FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY

SINGLE AUDIT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued)

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Fremont City School District
Sandusky County
500 West State Street, Suite A
Fremont, Ohio 43420-2580

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Fremont City School District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General and Classroom Facilities Maintenance funds, for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards,* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 3 to the financial statements, during 2023, the District has elected to change its financial presentation to a cash basis of accounting comparable to the requirements of *Governmental Accounting Standards*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted to opine on the financial statements as a whole that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements.

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied to the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, this schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 19, 2024, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

August 19, 2024

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FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
JUNE 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	$ 27,421,408
Net position:	
Restricted for:	
Debt service	4,824,117
Capital improvements	4,480,583
Classroom facilities maintenance	2,653,710
State funded programs	285,568
Federally funded programs	423,922
Food service operations	1,377,575
Student activities	603,928
Other purposes	821,103
Unrestricted	11,950,902
Total net position	$ 27,421,408

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

		Program Receipts			Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	Capital Grants, Contributions and Interest	Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:					
Instruction:					
Regular	$ 20,750,814	$ 284,908	$ 3,512,472	$ 18,114	$ (16,935,320)
Special	7,919,797	128,029	2,835,143	-	(4,956,625)
Vocational	66,228	-	6,462	-	(59,766)
Other	32,736	-	17,427	-	(15,309)
Support services:					
Pupil	3,309,934	-	582,165	-	(2,727,769)
Instructional staff	1,332,480	11,072	318,853	81,885	(920,670)
Board of education	39,641	-	-	-	(39,641)
Administration	3,743,187	57,876	169,558	-	(3,515,753)
Fiscal	1,274,517	-	-	-	(1,274,517)
Business	187,562	-	-	-	(187,562)
Operations and maintenance	5,102,412	25,287	390,644	-	(4,686,481)
Pupil transportation	2,986,577	-	1,083,197	180,000	(1,723,380)
Central	1,034,848	55,931	48,179	-	(930,738)
Operation of non-instructional services:					
Food service operations	1,794,279	315,342	1,990,551	-	511,614
Community services	618,686	-	559,474	-	(59,212)
Extracurricular activities	1,163,203	335,887	1,771	-	(825,545)
Facilities acquisition and construction	4,059,446	-	605,109	817,658	(2,636,679)
Debt service:					
Principal retirement	1,400,000	-	-	-	(1,400,000)
Interest and fiscal charges	3,006,700	-	-	-	(3,006,700)
Total governmental activities	$ 59,823,047	$ 1,214,332	$ 12,121,005	$ 1,097,657	(45,390,053)

General receipts:	
Property taxes levied for:	
General purposes	15,150,722
Debt service	4,309,823
Capital outlay	205,676
Classroom facilities maintenance	618,678
Income taxes levied for:	
General purposes	10,417,533
Grants and entitlements not restricted to specific programs	15,621,285
Investment earnings	370,614
Miscellaneous	89,743
Total general receipts	46,784,074
Change in net position	1,394,021
Net position at beginning of year (restated)	26,027,387
Net position at end of year	$ 27,421,408

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2023

	General	Classroom Facilities Maintenance	Bond Retirement	Classroom Facilities	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:						
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	$ 9,095,789	$ 2,653,710	$ 4,824,117	$ 2,580,270	$ 6,240,271	$ 25,394,157
Fund balances:						
Nonspendable:						
Unclaimed monies	$ 1,532	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,532
Restricted:						
Debt service	-	-	4,824,117	-	-	4,824,117
Capital improvements	-	-	-	2,580,270	1,900,313	4,480,583
Classroom facilities maintenance	-	2,653,710	-	-	-	2,653,710
Food service operations	-	-	-	-	1,377,575	1,377,575
Non-public schools	-	-	-	-	129,379	129,379
State funded programs	-	-	-	-	156,189	156,189
Federally funded programs	-	-	-	-	423,922	423,922
Extracurricular	-	-	-	-	603,928	603,928
Other purposes	-	-	-	-	819,571	819,571
Committed:						
Capital improvements	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Termination benefits	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	1,500,000
Underground storage tanks	11,000	-	-	-	-	11,000
Assigned:						
Student instruction	414,532	-	-	-	-	414,532
Student and staff support	414,682	-	-	-	-	414,682
Extracurricular activities	16,959	-	-	-	-	16,959
Subsequent year's appropriations	3,151,037	-	-	-	-	3,151,037
Public school support	429,748	-	-	-	-	429,748
Other purposes	1,372	-	-	-	-	1,372
Unassigned (deficit)	3,154,927	-	-	-	(170,606)	2,984,321
Total fund balances	$ 9,095,789	$ 2,653,710	$ 4,824,117	$ 2,580,270	$ 6,240,271	$ 25,394,157

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS TO
NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS
JUNE 30, 2023

Total governmental fund balances	$	25,394,157
Amounts reported for governmental activities on the statement of net position are different because:		
Internal service funds are used by management to charge the costs of insurance and workers' compensation to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are included in governmental activities on the statement of net position.		2,027,251
Net position of governmental activities	$	27,421,408

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	General	Classroom Facilities Maintenance	Bond Retirement	Classroom Facilities	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts:						
Property taxes	$ 15,150,722	$ 618,678	$ 4,309,823	$ -	$ 205,676	$ 20,284,899
Income taxes	10,417,533	-	-	-	-	10,417,533
Intergovernmental	18,012,126	-	208,711	504,820	9,795,328	28,520,985
Investment earnings	370,614	-	-	296,056	18,362	685,032
Tuition and fees	417,562	-	-	-	-	417,562
Extracurricular	85,860	-	-	-	327,143	413,003
Rental income	24,472	-	-	-	-	24,472
Charges for services	43,854	-	-	-	315,441	359,295
Contributions and donations	2,356	-	-	-	1,813	4,169
Miscellaneous	89,743	-	-	-	375	90,118
Total receipts	44,614,842	618,678	4,518,534	800,876	10,664,138	61,217,068
Disbursements:						
Current:						
Instruction:						
Regular	17,353,361	-	-	-	3,280,126	20,633,487
Special	7,115,396	-	-	-	781,257	7,896,653
Vocational	66,228	-	-	-	-	66,228
Other	16,531	-	-	-	16,205	32,736
Support services:						
Pupil	3,232,787	-	-	-	58,640	3,291,427
Instructional staff	1,025,225	-	-	-	295,304	1,320,529
Board of education	39,641	-	-	-	-	39,641
Administration	3,586,549	-	-	-	137,422	3,723,971
Fiscal	1,117,098	-	129,350	-	25,238	1,271,686
Business	177,727	-	-	-	8,700	186,427
Operations and maintenance	3,861,721	668,629	-	-	559,342	5,089,692
Pupil transportation	1,969,269	-	-	-	1,005,547	2,974,816
Central	1,020,227	-	-	-	10,800	1,031,027
Operation of non-instructional services:						
Food service operations	-	-	-	-	1,787,501	1,787,501
Community services	782	-	-	-	616,775	617,557
Extracurricular activities	826,939	-	-	-	334,611	1,161,550
Facilities acquisition and construction	-	72,052	-	2,943,212	1,044,182	4,059,446
Debt service:						
Principal retirement	-	-	1,400,000	-	-	1,400,000
Interest and fiscal charges	-	-	3,006,700	-	-	3,006,700
Total disbursements	41,409,481	740,681	4,536,050	2,943,212	9,961,650	59,591,074
Excess of receipts over (under) disbursements	3,205,361	(122,003)	(17,516)	(2,142,336)	702,488	1,625,994
Other financing sources (uses):						
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Transfers (out)	(1,000,000)	-	-	-	-	(1,000,000)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(1,000,000)	-	-	-	1,000,000	-
Net change in fund balances	2,205,361	(122,003)	(17,516)	(2,142,336)	1,702,488	1,625,994
Fund balances at beginning of year (restated)	6,890,428	2,775,713	4,841,633	4,722,606	4,537,783	23,768,163
Fund balances at end of year	$ 9,095,789	$ 2,653,710	$ 4,824,117	$ 2,580,270	$ 6,240,271	$ 25,394,157

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - CASH BASIS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	$	1,625,994
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:		
Internal service funds used by management to charge the costs of insurance and workers' compensation to individual funds are not reported in the district-wide statement of activities. Governmental fund disbursements and the related internal service funds receipts are eliminated. The net receipts (disbursements) of the internal service funds are allocated among the governmental activities		(231,973)
Change in net position of governmental activities	$	1,394,021

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (BUDGET BASIS)
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts			**Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)**
	Original	**Final**	**Actual**	
Receipts and Other Financing Sources	$ -	$ -	$ 44,441,951	$ 44,441,951
Disbursements and Other Financing Uses	45,255,102	50,033,365	44,474,812	5,558,553
Net change in fund balance	(45,255,102)	(50,033,365)	(32,861)	50,000,504
Fund balance at beginning of year	5,773,312	5,773,312	5,773,312	-
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	559,445	559,445	559,445	-
Fund balance at end of year	$ (38,922,345)	$ (43,700,608)	$ 6,299,896	$ 50,000,504

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (BUDGET BASIS)
CLASSROOM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts			**Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)**
	Original	**Final**	**Actual**	
Receipts and Other Financing Sources	$ -	$ -	$ 618,678	$ 618,678
Disbursements and Other Financing Uses	1,131,864	1,131,864	792,490	339,374
Net change in fund balance	(1,131,864)	(1,131,864)	(173,812)	958,052
Fund balance at beginning of year	2,511,941	2,511,941	2,511,941	-
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	263,772	263,772	263,772	-
Fund balance at end of year	$ 1,643,849	$ 1,643,849	$ 2,601,901	$ 958,052

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
PROPRIETARY FUND
JUNE 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities - Internal Service Funds
Assets:	
Current assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	$ 2,027,251
Net position:	
Unrestricted	$ 2,027,251

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND
CHANGES IN NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
PROPRIETARY FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities - Internal Service Funds
Operating receipts:	
Charges for services	$ 6,173,246
Other	418,590
Total operating revenues	6,591,836
Operating disbursements:	
Purchased services	1,314,938
Claims	5,508,871
Total operating expenses	6,823,809
Operating loss / change in net position	(231,973)
Net cash position at beginning of year (restated)	2,259,224
Net cash position at end of year	$ 2,027,251

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

Fremont City School District (the District) is organized under Article VI, Section 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The District operates under a locally elected board form of government consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. The District provides educational services as authorized by state statute and federal guidelines.

The District was established in 1968 through the consolidation of existing land areas and school districts. The District serves an area of approximately one hundred sixty-two square miles. It is located in central Sandusky County, including all of the City of Fremont and portions of surrounding townships. It is staffed by 135 classified employees, 247 certified teaching personnel, including 37 administrative employees who provide services to 3,409 students and other community members. The District currently operates seven elementary schools, a middle school, and a comprehensive high school.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed in Note 2.D., these financial statements are presented on the cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. In cases where these cash basis statements contain items that are the same as, or similar to, those items in financial statements prepared in conformity with GAAP, similar informative disclosures are provided. Following are the more significant of the District's accounting policies.

A. Reporting Entity

The reporting entity has been defined in accordance with GASB Statement No. 14, "*The Financial Reporting Entity*" as amended by GASB Statement No. 39, "*Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units*" and GASB Statement No. 61, "*The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34*". The reporting entity is composed of the primary government and component units. The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the District. For the District, this includes general operations, food service, and student related activities of the District.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the District is financially accountable. The District is financially accountable for an organization if the District appoints a voting majority of the organization's Governing Board and (1) the District is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the District is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; or (3) the District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or (4) the District is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the District in that the District approves the budget, the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes. Certain organizations are also included as component units if the nature and significance of the relationship between the primary government and the organization is such that exclusion by the primary government would render the primary government's financial statements incomplete or misleading. Based upon the application of these criteria, the District has no component units. The basic financial statements of the reporting entity include only those of the District (the primary government).

The following activity is included within the District's reporting entity:

Parochial Schools - Within the District boundaries, Bishop Hoffman Catholic Schools are operated through the Toledo Catholic Diocese. Current state legislation provides funding to these parochial schools. The monies are received and disbursed on behalf of the parochial schools by the Treasurer of the District, as directed by the parochial schools. This activity is reflected in a special revenue fund for financial reporting purposes by the District.

The District participates in three jointly governed organizations described below.

JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association

The Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association (NOECA) is a jointly governed organization among local school districts. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member school districts. NOECA is governed by a Board of Directors chosen from the general membership of the NOECA Assembly. The NOECA Assembly consists of a representative from each participating school district. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Board of Directors. During fiscal year 2023, the District paid $154,323 to NOECA for various services. Financial information can be obtained from Matthew Bauer, who serves as Controller, 2900 South Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

Vanguard-Sentinel Career Center

The Vanguard-Sentinel Career Center (Career Center) is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio which provides vocational education to students. The Career Center is operated under the direction of a Board consisting of two representatives from the District and one representative from the other thirteen participating school districts' elected boards. The Career Center possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Board. Financial information can be obtained from the Vanguard-Sentinel Career Center, Alex Binger, who serves as Treasurer, 1306 Cedar Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420.

Ohio Schools Council

The Ohio Schools Council (Council) is a jointly governed organization among 201 school districts, educational service centers, joint vocational school districts, and developmental disabilities boards in thirty-five northern Ohio counties. The jointly governed organization was formed to purchase quality products and services at the lowest possible cost to its members. Each member supports the Council by paying an annual participation fee. The Council's Board consists of nine superintendents of the participating School Districts whose term rotates every year. The degree of control exercised by any school district is limited to its representation on the Board. During fiscal year 2023, the District paid the Council $134,123 for natural gas purchases and $812 for membership fees. Financial information can be obtained by contacting William Zelei, the Executive Director of the Ohio Schools Council at 6393 Oak Tree Boulevard, Suite 377, Independence, Ohio 44131.

B. Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The various funds of the District are grouped into two categories: governmental and proprietary.

Governmental Funds – Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources is reported as fund balance. The District's major funds are described below:

General Fund - The General fund accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General fund balance is available to the District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Classroom Facilities Maintenance Fund - The Classroom Facilities Maintenance fund is used to account for property tax levy monies received and disbursed on maintenance of facilities.

Bond Retirement Fund - The Bond Retirement fund is used to account for the accumulation of property tax receipts restricted for the payment of the general obligation bonds used for the construction and improvements of school buildings and facilities.

Classroom Facilities Fund - The Classroom Facilities fund is used to account for monies received and disbursed in connection with contracts entered into by the District and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission for the building and equipping of classroom facilities.

The other governmental funds of the District account for grants and other resources to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources.

Proprietary Fund - Proprietary fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows. The District reports one type of proprietary fund:

Internal Service Fund - The internal service fund accounts for the financing of services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the District on a cost reimbursement basis. The District's Self Insurance internal service fund accounts for the activities of the program for employee health care benefits and workers' compensation.

C. Basis of Presentation and Measurement Focus

Government-Wide Financial Statements - The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government.

The government-wide statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each function or program of the District's governmental activities. These disbursements are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and are therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the District. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each business segment or governmental function is self-financing on the cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the District.

All assets and net cash position associated with the operation of the District are included on the statement of net position.

Fund Financial Statements - Fund financial statements report detailed information about the District. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column, and all nonmajor funds are aggregated into one column.

D. Basis of Accounting

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with GAAP, the District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes on the cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than GAAP. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in this financial statement.

Budgetary presentations report budgetary cash disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e. when an encumbrance is approved). The difference between disbursements reported in the fund and government-wide statements and disbursements reported in the budgetary statements is due to current year encumbrances being added to disbursements reported in the budgetary statements.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the preceding paragraphs.

E. Budgets

All funds are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the appropriation resolution and the certificate of estimated resources, which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amounts that the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriation resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at a level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of control has been established by the Board of Education at the fund level. Budgetary modifications at this level require a resolution of the Board of Education. The Treasurer has been given the authority to allocate Board appropriations to the function and object levels within each fund.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original and final budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the amounts in the certificate when the original and final appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificate of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by the Board.

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment by the Board throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation for that fund that covered the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried over from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board during the fiscal year.

F. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, all cash received by the District is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through District records. Interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the financial statements.

During fiscal year 2023, investments were limited to negotiable certificates of deposit (negotiable CD's), Federal Farm Credit Bank bonds (FFCB), Federal Home Loan Bank bonds (FHLB), U.S. Treasury notes, U.S. government money market funds, and investments in the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio). Except for investments in STAR Ohio, investments are reported at fair value which is based on quoted market prices.

The District invested in STAR Ohio. STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, "Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants." The District measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

There were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours' notice in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding $100 million is encouraged. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to $250 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the $250 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

All interest is legally required to be placed in the General fund, and other funds as approved by a Board resolution. Interest receipts credited to the General fund during fiscal year 2023 amounted to $370,614, which includes $207,823 assigned from other District funds.

Investments of the District's cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the District are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that were not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

An analysis of the District's investment account at fiscal year-end is provided in Note 4.

G. Inventory and Prepaid Items

The District reports cash disbursements for inventory and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

H. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment purchased are recorded as cash disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements under the cash basis of accounting. Depreciation has not been reported for any capital assets.

I. Interfund Activity

On the fund financial statements, the District reports advances in and advances out for interfund loans. These items are not reflected as assets and liabilities in the accompanying fund financial statements under the cash basis of accounting. Advances are eliminated in the statement of activities.

J. Compensated Absences

Compensated absences of the District consist of vacation leave and sick leave. Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation leave and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation leave and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the cash basis of accounting.

K. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - The nonspendable fund cash balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted - Fund cash balance is reported as restricted when constraints are placed on the use of resources that are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed - The committed fund cash balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the District Board of Education (the highest level of decision making authority). Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the District Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund cash balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned - Amounts in the assigned fund cash balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes, but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted nor committed. In governmental funds other than the General fund, assigned fund cash balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the District Board of Education, which includes giving the Treasurer the authority to constrain monies for intended purposes.

Unassigned - Unassigned fund cash balance is the residual classification for the General fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund cash balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

The District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which restricted and unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) fund cash balance is available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund cash balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund cash balance classifications could be used.

L. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through enabling legislation adopted by the District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. The District did not have any net position restricted by enabling legislation at June 30, 2023.

The District first applies restricted resources when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net cash position is available.

M. Long-Term Debt

The District t's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received, and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a lease, financed purchase transaction, or Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. Lease payments, financed purchase payments, and SBITA payments are reported when paid.

N. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability and net OPEB asset, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension/OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension/OPEB plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension/OPEB plans report investments at fair value.

O. Extraordinary and Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Board of Education and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. Neither type of transaction occurred during fiscal year 2023.

P. Leases

The District is the lessee in various leases related to equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease payables are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. Lease receipts/disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

Q. Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs)

For fiscal year 2023, GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements* (SBITAs) was effective. This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance.

The District has entered into noncancelable SBITA contracts (as defined by GASB 96) for student curriculum and various other software. SBITA payables are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

A. Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2023, the District has implemented GASB Statement No. 91, "*Conduit Debt Obligations*", GASB Statement No. 94, "*Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*", GASB Statement No. 96, "*Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements*", certain questions and answers of GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 and certain paragraphs of GASB Statement No. 99, "*Omnibus 2022*".

GASB Statement No. 91 provides a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminate diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures. This Statement achieves those objectives by clarifying the existing definition of a conduit debt obligation; establishing that a conduit debt obligation is not a liability of the issuer; establishing standards for accounting and financial reporting of additional commitments and voluntary commitments extended by issuers and arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations; and improving required note disclosures. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 91 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 94 is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 94 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 96 provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, Leases, as amended. The notes to the basic financial statements include the disclosure requirements under the Statement.

GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 provides clarification on issues related to previously established GASB guidance. The implementation of GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 99 to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 99 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

B. Compliance

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) requires the District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the District prepared its basic financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying basic financial statements omit assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, net position/fund balances, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The District can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the District.

C. Deficit Fund Balances

Fund balances at June 30, 2023 included the following individual fund deficits:

Nonmajor funds	Deficit
Public School Preschool	$ 12,597
IDEA Part B	30,800
Title III - Limited English Proficiency	718
Title I	70,734
IDEA Part B - Preschool Stimulus	7,436
Title II-A	26,304
Title IV - Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment	22,017
	$ 170,606

D. Change in Accounting Basis - Restatement of Fund Balances and Net Position

During fiscal year 2023, the District changed from the modified accrual basis of accounting (GAAP-basis) to the cash-basis of accounting (see Note 2.D) for the governmental funds. The District has also elected to present the cash-basis financial statements in a GASB 34-like format. The fund balances for June 30, 2022 have been restated to account for the change in accounting principle, which effectively eliminated balance sheet accruals.

For reporting in accordance with GASB 34-like statements, the District is required to present government-wide financial statements. These statements consolidate all governmental activities in a single column.

A fund balance restatement is required to transition from the modified accrual basis of accounting to the cash-basis of accounting. The June 30, 2022, fund balances have been restated as follows:

	General Fund	Classroom Facilities Maintenance Fund	Bond Retirement Fund	Classroom Facilities Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Fund balance as previously reported (GAAP-basis)	$ 7,502,331	$ 2,772,750	$ 5,699,710	$ 3,076,336	$ 5,177,595	$ 24,228,722
Change in reporting basis adjustments	(611,903)	2,963	(858,077)	1,646,270	(639,812)	(460,559)
Restated fund balance at June 30, 2022 (cash-basis)	$ 6,890,428	$ 2,775,713	$ 4,841,633	$ 4,722,606	$ 4,537,783	$ 23,768,163

A net position restatement is required to transition from the accrual basis of accounting (GAAP-basis) to the cash-basis of accounting for the governmental activities and the internal service funds. The net position of the governmental activities and internal service funds at June 30, 2022 have been restated as follows:

	Governmental Activities	Internal Service Funds
Net position as previously reported (GAAP-basis)	$ 46,926,392	$ 1,988,014
Change in reporting basis adjustments	(20,899,005)	271,210
Restated net position at June 30, 2022 (cash-basis)	$ 26,027,387	$ 2,259,224

E. Appropriations Exceeded Estimated Resources

Contrary to Ohio law, the Treasurer did not properly certify to the County Auditor the total amount from all sources available for expenditures from each fund. Because of this, appropriations exceeded estimated resources for all funds in fiscal year 2023.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

State statues classify monies held by the District into three categories.

Active monies are public deposits necessary to meet the demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the District Treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Board of Education has identified as not required for use within the current five-year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts including passbook accounts.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the treasurer or qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Deposits

At June 30, 2023, the carrying amount of all District deposits was $7,036,624 and the bank balance of all District deposits was $7,252,730. Of the bank balance, $745,619 was covered by the FDIC and $6,507,111 was collateralized through the OPCS. Although all statutory requirements for the investment of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party.

The District has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by:

- Eligible securities pledged to the District and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or
- Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS required the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

Investments

As of June 30, 2023, the District had the following investments and maturities:

			Investment Maturities (in years)			
Rating	Investment	Measurement Amount	Less than 1	1 - 3	Over 3	% Total Investments
	Net Asset Value:					
AAAm	STAR Ohio	$ 6,738,439	$ 6,738,439	$ -	$ -	33.06%
	Cost					
Aaa	FFCB	1,265,765	-	1,265,765	-	6.21%
Aaa	FHLB	4,734,290	-	3,734,290	1,000,000	23.22%
Aaa	U.S. Treasury Note	972,782	972,782	-	-	4.77%
N/A	Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	5,884,000	2,904,000	2,731,000	249,000	28.87%
N/A	Money Market	789,508	789,508	-	-	3.87%
	Totals	$ 20,384,784	$ 11,404,729	$ 7,731,055	$ 1,249,000	100.00%

The weighted average maturity of investments is 0.97 years.

Interest Rate Risk

As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates and according to state law, the District's investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to five years or less. STAR Ohio is an investment pool operated by the Ohio State Treasurer. It is unclassified since it is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. Ohio law requires STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The weighted average of maturity of the portfolio held by STAR Ohio as of June 30, 2023, is 48 days.

Credit Risk

STAR Ohio is rated AAAm by Standard & Poor's. STAR Ohio must maintain the highest letter or numerical rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard service. The negotiable CD's were not rated but are fully covered by the FDIC. FFCB, FHLB, and U.S. Treasury Notes were rated Aaa by Standard & Poor's. Federal money markets are exempt from ratings since they are explicitly guaranteed by a U.S. Government Agency. The District's policy on Credit Risk allows only for those investments as stated within the Ohio Revised Code.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The District places no limit on the amount the District may invest in any one issuer. The District's policy is to invest money with financial institutions that are able to abide by the laws governing insurance and collateral of public funds.

Reconciliation of Cash and Investments to the Statement of Net Position

The following is a reconciliation of cash and investments as reported in the note above to cash and investments as reported on the statement of net position as of June 30, 2023:

Cash and investments per note	
Carrying amount of deposits	$ 7,036,624
Investments	20,384,784
Total	$ 27,421,408
Cash and investments per statement of net position	
Governmental activities	$ 27,421,408

NOTE 5 - INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

Interfund Transfers

Transfers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, as reported in the fund financial statements:

Transfers to nonmajor governmental funds from:	Amount
General fund	$ 1,000,000

Transfers are used to move revenues from the fund that statute or budget required to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them and to use unrestricted revenues collected in the General fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations.

All transfers were made in compliance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.14, 5705.15 and 5705.16. Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements.

NOTE 6 - PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes are levied and assessed on a calendar year basis while the District fiscal year runs from July through June. First half tax collections are received by the District in the second half of the fiscal year. Second half tax distributions occur in the first half of the following fiscal year.

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the District. Real property tax revenue received in calendar year 2023 represents collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2023 were levied after April 1, 2022, on the assessed value listed as of January 1, 2022, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31 with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax revenue received in calendar year 2023 represents collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2023 became a lien December 31, 2021, were levied after April 1, 2022 and are collected in 2023 with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The District receives property taxes from Sandusky County. The County Auditor periodically advances to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2023, are available to finance fiscal year 2023 operations. The amount available to be advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent. The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2023 taxes were collected are:

	2022 Second Half Collections		2023 First Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Agricultural/residential and other real estate	$ 623,167,000	80.28	$ 626,516,380	80.18
Public utility personal	153,113,410	19.72	154,877,380	19.82
Total	$ 776,280,410	100.00	$ 781,393,760	100.00
Tax rate per $1,000 of assessed valuation	$ 40.15		$ 38.85	

On May 2, 2017, a new levy was passed for 4.63 mills for the purpose of the District constructing and renovating school facilities. The levy will be collected throughout the 37 year life of the bonds that the District issued for the improvements.

NOTE 7 - SCHOOL DISTRICT INCOME TAX

The District levies a voted tax of 1.25 percent for general operations on the income of residents and of estates. The tax was renewed on January 1, 2019 and will continue for five years. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds. Income tax receipts are credited to the General fund.

NOTE 8 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Changes in the District's long-term obligations during fiscal year 2023 were as follows:

	Balance June 30, 2022	Additions	Reductions	Balance June 30, 2023	Amounts Due in One Year
Governmental activities:					
General Obligation Bonds:					
Series 2015 Refunding Bonds					
Serial and Term Bonds	$ 6,715,000	$ -	$ (350,000)	$ 6,365,000	$ 365,000
Series 2016 Refunding Bonds					
Serial and Term Bonds	6,205,000	-	(310,000)	5,895,000	320,000
Series 2017 General Obligation Bonds					
Serial and Term Bonds	55,885,000	-	(740,000)	55,145,000	770,000
Total Long-Term Obligations	$ 68,805,000	$ -	$ (1,400,000)	$ 67,405,000	$ 1,455,000

On December 1, 2015, the District issued $7,499,935 in Series 2015 general obligation bonds with interest rates ranging from 1% to 4% for serial and term bonds and 23.81% for capital appreciation bonds to advance refund $7,500,000 of outstanding 2009B School Facilities bonds with an average interest rate of 4.82%. The bond proceeds consisted of bond principal and $909,837 of premium. The net proceeds of $8,451,014 (after payment of $135,270 in underwriting fees, insurance, and other issuance costs) was deposited into an irrevocable trust with an escrow agent to provide for future debt service payments of the portion of 2009B School Facilities refunded. As a result of this issue, a portion of the 2009B School Facilities bonds are considered to be redeemed and the liability has been removed. The old debt was called on January 15, 2019, and the debt was repaid.

On March 15, 2016, the District issued $7,165,000 in Series 2016 general obligation bonds with interest rates ranging from 2% to 4% for serial and term bonds to advance refund $7,235,000 of outstanding 2009A School Facilities bonds with an average interest rate of 4.57%. The bond proceeds consisted of bond principal and $980,223 of premium. The net proceeds of $8,020,619 (after payment of $124,604 in underwriting fees, insurance, and other issuance costs) was deposited into an irrevocable trust with an escrow agent to provide for future debt service payments of the portion of 2009A School Facilities refunded. As a result of this issue, a portion of the 2009A School Facilities bonds are considered to be redeemed and the liability has been removed. The old debt was called on January 15, 2019, and the debt was repaid.

In July 2017, the District issued $58,635,000 in Series 2017 serial and term general obligation bonds. The bonds were issued for the purpose of constructing and renovating school facilities. The interest rate of the bonds varies between 2 and 5 percent. The bonds mature in fiscal year 2055.

General obligation bonds will be repaid from the Bond Retirement fund.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the general obligation bonds outstanding at June 30, 2023, were as follows:

Fiscal	General Obligation Bonds		
Year Ended	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	$ 1,455,000	$ 2,955,800	$ 4,410,800
2025	1,505,000	2,904,450	4,409,450
2026	1,565,000	2,847,950	4,412,950
2027	1,630,000	2,789,150	4,419,150
2028	1,685,000	2,725,925	4,410,925
2029 - 2033	9,640,000	12,487,350	22,127,350
2034 - 2038	10,835,000	10,211,800	21,046,800
2039 - 2043	8,445,000	8,006,250	16,451,250
2044 - 2048	10,805,000	5,710,000	16,515,000
2049 - 2053	13,585,000	2,938,200	16,523,200
2054 - 2055	6,255,000	377,800	6,632,800
Total	$ 67,405,000	$ 53,954,675	$ 121,359,675

Legal Debt Margin

The Ohio Revised Code provides that voted net general obligation debt of the District shall never exceed 9% of the total assessed valuation of the District. The code further provides that unvoted indebtedness shall not exceed 1/10 of 1% of the property valuation of the District. The code additionally states that unvoted indebtedness related to energy conservation debt shall not exceed 9/10 of 1% of the property valuation of the District. The assessed valuation used in determining the District's legal debt margin has been modified by House Bill 530 which became effective March 30, 2006. In accordance with House Bill 530, the assessed valuation used in the District's legal debt margin calculation excluded tangible personal property used in business, telephone or telegraph property, interexchange telecommunications company property, and personal property owned or leased by a railroad company and used in railroad operations. The effects of these debt limitations at June 30, 2023, are a voted debt margin of $7,744,555 including available funds of $4,824,117 and an unvoted debt margin of $781,394.

NOTE 9 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. These risks are covered by commercial insurance purchased from Utica National Insurance Group.

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years, and there has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior fiscal year.

The District pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per $100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

The District offers medical, prescription drug, vision and dental insurance to all employees through a partially self-insured program of the District makes payments to the Self Insurance internal service fund based on actuarial estimates of the amounts needed to pay prior and current year claims. The District carries a stop loss insurance policy for claims in excess of $160,000 per individual annually and unlimited per individual, per lifetime.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

The Statewide retirement systems provide both pension benefits and other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset

The net pension liability and the net OPEB liability/asset reported on the statement of net position represents a liability or asset to employees for pensions and OPEB, respectively.

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions–between an employer and its employees–of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions/OPEB are provided to an employee–on a deferred-payment basis–as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the District's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting these estimates annually.

The Ohio Revised Code limits the District's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The District cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the District does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

The net pension/net OPEB liability (asset) are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 11 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description - The District's non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire after August 1, 2017
Full benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially reduced benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit; or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

* Members with 25 years of service credit as of August 1, 2017 will be included in this plan.

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service; 2.2% for the first thirty years of service and 2.5% for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5% and with a floor of 0%. In 2022, the Board of Trustees approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2023.

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the District is required to contribute 14.00% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10.00% for plan members and 14.00% for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00%. For fiscal year 2023, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was $801,077 for fiscal year 2023.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description - Licensed teachers participate in STRS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS website at www.strsoh.org.

New members have a choice of three retirement plans: a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined (CO) Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307.

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.20% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

Eligibility changes for DB Plan members who retire with actuarially reduced benefits will be phased in until August 1, 2023 when retirement eligibility will be five years of qualifying service credit and age 60, or 30 years of service credit regardless of age.

The DC Plan allows members to place all of their member contributions and 9.53% of the 14% employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS Ohio. The remaining 4.47% of the 14% employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12% of the 14% member rate goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2% is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity after termination of employment at age 50 and after termination of employment.

New members who choose the DC Plan or Combined Plan will have another opportunity to reselect a permanent plan during their fifth year of membership. Members may remain in the same plan or transfer to another STRS plan. The optional annuitization of a member’s defined contribution account or the defined contribution portion of a member’s Combined Plan account to a lifetime benefit results in STRS bearing the risk of investment gain or loss on the account. STRS has therefore included all three plan options as one defined benefit plan for GASB 68 reporting purposes.

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service, who is determined to be disabled, may qualify for a disability benefit. New members, on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit to apply for disability benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. If a member of the DC Plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member’s designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member’s account balance.

Funding Policy - Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fiscal year 2023 employer and employee contribution rate of 14% was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2023, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The District’s contractually required contribution to STRS was $2,959,057 for fiscal year 2023.

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.156483700%	0.165078971%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	0.150244600%	0.157635590%	
Change in proportionate share	-0.006239100%	-0.007443381%	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 8,126,397	$ 35,042,591	$ 43,168,988

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

SERS' total pension liability was determined by their actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each defined benefit retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment termination). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2022, are presented below:

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
COLA or ad hoc COLA:	
Current measurement date	2.00%
Prior measurement date	2.00%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses
Discount rate:	
Current measurement date	7.00%
Prior measurement date	7.00%
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal (level percent of payroll)

In 2022, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

In the prior measurement date, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended June 30, 2020.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes.

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	(0.45) %
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategy	4.00	3.39
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00	5.38
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate - The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00%). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%), or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 11,961,668	$ 8,126,397	$ 4,895,233

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

For the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

For the prior measurement date, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Tables, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables with 90% of rates for males and 100% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

STRS Ohio’s investment consultant develops an estimate range for the investment return assumption based on the target allocation adopted by the Retirement Board. The target allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation*	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	100.00 %	

* Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS Ohio's investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with the rates described previously. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS Ohio's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2022.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following table represents the net pension liability as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 52,936,597	$ 35,042,591	$ 19,909,801

Changes Between Measurement Date and Reporting Date - STRS approved a one-time 1.00% cost-of-living adjustment to eligible benefit recipients effective July 1, 2023. It is unknown what effect this change will have on the net pension liability.

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

See Note 10 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The District contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Health Care Fund was established and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 105(e). SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. The SERS Retirement Board established the rules for the premiums paid by the retirees for health care coverage for themselves and their dependents or for their surviving beneficiaries. Premiums vary depending on the plan selected, qualified years of service, Medicare eligibility, and retirement status.

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2023, this amount was $25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2023, the District's surcharge obligation was $104,564.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was $104,564 for fiscal year 2023.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description - The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy - Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14% of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

The net OPEB liability/asset was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB liability/asset used to calculate the net OPEB liability/asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the District's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.159412200%	0.165078971%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	0.153566300%	0.157635590%	
Change in proportionate share	-0.005845900%	-0.007443381%	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 2,156,087	$ -	$ 2,156,087
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	$ -	$ 4,081,709	$ 4,081,709

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

The total OPEB liability is determined by SERS' actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment terminations). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases, actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2022 are presented below:

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal bond index rate:	
Current measurement date	3.69%
Prior measurement date	1.92%
Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:	
Current measurement date	4.08%
Prior measurement date	2.27%
Medical trend assumption:	
Current measurement date	7.00 to 4.40%
Prior measurement date	
Medicare	5.125 to 4.400%
Pre-Medicare	6.750 to 4.400%

In 2022, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

In the prior measurement date, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended June 30, 2020.

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial 5-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board in 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00%, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	(0.45) %
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategy	4.00	3.39
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00	5.38
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022, was 4.08%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2022, was 2.27%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2021 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 3.69% at June 30, 2022 and 1.92% at June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates - The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability, what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.08%) and higher (5.08%) than the current discount rate (4.08%). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.00% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (8.00% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate (7.00% decreasing to 4.40%).

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 2,677,892	$ 2,156,087	$ 1,734,848

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 1,662,730	$ 2,156,087	$ 2,800,491

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, compared with June 30, 2021 actuarial valuation, are presented below:

	June 30, 2022		June 30, 2021	
Inflation	2.50%		2.50%	
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%		12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation		7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Payroll increases	3.00%		3.00%	
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%		0.00%	
Discount rate of return	7.00%		7.00%	
Blended discount rate of return	N/A		N/A	
Health care cost trends				
	Initial	Ultimate	Initial	Ultimate
Medical				
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	3.94%	5.00%	4.00%
Medicare	-68.78%	3.94%	-16.18%	4.00%
Prescription Drug				
Pre-Medicare	9.00%	3.94%	6.50%	4.00%
Medicare	-5.47%	3.94%	29.98%	4.00%

Projections of benefits include the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and retired plan members.

For the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, for healthy retirees the post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

For the prior measurement date, for healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables with 90% of rates for males and 100% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - The discount rate remained unchanged at 7.00% for the June 30, 2022 valuation.

Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - Salary increase rates were updated based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021 and were changed from age based to service based.

STRS' investment consultant develops an estimate range for the investment return assumption based on the target allocation adopted by the Retirement Board. The target allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation*	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	100.00 %	

* Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on October 1, 2022.
**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS Ohio's investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS Ohio continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care fund investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2022.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate - The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	$ 3,733,433	$ 4,081,709	$ 4,345,775

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	$ 4,233,726	$ 4,081,709	$ 3,889,827

NOTE 12 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

While reporting financial position, results of operations, and changes in fund balance on the cash basis, the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances.

The statement of cash receipts, disbursements and change in fund balance - budget and actual (budgetary basis) presented for the General fund is presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget.

The major differences between the budget basis and the cash basis are that:

(a) In order to determine compliance with Ohio law, and to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, total outstanding encumbrances (budget basis) are recorded as the equivalent of a cash disbursement, as opposed to assigned, committed, or restricted fund cash balance for that portion of outstanding encumbrances (cash basis); and,

(b) Some funds are included in the General fund (cash basis) but have separate legally adopted budgets (budget basis).

The adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations for the year on the budget basis to the cash basis for the General fund is as follows:

Net Change in Fund Cash Balance

	General Fund	Classroom Facilities Maintenance Fund
Budget basis	$ (32,861)	$ (173,812)
Funds budgeted elsewhere	1,403,135	-
Adjustment for encumbrances	835,087	51,809
Cash basis	$ 2,205,361	$ (122,003)

Certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the General fund for financial reporting purposes. This includes Rotary Fund-Special Services, Flex Benefits, Internal Services Rotary, Unclaimed Monies, Underground Storage Tanks, Public School Support, and Termination Benefits funds.

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The District receives significant financial assistance from numerous federal, State and local agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the District. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material effect on the financial position of the District.

B. Litigation

The District is involved in no material litigation as either plaintiff or defendant.

C. Foundation Funding

Foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. Traditional School Districts must comply with minimum hours of instruction, instead of a minimum number of school days each year. The funding formula the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to follow will continue to adjust as enrollment information is updated by the District, which can extend past the fiscal year-end. As of the date of this report, ODE adjustments for fiscal year 2023 have been finalized and resulted in a receivable to the District totaling $1,065. This amount is not reported on the cash-basis financial statements.

NOTE 14 - SET-ASIDES

The District is required by State law to annually set-aside certain General fund revenue amounts, as defined by statutory formula, for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by the end of the fiscal year or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the year must be held in cash at fiscal year-end. This amount must be carried forward to be used for the same purpose in future years. Expenditures exceeding the set-aside requirement may not be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

The following cash-basis information describes the change in the fiscal year-end set-aside amount for capital improvements. Disclosure of this information is required by State statute.

	Capital Improvements
Set-aside balance June 30, 2023	$ -
Current year set-aside requirement	758,995
Current year offsets	(758,995)
Total	$ -
Balance carried forward to fiscal year 2024	$ -

Although the District had offsets and qualifying disbursements during the year that reduced the capital improvements set-aside amount to below zero, the excess of current year offsets and qualifying disbursements over the set-aside requirement may not be used to reduce the set-aside requirements of future years. This negative amount is therefore not presented as being carried forward to the next fiscal year.

NOTE 15 - OTHER COMMITMENTS

The District utilizes encumbrance accounting as part of its budgetary controls. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are reservations of fund balance for subsequent-year expenditures and may be reported as part of restricted, committed, or assigned classifications of fund balance. At year end, the District's commitments for encumbrances in the governmental funds were as follows:

Fund	Year-End Encumbrances
General fund	$ 835,087
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	51,809
Classroom Facilities	2,644,085
Nonmajor governmental funds	1,570,523
Total	$ 5,101,504

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

FEDERAL GRANTOR ***Pass Through Grantor*** **Program / Cluster Title**	**Federal AL Number**	**Total Federal Expenditures**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
Passed Through Ohio Department of Education		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
National School Lunch Program		
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)	10.555	$ 164,266
Cash Assistance	10.555	1,200,201
COVID-19 Cash Assistance	10.555	89,715
Total National School Lunch Program		1,454,182
School Breakfast Program	10.553	420,636
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		1,874,818
Child and Adult Care Food Program	10.558	8,516
COVID-19 Pandemic EBT Administrative Costs	10.649	3,135
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		1,886,469
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
Passed Through Ohio Department of Education		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	838,265
Special Education Cluster (IDEA):		
Special Education Grants to States	84.027	613,123
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Special Education Grants to States	84.027X	134,743
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173X	7,436
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)		755,302
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	84.287	22,540
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365	9,519
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	150,606
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	23,074
Education Stabilization Fund		
COVID-19 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II	84.425D	1,144,612
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	3,193,303
Total Education Stabilization Fund		4,337,915
Total U.S. Department of Education		6,137,221
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		**$ 8,023,690**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Fremont City School District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2023. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the District.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

The District has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D – CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

The District commingles cash receipts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with similar State grants. When reporting expenditures on this Schedule, the District assumes it expends federal monies first.

NOTE E – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

The District reports commodities consumed on the Schedule at the entitlement value. The District allocated donated food commodities to the respective program that benefitted from the use of those donated food commodities.

NOTE F – TRANSFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

Federal regulations require schools to obligate certain federal awards by June 30. However, with Ohio Department of Education's consent, schools can transfer unobligated amounts to the subsequent fiscal year's program. The District transferred the following amounts from 2023 to 2024 programs:

Program Title	AL Number	Amt. Transferred
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	$ 125,562
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	36,035
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365	3,164
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	7,576
Special Education Grants to States	84.027	110,066
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	31,902
Education Stabilization Fund:		
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Homeless Round II	84.425W	2,596
COVID-19 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund III	84.425U	1,598,882
National School Lunch Program	10.555	996,316

NOTE G – PRIOR FEDERAL EXPENDITURES

The District overstated the Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers (AL #84.287) in the amount of $1,904 on the fiscal year 2022 Schedule. This error would not have had a material effect on the assessment of our testing for major programs or our testing of the major programs.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

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800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Fremont City School District
Sandusky County
500 West State Street, Suite A
Fremont, Ohio 43420-2580

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States *(Government Auditing Standards)*, the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Fremont City School District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated August 19, 2024, wherein we noted the District began using a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-003 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2023-001 and 2023-002.

District's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and corrective action plan. The District's responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

August 19, 2024

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800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Fremont City School District
Sandusky County
500 West State Street, Suite A
Fremont, Ohio 43420-2580

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Fremont City School District, Sandusky County, Ohio's (the District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Fremont City School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. Fremont City School District's major federal programs are identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Fremont City School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

The District's Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the District's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the District's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of this testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

August 19, 2024

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FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	**Type of Financial Statement Opinion**	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	**Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?**	Yes
(d)(1)(ii)	**Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?**	No
(d)(1)(iii)	**Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?**	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	**Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?**	No
(d)(1)(iv)	**Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?**	No
(d)(1)(v)	**Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion**	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	**Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?**	No
(d)(1)(vii)	**Major Programs (list):**	Child Nutrition Cluster Education Stabilization Fund – AL #84.425
(d)(1)(viii)	**Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs**	Type A: > $ 750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	**Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?**	No

2. FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

FINDING NUMBER 2023-001

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 provides that each public office shall file a financial report for each fiscal year. The Auditor of State may prescribe forms by rule or may issue guidelines, or both, for such reports. If the Auditor of State has not prescribed a rule regarding the form for the report, the public office shall submit its report on the form utilized by the public office.

Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B), which further clarifies the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38, requires the District to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

The District prepared financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, report on the cash basis of accounting rather than GAAP. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit certain assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows of resources, fund equities/net position, and disclosures that, while presumably material, cannot be determined at this time.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the District may be fined and subject to various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the District's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the District. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the District should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan.

FINDING NUMBER 2023-002

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.36(A)(1) provides, in part, on or about the first day of each fiscal year, the fiscal officer of each subdivision and other taxing unit shall certify to the county auditor the total amount from all sources available for expenditures from each fund set up in the tax budget or, if adoption of a tax budget was waived under section 5705.281 of the Revised Code, from each fund created by or on behalf of the taxing authority.

The budget commission, taking into consideration the balances and revenues to be derived from taxation and other sources, shall revise its estimate of the amounts that will be credited to each fund from such sources, and shall certify to the taxing authority of each subdivision an amended official certificate of estimated resources.

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 provides that total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total of the estimated revenue available for expenditure there-from, as certified by the county budget commission, or in case of appeal, by the board of tax appeals. No appropriation measure shall become effective until the county auditor files with the appropriating authority a certificate that the total appropriations from each fund, taken together with all other outstanding appropriations, do not exceed such official estimate or amended official estimate. For purposes of this section of the Ohio Revised Code, estimated revenue is commonly referred to as "estimated resources" because it includes unencumbered fund balances.

The Treasurer did not certify to the County Auditor the total amount from all sources available for expenditures from each fund for fiscal year 2023. This was not detected by the District due to deficiencies in the budgetary compliance and monitoring control policies and procedures. Failure to obtain the required amended certificate of estimated resources can lead to improper budgeting and limits the effectiveness of management monitoring.

Additionally, by failing to properly certify estimated resources, at June 30, 2023 the District's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the General, Bond Retirement Fund, Classroom Facilities Fund and Classroom Facilities Maintenance Capital Project funds by $49,473,920, $4,633,873, $8,323,071 and $868,092, respectively. Failure to limit appropriations to the amount certified by the budget commission due to deficiencies in the District's compliance monitoring policies and procedures could result in overspending and negative cash fund balances.

The Treasurer should, on or about the first day of each fiscal year, certify to the county auditor the total amount from all sources available for expenditures from each fund and obtain the approved amended certificate of estimated resources. Additionally, the District should draft, approve, and implement procedures to compare appropriations to estimated resources and, if adequate resources are available for additional appropriations, the District should submit an amended certificate of estimated resources to the budget commission for certification. If the resources are not available to cover the appropriations, an amendment to the appropriation resolution should be passed by the Board of Education to reduce the appropriations.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan.

FINDING NUMBER 2023-003

Material Weakness

Financial Reporting

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, Terms of Engagement, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

Errors were noted in the financial statements, resulting in the following audit adjustments:

- General fund Unassigned Fund Balance was overstated in the amount of $3,580,785 while the General fund Assigned Fund Balance: Subsequent Year's Appropriations and Public School Support were understated in the amounts of $3,151,037 and $429,748, respectively, on the Statement of Assets and Fund Balances – Cash Basis.
- Original and Final Budgeted Receipts and Other Financing Sources were overstated in the amount of $49,399,185 on the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Budget Basis) General Fund.
- Original Budgeted Disbursements and Other Financing Uses were overstated in the amount of $4,268,281 on the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Budget Basis) General Fund.

These errors were the result of inadequate policies and procedures in reviewing the financial statements and notes to the financial statements. The accompanying financial statements have been adjusted to correct these errors. The failure to prepare complete and accurate financial statements and notes to the financial statements could lead to the financial statements user making misinformed decisions about the District's financial position.

The District should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the financial statements and notes to the financial statements by the Fiscal Officer and Board to identify and correct errors and omissions.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan.

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
2 CFR 200.511(b)
JUNE 30, 2023

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Material weakness due to errors in financial reporting.	Not corrected and repeated in this report as Finding 2023-003.	Finding reoccurred as a result of inadequate policies and procedures in reviewing the financial statements and notes to the financial statements. The Treasurer and Board will implement policies and procedures to help correct this in the future.
2022-002	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.36(A)(1) and Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 due to incomplete certificate of estimated resources and appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available.	Not corrected and repeated in this report as finding 2023-002.	Finding reoccurred as a result of deficiencies in the budgetary compliance and monitoring control policies and procedures. The Treasurer and Board will implement policies and procedures to help correct this in the future.

Denice Hirt
Superintendent

Megan Parkhurst
Treasurer

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
2 CFR § 200.511(c)
JUNE 30, 2023

Finding Number:	2023-001
Planned Corrective Action:	The District believes the excess cost associated with generating and auditing reports on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis far outweighs the benefits. The District plans to continue to elect to file OCBOA Financial Statements.
Anticipated Completion Date:	N/A
Responsible Contact Person:	Megan Parkhurst, Treasurer

Finding Number:	2023-002
Planned Corrective Action:	The Treasurer and Board will implement policies and procedures to help correct this in the future.
Anticipated Completion Date:	December 31, 2024
Responsible Contact Person:	Megan Parkhurst, Treasurer

Finding Number:	2023-003
Planned Corrective Action:	The Treasurer and Board will implement policies and procedures to help correct this in the future.
Anticipated Completion Date:	December 31, 2024
Responsible Contact Person:	Megan Parkhurst, Treasurer

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

FREMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANDUSKY 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 9/3/2024