

# Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, P. C.

Certified Public Accountants

# **Communication with Those Charged with Governance**

To the Board of Trustees Robstown Independent School District

We have audited the financial statements of Robstown Independent School District as of and for the year ended August 31, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated November 3, 2023. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

# Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated May 2, 2023, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion(s) about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of Robstown Independent School District solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

#### Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

# **Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence**

The engagement team and others in our firm, as appropriate, have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

### **Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices**

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by Robstown Independent School District is included in Note A to the financial statements. There has been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2023 except for the following:

The District implemented GASB 96 as of September 1, 2022 related to subscription based information technology arrangements (contracts for the right to use information technology assets of others). The new standard did not have a significant impact on the 2023 financial statements.

No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

## Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on 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 markedly from management's current judgments.

The most sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements are:

- 1. Useful lives of depreciable assets
- 2. Allowance for uncollectible property tax receivables
- 3. State funding allotment
- 4. Teacher Retirement System pension and retiree insurance assumptions for mortality, investment return and health care cost trend rates.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates and determined that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

# Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There most sensitive disclosure affecting Robstown Independent School District's financial statements relates to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

#### **Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit**

We encountered no difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

# **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to Robstown Independent School District's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

## **Representations Requested from Management**

We have requested certain written representations from management in a separate letter dated November 3, 2023.

#### **Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole and each applicable opinion unit. Management has corrected all identified misstatements.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. None of the misstatements identified by us as a result of our audit procedures, and corrected by management, were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole or applicable opinion units. However, we did assist management in recording long-term debt, pension and other post-employment liabilities.

## **Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

### Other Information in Documents Containing Audited Financial Statements

Pursuant to professional standards, our responsibility as auditors for other information in documents containing Robstown Independent School District's audited financial statements does not extend beyond the financial information identified in the audit report, and we are not required to perform any procedures to corroborate such other information. However, in accordance with such standards, we have read the information and considered whether such information, or the manner of its presentation, was materially consistent with its presentation in the financial statements.

Our responsibility also includes communicating to you any information which we believe is a material misstatement of fact. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that such information, or its manner of presentation, is materially inconsistent with the information, or manner of its presentation, appearing in the financial statements.

# Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with Robstown Independent School District, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as Robstown Independent School District's auditors.

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, 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.

During our audit, we noted the following matters for your consideration:

#### Excessive Food Service Fund Balance

During the 21-22 school year, the District's child nutrition fund balance increased to over 4 months of operating costs. The balance increased again during the 22-23 school year. Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) regulations consider any fund balance over 3 months to be excessive, requiring a planned corrective action to reinvest the money into the program. The District developed a plan that was approved by TDA. The District should monitor that plan to restore compliance.

#### Procurement

The District used a vendor to install control doors at various campuses. Individually, the projects were under the requirement to bid out the projects. However, taken as a whole, they exceeded the \$50,000 threshold to require bidding. Management only obtained quotes to select the vendor. The District should ensure all employees making purchasing decisions are aware of the requirement to consider the entire series of purchases to determine the necessary procurement steps.

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

Respectfully,

Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, PC

Armstong, Vauspan & Associates, P.C.

November 3, 2023