

Freeport Public Schools

235 North Ocean Avenue • Freeport, New York 11520 • 516-867-5200



James Pappas, CPA
Assistant Superintendent
for Business

e-mail address:
jpappas@freeportschools.org

Phone (516) 867-5212
Fax (516) 623-1286

December 3, 2021

New York State Education Department
Office of Audit Services
89 Washington Avenue
Room 524 EB
Albany, NY 12234

To Whom it May Concern:

Below, please find the Freeport Public Schools' response to findings and recommendations of the 2020-2021 External Audit. The audit was conducted by Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

The Freeport Public Schools hereby submits a Corrective Action Plan for the 2020-2021 Management Letter. Management's response required under Section 170.12 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education for these recommendations is as follows:

Recommendation #1

During our prior year audit, we reviewed the District's policies and noted that the District's current procurement policy did not incorporate the Uniform Guidance procurement standards. Additionally, we noted that the District has not adopted written procedures for documenting how costs are to be allocated to Federal awards, documenting actual time and effort for payroll costs charged to Federal awards; cash management procedures to minimize the time elapsed between the receipts and disbursements of Federal funds; subrecipient monitoring; and how to safeguard personally identifiable information.

During our current year audit, we noted that the District reviewed the Uniform Guidance requirements and updated the related policies and written procedures as applicable.

Response

As indicated above this recommendation has been implemented.

Recommendation #2

New York State Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) §1318 limits a school district's general fund unassigned fund balance to an amount not greater than 4% of the ensuing year's budget.

We noted that the District's unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2021 exceeded the statutory 4% limit established by New York State Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) §1318.

We recommend that the District continue to monitor its plan for utilizing and reducing the General Fund's unassigned fund balance.

Response

The District has been gradually working toward lowering the unassigned fund balance

Although the District has been able to reduce the unassigned fund balance for four of the past five years, including during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, we believe the 4% limit should be reevaluated and increased by the State. We are a high needs school district largely dependent on State Aid and tax levy. The impact of on-going increase in our unaccompanied minors, ENL and Special Needs students could cost the District millions. We need to maintain fiscal and educational solvency for multiple years despite the uncertainties described and the unpredictability of State Aid from year to year, the limit of 4% seems unrealistic and not practical. We have and will always continue to monitor the District's unassigned fund balance to ensure we are able to continue to provide a quality education for our students not only now but also in future years.

Recommendation #3

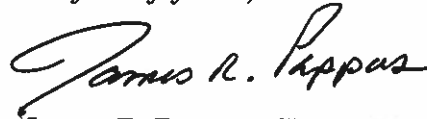
During our current year audit, we noted that the school food service fund's fund balance was in excess of three month's average expenditures. This was a direct result of higher federal and state reimbursement rates paid to district for free meals provided during COVID-19.

We recommend that the District develop a plan to reduce the school food service fund's fund balance to comply with Federal Regulation, 7CFR Part 210.14b.

Response

This recommendation has been implemented. The District has developed a plan in accordance with Federal Regulation, 7CFR Part 210.1.14. This plan was submitted to the NYS Education Department – Office of Child Nutrition on December 1, 2021.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Pappas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James R. Pappas, CPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business

CC: Dr. Kishore Kuncham
Superintendent of Schools