

**Independent School District No. 877  
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose, Minnesota**

**Communications Letter  
of the Student Activity Accounts**

**June 30, 2019**

**Independent School District No. 877**  
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## Report on Matters Identified as a Result of the Audit of the Financial Statements

To the School Board, Management, Advisors,  
and Students  
Independent School District No. 877  
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose, Minnesota

In planning and performing our audit of the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of the student activity accounts of Independent School District No. 877, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the District's student activity accounts internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 District's student activity accounts internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's student activity accounts internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error, or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

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 over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's student activity accounts financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A reasonable possibility exists when the likelihood of an event occurring is either reasonably possible or probable as defined as follows:

- *Reasonably possible.* The chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than likely.
- *Probable.* The future event or events are likely to occur.

The material weakness identified is stated within this letter.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the School Board, management, advisors, students, others within the District, and state oversight agencies and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

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.

The Manual for Activity Fund Accounting, issued by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), provides uniform financial accounting and reporting standards for student activities. We performed auditing procedures to test compliance with the provisions of this Manual.

*Bergan KDV Ltd.*

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
October 14, 2019

**Independent School District No. 877**  
**Material Weakness**

**Inadequate Design of Internal Control**

The District has not established procedures to provide assurance that all cash collections are recorded in the accounting records. This condition increases the risk of misappropriation of funds. In addition, the District does not have adequate segregation of accounting duties due to a limited number of office employees. The lack of adequate segregation of accounting duties could adversely affect the activity account's ability to initiate, record, process, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. Administration is aware of this condition and will take certain steps to compensate for the lack of segregation, but due to the number of staff needed to properly segregate all of the accounting duties, the cost of obtaining desirable segregation of accounting duties exceeds the benefits which could be derived. Due to this reason, management has determined a complete segregation of accounting duties is impractical to achieve. Administration and the School Board must remain aware of this situation and should continually monitor the accounting system, including changes that occur.

We recommend segregation or independent review be implemented whenever practical and cost effective.

## **Independent School District No. 877 Required Communication**

We have audited the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of the student activity accounts of the District for the year ended June 30, 2019. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters related to our audit.

### **Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit**

As communicated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of its 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 District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the 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 judgement, 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, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and our network firms have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

### **Qualitative Aspects of 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 the District is included in the note to financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes to significant accounting policies or their application during 2019. 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.

**Independent School District No. 877  
Required Communication**

**Qualitative Aspects of Significant Accounting Practices (Continued)**

*Financial Statement Disclosures*

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

**Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit**

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

**Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For the 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 effects of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole.

Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

**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 the District's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

**Representations Requested from Management**

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the management representation letter.

**Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

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

**Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues**

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