis of Presentation

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the Manchester Essex Regional School District (District) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2023. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the District.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting and reporting policies of District are set forth below:

- (a) Basis of Accounting - The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Accordingly, expenditures are recognized when the liability is incurred. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.
- (b) Cash Assistance – School Lunch Program – Program expenditures represent federal reimbursement for meals provided during the fiscal year.
- (c) Non-Cash Assistance (Commodities) – Program expenditures represent the value of donated foods received during the fiscal year.
- (d) Disaster Grants have been recorded in the year the grant was approved.
- (e) The District has not elected to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

A. Summary of Auditor's Results

1. The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the basic financial statements of the Manchester Essex Regional School District (District).
2. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported in the 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*.
3. No instances of noncompliance material to the basic financial statements of the District were disclosed during the audit.
4. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies relating to the audit of the major federal award programs are reported in the Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program; and Report on Internal Control over Compliance; and Report on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance.
5. The independent auditor's report on compliance for the major federal award programs for the District expresses an unmodified opinion.
6. There were no audit findings relative to the major federal award programs for the District.
7. The Special Education Grant Cluster was tested as a major program.
8. The threshold for distinguishing Types A and B programs was \$750,000.
9. The District was determined to be a low-risk auditee.

B. Findings-Basic Financial Statements Audit

None.

C. Findings and Questioned Costs-Major Federal Award Programs Audit

None.

D. Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings

None.