



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



GALLIA COUNTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GALLIA COUNTY

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
FraudOhio@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 282-0370
Report fraud: 866-Fraud-OH

Gallia County Local School District
Gallia County
4836 State Route 325
Patriot, Ohio 45658

To the Gallia County Local School District Board of Education, Superintendent Phillip Kuhn, and District Treasurer Jack Webb:

Background

The Auditor of State, Special Investigations Unit (SIU) conducted a criminal investigation and special audit of the Gallia County Local School District (District) predicated on information received regarding possible theft and ethics violations by the Superintendent.

The investigation began on January 8, 2019, after SIU received an email complaint from a confidential source who alleged the former District Superintendent, Jude Meyers, used his position to obtain employment contracts at the District for his son over several years and had intervened with a school principal to prevent adverse actions against his son.

After the information obtained from interviews and preliminary examination of District Board meeting minutes, Board policies, and payroll documents were considered, a special audit was declared by the Auditor of State.

This engagement was conducted in accordance with the [Auditor of State Special Investigations Unit, Quality Standards](#).

Suspect

Jude Meyers was hired as the District Superintendent in February 2014 and has been in education since 1981. Mr. Meyers left the District in June 2021 when his Superintendent contract was not renewed.

Allegations

During the period of March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2019 (the Period), the criminal investigation and special audit centered on two primary areas:

Employment of Superintendent's Son

During the 2014-2015 school year, Mr. Meyers' son was first hired by the District as the junior high track coach. Between March 2015 and June 2019, Mr. Meyers' son held various positions, including coach for the junior high and high school track and cross-country teams, substitute secretary, aide, and cook. Mr. Meyers allegedly used his authority and influence as Superintendent to obtain recommendations for his son's employment from Board of Education members or a school principal. Additionally, in March 2019, Mr. Meyers used his position to command school district employees to reimburse his son for travel expenses after his son was initially denied because the requisition was not approved prior to his travel.

Use of School Property

On several occasions, Mr. Meyers used District property without the consent of the Board of Education. He used a District lawn mower to cut the grass at the property he rented and the District's van to transport personal property, including furniture and personal belongings, from one residence to another. Mr. Meyers also used the District's bus mechanic and garage to perform work on Mr. Meyers' and his son's vehicles.

Findings

Based on the special audit procedures and investigation, the Auditor of State confirmed the allegations that Jude Meyers had a conflict of interest for using his authority or influence to secure a reimbursement payment to his son and theft in office for using District property for personal use. However, the District did not suffer a monetary loss and the ancillary costs related to using District property, such as overhead costs for the garage, are not readily quantifiable. Therefore, no finding for recovery will be issued.

Prosecution

At the conclusion of the special audit and investigation, a prosecution packet was presented to the Auditor of State Special Prosecutor serving by appointment of the Gallia County Prosecuting Attorney.

On May 4, 2022, Jude Meyers was indicted by the Gallia County grand jury. On February 6, 2023, Mr. Meyers entered a negotiated plea of guilty to one count of conflict of interest, a misdemeanor of the first degree, in violation of Ohio Rev. Code §102.3(D). Mr. Meyers was fined \$1,000 plus court costs.

The exit conference was waived by the District; however, the Board and Management were given five days to respond to this special audit report. A response was not received from the District.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 7, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



GALLIA COUNTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL AUDIT

GALLIA COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 5/4/2023

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
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