

LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74

MANAGEMENT LETTER

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2020

October 14, 2020

To the Board of Education
Lincolnwood School District 74
Lincolnwood, Illinois

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Lincolnwood School District 74 (the District), for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, we considered its internal control structure in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control structure.

We do not intend to imply that our audit failed to disclose commendable aspects of your system and structure. For your consideration, we herein submit our comments and suggestions which are designed to assist in effecting improvements in internal controls and procedures. Those less-significant matters, if any, which arose during the course of the audit, were reviewed with management as the audit field work progressed.

The accompanying comments and recommendations are intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Education, finance committee, and management of the Lincolnwood School District 74.

We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed many of these comments and suggestions with various District personnel. We would be pleased to discuss our comments and suggestions in further detail with you at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to review the procedures necessary to bring about desirable changes.

We commend the finance department for the well prepared audit package and we appreciate the courtesy and assistance given to us by the entire District staff.

LAUTERBACH & AMEN, LLP

PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. GASB STATEMENT NO. 84 FIDUCIARY ACTIVITIES

Comment

In January 2017, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, which provides guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities, with criteria related to the control of the assets of the fiduciary activity and the relationship with the beneficiaries of the activity. Qualifying fiduciary activities are then required to be reported in four fiduciary fund types: 1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, 2) investment trust funds, (3) private-purpose trust funds, and (4) custodial funds. The custodial funds category will be the focus for School Districts, as this category replaces the current agency fund reporting category with more defined criteria. In applying these new criteria, it is likely that the student activity funds for School Districts will not meet the criteria to be reported as a custodial fund under GASB Statement No. 84, and will instead need to be incorporated in to the School District's operating funds. GASB Statement No. 84 is applicable to the District's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2021.

Recommendation

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP will work directly with the District to review the new custodial fund criteria in conjunction with the District's current student activity funds to determine the appropriate financial reporting for these activities under GASB Statement No. 84.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and will work with Lauterbach & Amen, LLP to implement the provisions of this statement for June 30, 2021.

2. CAPITAL ASSET POLICY

Comment

Previously, we noted the District does not have a formal capital asset policy to provide guidance on the financial aspects and stewardship of capital assets. With respect to the financial aspects, guidance should be provided on the minimum dollar amount and minimum useful life for an item to be capitalized as a capital asset. Stewardship issues include the physical custody of capital assets.

Recommendation

We recommended that the District adopt a capital asset policy, which addresses both financial, and stewardship issues. As part of developing the capital asset policy, a review of the current capitalization amount and estimated useful life should be performed for both financial reporting and stewardship. The capital asset policy should also establish standard depreciation methods and useful lives to be applied to specific categories of assets. With respect to stewardship, the policy should address location of assets, tagging, physical access and security and frequency of periodic inventories. Once the policy has been established, we recommended the District undertake a complete inventory and valuation of capital assets to create detail capital asset records that are in compliance with the new policy. Additionally, as part of this process we recommended land be inventoried and valued at its estimated fair value on the date donated.

Status

This comment has been implemented and will not be repeated in the future.

PRIOR RECOMMENDATIONS – Continued

3. FUNDS OVER BUDGET

Comment

Previously and during our current year-end audit procedures, we noted that the following funds had an excess of actual expenditures over budget for the previous fiscal year and current fiscal year:

Fund	6/30/19	6/30/20
General	\$ 858,884	-
Operations and Maintenance	77,487	-
Municipal Retirement/Social Security	18,139	54,646
Debt Service	68,549	-

Recommendation

We recommended the District investigate the causes of the funds over budget and adopt appropriate future funding measures.

Status

This comment has not been implemented and will be repeated in the future.

Management Response

Management acknowledges this comment and will work to correct it in the coming year.