



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: May 21, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: Consider Approval of Auditing Firm Engagement Letter – Kirk, Richardson, & Poole, P.C.

PRESENTER: Earl Husfeld

ALIGNS TO BOARD GOAL(S):

6. Provide resources and facilities consistent with the growth of the District.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Pursuant to Education Code 44.008(a), (b), the District's fiscal accounts are required to be audited annually at District expense by a Texas certified or public accountant holding a permit from the State Board of Public Accountancy.
- The annual financial audit shall be completed following the close of each fiscal year and shall meet at least the minimum requirements and be in the format prescribed by the State Board of Education, subject to review and comment by the State Auditor.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS:

- The District's annual financial audit for the fiscal years ended August 31, 2009, 2010, and 2011 have been completed by the auditing firm of Kirk, Richardson and Poole, P.C. (the Firm).
- During these prior audit engagements, the Firm has conducted a quality audit and provided responsive service to the District.
- The Firm's proposed fee for the audit of the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012 is an increase of \$1,225, approximately 5%, from the prior year's fee. The fee has not changed for the previous two years.
- The Firm's engagement letter is provided following this page for your review and consideration.

FISCAL NOTE:

The not to exceed fee of \$25,375 will be included in the 2012-2013 budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

The Administration recommends the Board of Trustees approve acceptance of the engagement letter with the firm of Kirk, Richardson & Poole, P.C. for the performance of the financial audit for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2012 as presented.

KIRK, RICHARDSON & POOLE, P. C.

Members of the American Institute of Certificate Public Accountants

Tom Kirk, CPA	Don Richardson, CPA	Cindy Poole, CPA
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May 14, 2012

To The Board of Trustees
Aledo Independent School District
1008 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, Texas 76008

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide the Aledo Independent School District (the "District") for the year ended August 31, 2012. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of the District as of and for the year ended August 31, 2012. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the District's basic financial statements. Such information, 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. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the District's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist 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 will 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. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

1. Management's Discussion and Analysis.
2. Budgetary Comparison Statement – General Fund

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the District's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our 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 financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole:

1. Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.
2. Combining and Other Schedules.
3. Required TEA Schedules (except Fund Balance and Cash Flow Calculation Worksheet)

The following other information accompanying the financial statements will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements, and for which our auditor's report will not provide an opinion or any assurance.

1. Fund Balance and Cash Flow Calculation Worksheet

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. The objective also includes reporting on—

- Internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*.

The reports on internal control and compliance will each include a statement that the report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the body or individuals charged with governance, others within the entity, specific legislative or regulatory bodies, federal awarding agencies, and if applicable, pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of OMB Circular A-133, and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions and to render the required reports. If our opinions on the financial statements or the Single Audit compliance opinions are other than unqualified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for the basic financial statements and all accompanying information as well as all representations contained therein. Management is also responsible for identifying government award programs and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements, and for preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133. As part of the audit, we will assist with preparation of your financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes. You are responsible for making all management decisions and performing all management functions relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes and for accepting full responsibility for such decisions. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and schedule of expenditures of federal awards and that you reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you are required to designate an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee any nonaudit services we provide and for evaluating the adequacy and results of those services and accepting responsibility for them.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, including internal controls over compliance, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met and there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the fair presentation in the financial statements of the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and

properly recorded. Your responsibilities also include identifying significant vendor relationships in which the vendor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud or illegal acts affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. Additionally, as required by OMB Circular A-133, it is management's responsibility to follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review during our audit. You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in conformity with U. S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying for us previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required

to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

You are responsible for ensuring that the audit report is received by the Texas Education Agency within 150 days of the close of the fiscal year. You are further responsible for ensuring that other appropriate governmental agencies receive copies of the audit report according to instructions in the *Texas Education Accountability System Resource Guide*.

Audit Procedures—General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because an audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or major programs. Our responsibility as auditor's is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Audit Procedures—Internal Controls

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are

material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by OMB Circular A-133, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to OMB Circular A-133.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB Circular A-133.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the District's compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

OMB Circular A-133 requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the District's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the District's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to OMB Circular A-133.

Audit Administration, Fees, and Other

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors'

reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report for you to include with the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period, unless a longer period is agreed to in advance by the cognizant or oversight agency for audits.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Kirk, Richardson & Poole, P.C. and constitutes confidential information. However, pursuant to authority given by law or regulation, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to the Texas Education Agency or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Governmental Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Kirk, Richardson & Poole P.C. personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release or for any additional period requested by the Texas Education Agency. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

We expect to begin our audit during August, 2012 and to issue our reports no later than January, 2013. Don Richardson is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign them. Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etc.) except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses, will not exceed \$25,375. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you regarding the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

Our audit engagement ends on delivery of our audit report. Any follow-up services that might be required will be a separate, new engagement. The terms and conditions of that new engagement will be governed by a new, specific engagement letter for that service

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, and any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comment received during the period of the contract. Enclosed is a copy of our 2008 peer review report.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the District and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Kirk, Richardson & Poole, P.C.

Kirk, Richardson & Poole, P.C.

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the Aledo Independent School District.

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

System Review Report

June 16, 2009

To the Partners of
Kirk & Richardson, P.C.
and the Peer Review Committee of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Kirk & Richardson, P.C. (the firm) in effect for the year ended December 31, 2008. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review. The nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review are described in the standards at www.aicpa.org/prsummary.

As required by the standards, engagements selected for review included engagements performed under the *Government Auditing Standards* and audits of employee benefit plans.

We noted the following deficiency during our review:

Deficiency- The firm's quality control policies and procedures require that risk assessment and determination of the appropriate audit response be done to support the auditor's procedures to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence. On all audit engagements reviewed we found no audit evidence to support the firm's performance of this procedure. As a result, the firm did not have sufficient audit evidence to support the auditor's opinion. The systemic cause of this deficiency is a lack of understanding of the risk based audit approach. The firm is correcting the audits already issued and will implement the policy on all future engagements.

Recommendation- Firm personnel should have all professional audit personnel obtain sufficient, effective continuing education to correct this deficiency. The firm should consider having an third party review its next audit engagement to insure that the planning and assessment of risk work papers are sufficient to support the auditor's opinion.

In our opinion, except for the deficiency described above, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Kirk & Richardson, P.C. in effect for the year ended December 31, 2008, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. Kirk & Richardson, P.C. has received a peer review rating of *pass with deficiency*.

Davis Kinard & Co, PC

DAVIS KINARD & CO, PC

KIRK & RICHARDSON, P. C.

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Letter of Response

March 15, 2010

Peer Review Committee of the
Texas Society of CPAs
14651 Dallas Parkway, Suite 700
Dallas, TX 75254-7408

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter represents our response to the report issued in connection with the peer review of our firm's system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice in effect for the year ended December 31, 2008. The corrective action discussed in this letter will be monitored to ensure it is effectively implemented as a part of our system of quality control.

The firm modified its quality control policies and procedures to require the use of a new work paper review process to ensure documentation of procedures performed during the planning and assessment of risk on audits. This policy was discussed in a recent training session with the firm's staff. Additionally, all professionals will be required to obtain continuing professional education in risk based auditing. These corrective actions will also be emphasized in our monitoring procedures and internal inspection. The firm is in process of correcting the audits to ensure compliance with professional standards.

We believe this action is responsive to the deficiency noted in our review.

Sincerely,



Kirk & Richardson, P.C