

June 13, 2019

To the Board of Education  
**Independent School District #239**  
1000 Pine Meadows Lane  
P.O. Box 627  
Rushford, Minnesota

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota for the year ending June 30, 2019. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the related notes to financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota as of and for the year ending June 30, 2019. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussions and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota'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 Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota'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 Schedules
3. Schedule of funding progress for the retiree health plan
4. Schedule of Employer Contributions
5. Schedule of District and Non-Employer's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability-General Employees Retirement Fund
6. Schedule of District and Non-Employer's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability-TRA
7. Schedule of District's Contributions to Pension Plans-General Employees Retirement Fund
8. Schedule of District's Contributions to Pension Plans-TRA

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota'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 we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole:

1. Financial data included in the management's discussion and analysis
2. Supplementary financial information

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 our auditor's report will not provide an opinion or any assurance on that other information.

1. Introductory section and Board of Education and Administration

## **Independent School District #239**

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### **Audit Objective**

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your 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 as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the accounting records of the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Board of Education of the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions are other than unmodified, 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 issue reports, or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

### **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. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable 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 school district or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the school district. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

**Audit Procedures – General (Continued)**

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. 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. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to 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 may 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; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

**Audit Procedures – Internal Control**

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*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. 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 and *Government Auditing Standards*.

**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 Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts and agreements. However, the objective of our audit 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*.

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### **Other Services**

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes of Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota's in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. As required, we are disclosing the following non-attest services we have or will provide for the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota during the year:

1. Bookkeeping adjustments
2. Preparation of the Financial Statements
3. Other general consultation as requested by you from time to time

These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

### **Management Responsibilities**

Management is responsible for designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information 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 the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the school district from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written 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 affecting the school district involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud 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 school district received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the school district complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we report.

**Management Responsibilities (Continued)**

With regard to including the auditor's report in an exempt offering document, you agree that the aforementioned auditor's report, or reference to Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd's, will not be included in any such offering document without our prior permission or consent. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including an agreement to provide permission or consent, will be a separate engagement.

With regard to an exempt offering document with which Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd's is not involved, you agree to clearly indicate in the exempt offering document that Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd's is not involved with the contents of such offering document.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the 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. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of 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 other 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 agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

**Audit Administration, Fees, and Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash or accounts receivable or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

We will provide copies of our reports to the school district; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.



**Audit Administration, Fees, and Other (Continued)**

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd. and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota's Cognizant or Oversight Agency or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U. S. Government 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 Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd. 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.

Any dispute (other than our efforts to collect an outstanding invoice) that may arise regarding the meaning, performance or enforcement of this engagement or any prior engagement that we have performed for you, will, prior to resorting to litigation, be submitted to mediation, and the parties will engage in the mediation process in good faith. Any mediation initiated as a result of this engagement shall be administered within Olmsted County, Minnesota, by a mutually agreed upon mediator, according to its mediation rules, and any ensuing litigation shall be conducted within said county, according to Minnesota law. The results of any such mediation shall be binding only upon agreement of each party to be bound. The parties participating in the mediation shall bear their own costs, except that any charges assessed by the mediation organization shall be shared equally by the participating parties.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release or any additional period requested by the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota's Cognizant or Oversight 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.

By your signature below, you acknowledge and agree that upon expiration of the seven year period Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd. shall be free to destroy our records related to this engagement.

If you intend to reproduce and publish the financial statements and our report thereon, they must be reproduced in their entirety. Inclusion of the audited financial statements in a document you prepare, such as an annual report, should be done only with our prior approval of the document.

We expect to begin preliminary audit procedures in September 2019 and to issue our reports no later than December 31, 2019. Jason Boynton is the engagement principal and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it. The fee for the audit of the District's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2019 will not exceed \$15,000, including expenses. The fee estimate 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.

To ensure that Smith, Schafer and Associates, Ltd's independence is not impaired under the AICPA *Code of Professional Conduct*, you agree to inform the engagement principal before entering into any substantive employment discussions with any of our personnel.

**Independent School District #239**  
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**Audit Administration, Fees, and Other (Continued)**

You have requested that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent reports received during the contract period. Accordingly, our 2017 peer review report accompanies this letter.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota 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.

Very truly yours,



Jason P. Boynton, CPA  
SMITH, SCHAFFER AND ASSOCIATES, LTD.  
Principal

**RESPONSE:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the Independent School District #239, Rushford, Minnesota.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_



## Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

# KerberRose

## Certified Public Accountants

November 29, 2017

To the Shareholders of Smith, Schafer & Associates, Ltd.  
and the Peer Review Committee of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Smith, Schafer & Associates, Ltd. (the firm) in effect for the year ending May 31, 2017. 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 (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at [www.aicpa.org/prsummary](http://www.aicpa.org/prsummary). The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

### Firm's Responsibility

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. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

### Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

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.

### Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act and audits of employee benefit plans.

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Smith, Schafer & Associates, Ltd. in effect for the year ending May 31, 2017, 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*. Smith, Schafer & Associates, Ltd. has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

**KerberRose SC**



An Association of  
Independent Accounting Firms

115 E. Fifth Street, Shawano, WI

54166 P: 715-526-9400

[www.kerberrose.com](http://www.kerberrose.com)