



Proven Expertise & Integrity

January 21, 2021

School Board
Hartford School District
73 Highland Avenue
White River Junction, VT 05001

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hartford School District for the year ended June 30, 2020. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated April 23, 2020. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Hartford School District are described in Note 1 of Notes to Financial Statements. We noted no transactions entered into by the Hartford School District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

As described in Note 1 of Notes to Financial Statements, the Hartford School District changed accounting policies related to Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB Statement) No. 95, "Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance" and GASB Statement No. 97, "Certain Component Unit Criteria (paragraphs 4 & 5)" in 2020. There was no impact in the financial statements based on the cumulative effect of these accounting changes.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hartford School District's financial statements were:

- Depreciation expense which is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets
- Pension and OPEB related assets, liabilities and expenses which are based on actuarial valuations
- Accrued compensation

Management's process for determining the above estimates is based on firm concepts and reasonable assumptions of both historical and future events. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements are reflected in the capital assets, other long-term obligations and fund balance footnotes.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. A schedule of any uncorrected misstatements has been presented to management with the management representation letter. We did not identify or propose any adjustments of misstatements as a result of audit procedures that were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated January 25, 2021.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Hartford School District’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Hartford School District’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

However, we noted certain other matters that we reported to management of the Hartford School District in a separate letter dated January 21, 2021.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund, Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, Schedule of Contributions - Pensions, Schedule of Changes in the Net OPEB Liability, Schedule of Changes in the Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios and Schedule of Contributions - OPEB, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund Revenues, Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund, the Combining Schedule of Income and Expenses - Enterprise Funds - Collaborative Funds, the Combining Statement of Net Position - Custodial Funds and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Restriction on Use

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

Very Best,

RHR Smith & Company

RHR Smith & Company, CPAs