

Denning, Downey & Associates, P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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Robert K. Denning, CPA, CGFM, CFF, CITP

June 25, 2024

Board of Trustees
Carmen Jackson, District Clerk

Hot Springs Public School
P.O. Box 1005
Hot Springs, MT 59845

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Hot Springs Public School for the year ended June 30, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated April 21, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Hot Springs Public School are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, Hot Springs Public School changed accounting policies related to the reporting of the fiduciary funds by adopting statement of Governmental Accounting Standards (GASB Statement) No. 96, Subscription Based IT Arrangements, in fiscal year 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by Hot Springs Public School during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's 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 significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate(s) affecting the Government Wide and proprietary fund financial statements include the OPEB Liability and Net Pension Liability.

Management's estimate of the OPEB Liability is based on requirements of GASB Statement No. 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions, and the Net Pension Liability based on requirements of GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, is determined by professional actuaries. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the OPEB and Net Pension

Liabilities in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. The attached schedule summarizes uncorrected misstatement of the financial statements. Management has determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated June 27, 2024

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Hot Springs Public School's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as Hot Springs Public School's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Budgetary Comparison Schedule, Budget-to-GAAP Reconciliation, Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), Schedule of Changes in the Total Other Post-Employment Benefits

(OPEB) Liability and Related Ratios, Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, and Schedule of Contributions which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplement the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide an assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on Schedule of Enrollment, Schedule of Revenue and Expenditures – Extracurricular Fund – All Fund Accounts, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, 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.

Restrictions on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of Trustee's and management of Hot Springs Public School and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Jonathan Mahrt, CPA

Denning, Downey & Associates, P.C.