

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED JANUARY 18, 2024**

**NEW ISSUE**

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES**

*In the opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel, under the existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, and assuming continuing compliance with certain tax certification described herein, interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), as amended. Bond Counsel is also of the opinion that the interest on the Notes is not treated as an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals. We observe that interest on the Note will be included in the adjusted financial statement income of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. Furthermore, Bond Counsel is of the opinion that, under existing statutes, interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by New York State and any political subdivision thereof. See "TAX EXEMPTION" herein.*

**The Notes WILL be designated by the District as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.**

**NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**  
**(the "District" or the "School District")**

**\$2,800,000**  
**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES, 2024**  
**(the "Notes")**

**At an Interest Rate of 4.25% to Yield 3.60%**  
**CUSIP # 658714 JH4**

**Dated: January 31, 2024**

**Due: June 27, 2024**

*Security and Source of Payment:* The Notes are general obligations of the District and will contain a pledge of its faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes. Unless paid from other sources, all the taxable real property within the District is subject to the levy of *ad valorem* taxes to pay the Notes and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount (subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the 2011 Laws of New York). See "TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW" herein.

*Prior Redemption:* The Notes will NOT be subject to redemption, in whole or in part, prior to maturity.

*Form and Denomination:* The Notes will be issued as registered notes and will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC in New York, New York, which will act as securities depository for the Notes. Individual purchases will be made in book-entry-only form, in the principal amount of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof. Initial purchasers of the Notes will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Notes. Payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes will be made by the District to DTC, which will in turn remit such principal and interest to its Participants, for subsequent distribution to the Beneficial Owners of the Notes. See "DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES - Book-Entry-Only System" herein.

Interest will be calculated on a 30-day month and 360-day year basis, payable at maturity.

*The Notes are offered when, as and if issued and received by the purchaser(s) and subject to the receipt of the legal opinion as to the validity of the Notes of Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel, and certain other conditions. It is anticipated that the Notes will be available for delivery in Jersey City, New Jersey (through the facilities of DTC) or at such other place as may be agreed with the purchaser(s) on or about January 31, 2024.*

**BNY MELLON CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC**

THIS REVISED OFFICIAL STATEMENT SUPPLEMENTS THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DATED JANUARY 11, 2024 RELATING TO THE OBLIGATIONS THEREOF DESCRIBED THEREIN AND HEREIN BY INCLUDING CERTAIN INFORMATION OMITTED FROM SUCH OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RULE 15C2-12. OTHER THAN AS SET FORTH ON THIS REVISED COVER PAGE, THE "CAPITAL PROJECT PLANS SECTION," AND THE DATED DATE ON PAGE 42, THERE HAVE BEEN NO MATERIAL REVISIONS TO SAID OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

**NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**  
School District Officials

**2023-2024 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Michelle DeCarlo - President  
James Sager - Vice President

Jessica Horton  
Mary Petkov  
Jennifer Pisa  
Heather Puntillo  
Meghan Spicola

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Scott Taylor - Superintendent of Schools  
Tina Ellis – Treasurer  
Kathleen A. Mason - Clerk

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School District Attorney

Webster Szanyi LLP

**BOND COUNSEL**

**Hodgson Russ LLP**

**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**



**R. G. Timbs, Inc.**

No person has been authorized by the District to give any information or to make any representations not contained in this Official Statement, and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized. This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy any of the Notes in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. The information, estimates, and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice, and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the District.

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**PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF:**



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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**  
**NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**  
(the “District”)

**\$2,800,000**  
**Bond Anticipation Notes, 2024**  
(the “Notes”)

This Official Statement, which includes the cover page, has been prepared by the North Collins Central School District, Erie County, New York (the “District” or the “School District,” “County” and “State,” respectively) in connection with the sale by the District of its \$2,800,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, 2024 (the “Notes”).

The factors affecting the District's financial condition and the Notes are described throughout this Official Statement. Inasmuch as many of these factors, including economic and demographic factors, are complex and may influence the District's tax base, revenues, and expenditures, this Official Statement should be read in its entirety, and no one factor should be considered more or less important than any other by reason of its relative position in this Official Statement.

All quotations from and summaries and explanations of provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State and acts and proceedings of the District contained herein do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the official compilations thereof, and all references to the Notes and the proceedings of the District relating thereto are qualified in their entirety by reference to the definitive form of the Notes and such proceedings.

Statements in this Official Statement, and the documents included by specific reference, which are not historical facts are forward-looking statements, which are based on the District's management's beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, the District's management and staff.

**This Official Statement should be read with the understanding that the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic has continued to create, since its inception in the spring of 2020, prevailing economic conditions (at the global, national, State and local levels) that remain uncertain, have been generally negative, and are subject to the potential for rapid change as new variants emerge and as governments and other organizations respond. These conditions are expected to continue for an indefinite period of time. Significant federal and state relief measures that have been enacted since the onset of the pandemic have served to support the operations and finances of the District, but such measures were temporary in nature and are not likely to be extended or renewed, at least to such a large extent. Accordingly, the District's overall economic situation and outlook (and all of the specific District-related information contained herein) should be carefully reviewed, evaluated and understood in the full light of this unprecedented world-wide and continuing event, the effects of which are extremely difficult to predict and quantify going forward. See “MARKET AND RISK FACTORS: COVID-19,” herein.**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES**

The Notes are dated January 31, 2024, and mature, without option of prior redemption, on June 27, 2024. Interest will be calculated on a 30-day month and 360-day year basis, payable at maturity.

The Notes are general obligations of the District and will contain a pledge of its faith and credit of the District for payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes, as required by the Constitution and laws of the State of New York (State Constitution, Art. VIII, Section 2; Local Finance Law, Section 100.00). Unless paid for from other sources, all the taxable real property within the District is subject to the levy of *ad valorem* taxes to pay the Notes and interest thereon, sufficient to pay such principal and interest as the same become due, without limitation as to rate or amount, subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the 2011 Laws of New York. See “TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW,” herein.

The Notes will be issued in registered form. At the option of the purchaser(s), the Notes may be registered in the name of the purchaser(s), with principal of and interest on the Notes being payable in Federal Funds at such bank or trust company

located and authorized to do business in the State of New York as may be selected by the successful bidder(s). In such case, the Notes will be issued in registered form in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof, as may be determined by such successful bidder(s). Alternatively, the Notes may be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”), with DTC acting as securities depository for the Notes. See “Book-Entry-Only System,” herein. Under the DTC scenario, one fully registered note certificate will be issued for all Notes bearing the same rate of interest and CUSIP number, each in the aggregate principal amount of such issue, and purchasers will not receive certificates representing their interest in the Notes. Principal and interest will be paid in lawful money of the United States of America (federal funds) by the District directly to DTC for its nominee, Cede & Co.

The financial condition of the District as well as the market for the Notes could be affected by a variety of factors, some of which are beyond the control of the District. See “MARKET AND RISK FACTORS,” herein.

## **Purpose and Authorization**

The Notes are authorized to be issued pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of New York, including among others, the Education Law and the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to a bond resolution dated that was duly adopted by the Board of Education (the “Board”) on November 15, 2022, following a positive vote at a special meeting of the qualified voters of the District that was held on May 17, 2022, authorizing the issuance of up to \$5,950,000 of serial bonds to finance a portion of the District’s \$7,950,000 Capital Improvements Project, 2022, consisting of the reconstruction, rehabilitation and renovation, in part, and the construction of improvements, upgrades and one or more additions to various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof) (the “Project”).

The proceeds of this issue will provide \$2,800,000 in new money for the Project.

## **Book-Entry-Only System**

The following is relevant only if the Notes are issued in book-entry form. DTC will act as securities depository for the Notes, if so requested. The Notes will be issued as fully-registered Notes registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC’s partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC, only if requested by the purchaser prior to the initial issuance of Notes. One fully-registered note certificate will be issued for each of the notes bearing the same rate of interest and CUSIP number and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC, the world’s largest depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a “banking organization” within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a “clearing agency” registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments from over 100 countries that DTC’s participants (“Direct Participants”) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants’ accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (“DTCC”). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly (“Indirect Participants”). The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com) and [www.dtc.org](http://www.dtc.org).

Purchases of Notes under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Notes on DTC’s records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Note (“Beneficial Owner”) is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants’ records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation

from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in Notes, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Notes is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Notes deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Notes with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not affect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Notes; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Notes are credited, who may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial Owners of Notes may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission of them of notices of significant events with respect to the Notes, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the Notes documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of Notes may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Notes for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

Redemption proceeds, distributions and dividend payments on the Notes will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the District, on payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC nor its nominee or the District, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the District, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to the District. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, note certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

The District may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, note certificates will be printed and delivered to DTC.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that the District believes to be reliable, but the District takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

*Source: The Depository Trust Company*

THE DISTRICT CANNOT AND DOES NOT GIVE ANY ASSURANCES THAT DTC, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC WILL DISTRIBUTE TO THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE NOTES (1) PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL OF OR INTEREST OR REDEMPTION PREMIUM ON THE NOTES; (2) CONFIRMATIONS OF THEIR OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN THE NOTES; OR (3) OTHER NOTICES SENT TO DTC OR CEDE & CO., ITS PARTNERSHIP NOMINEE, AS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE NOTES, OR THAT THEY

WILL DO SO ON A TIMELY BASIS, OR THAT DTC, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL SERVE AND ACT IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

THE DISTRICT WILL NOT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATIONS TO DTC, THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, THE INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OR THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS WITH RESPECT TO (1) THE ACCURACY OF ANY RECORDS MAINTAINED BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC; (2) THE PAYMENT BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OF ANY AMOUNT DUE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER IN RESPECT OF THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF OR INTEREST OR REDEMPTION PREMIUM ON THE NOTES; (3) THE DELIVERY BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OF ANY NOTICE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER; OR (4) ANY CONSENT GIVEN OR OTHER ACTION TAKEN BY DTC AS THE REGISTERED HOLDER OF THE NOTES.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN CONCERNING DTC AND ITS BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM DTC AND THE DISTRICT MAKES NO REPRESENTATION AS TO THE COMPLETENESS OR THE ACCURACY OF SUCH INFORMATION OR AS TO THE ABSENCE OF MATERIAL ADVERSE CHANGES IN SUCH INFORMATION SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE HEREOF.

### **Certificated Notes**

At the option of the purchaser(s), the Notes may be registered in the name of the purchaser(s). In such event, principal of and interest on the Notes will be payable in federal funds at such bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State as may be selected by the successful bidder(s). In such case, the Notes will be issued in registered form in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof, as may be determined by such bidder(s).

### **Security and Source of Payment**

Each Note, when duly issued and paid for, will constitute a contract between the District and the holder thereof.

The Notes are general obligations of the District and will contain a pledge of the faith and credit of the District for the payment of the principal of and interest thereon. For the payment of such principal and interest, the District has the power and statutory authorization to levy *ad valorem* taxes on all of the taxable real property in the District without limitation as to rate or amount, subject to certain statutory limitation imposed by Chapter 97 of the 2011 Laws of New York. See "TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW," herein.

Under the State Constitution, the District is required to pledge its faith and credit for the payment of principal of and interest on the Notes and the State is specifically precluded from restricting the power of the District to levy taxes on real property therefor. See the discussion under "TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW," herein.

### **Remedies of Noteholders on Default**

Section 99-b of the State Finance Law ("SFL") provides for a covenant between the State and the purchasers and the holders and owners from time to time of the notes and bonds issued by the school districts in the State for the school purposes provides that it will not repeal, revoke or rescind the provisions of Section 99-b of SFL, or amend or modify the same so as to limit, impair or impede the rights and remedies granted thereby.

Such Section provides that in the event a holder or owner of any bond issued by a school district for school purposes shall file with the State Comptroller a verified statement describing such bond and alleging default in the payment thereof or the interest thereon or both, it shall be the duty of the State Comptroller to immediately investigate the circumstances of the alleged default and prepare and file in his office a certificate setting forth his determinations with respect thereto and to serve a copy thereof by registered mail upon the chief fiscal officer of the school district which issued the bond. Such investigation by the State Comptroller shall cover the current status with respect to the payment of principal of and interest on all

outstanding bonds of such school district issued for school purposes and the statement prepared and filed by the State Comptroller shall set forth a description of all such bonds of the school district found to be in default and the amount of principal and interest thereon past due.

Upon the filing of such a certificate in the office of the State Comptroller, he shall thereafter deduct and withhold from the next succeeding allotment, apportionment or payment of such State aid or assistance due to such school district such amount thereof as may be required to pay (a) the school district's contribution to the State teachers retirement system, and (b) the principal of and interest on such bonds of such school district then in default. In the event such State aid or assistance initially so withheld shall be insufficient to pay said amounts in full, the State Comptroller shall similarly deduct and withhold from each succeeding allotment, apportionment or payment of such State aid or assistance due such school district such amount or amounts thereof as may be required to cure such default. Allotments, apportionments, and payments of such State aid so deducted or withheld by the State Comptroller for the payment of principal and interest on bonds shall be forwarded promptly to the paying agent or agents for the bonds in default of such school district for the sole purpose of the payment of defaulted principal of and interest on such bonds. If any of such successive allotments, apportionments or payments of such State Aid so deducted or withheld shall be less than the amount of all principal and interest on the bonds in default with respect to which the same was so deducted or withheld, the State Comptroller shall promptly forward to each paying agent an amount in the proportion that the amount of such bonds in default payable to such paying agent bears to the total amount of the principal and interest then in default on such bonds of such school district. The State Comptroller shall promptly notify the chief fiscal officer of such school district of any payment or payments made to any paying agent or agents of defaulted bonds pursuant to such section of the SFL.

Under current law, provision is made for contract creditors (including holders of the Notes) of the District to enforce payments upon such contracts, if necessary, through court action, although the present statute limits interest on the amount adjudged due to creditors to nine per centum per annum from the date due to the date of payment. As a general rule, property and funds of a municipal corporation serving the public welfare and interest have not been judicially subjected to execution or attachment to satisfy a judgement, although judicial mandates have been issued to officials to appropriate and pay judgements out of current funds or the proceeds of a tax levy.

In recent times, certain events and legislation affecting remedies on default have resulted in litigation. While courts of final jurisdiction have upheld and sustained the rights of noteholders, such courts might hold that future events including financial crises as they may occur in the State and in municipalities of the State require exercise by the State of its emergency police power to assure the continuation of essential public service.

### **Special Provisions Affecting Remedies Upon Default**

Section 3-a of the General Municipal Law provides, subject to exceptions not pertinent, that the rate of interest to be paid by the District upon any judgement or accrued claim against it shall not exceed nine per centum per annum. This provision might be construed to have application to the holders of the Notes in the event of a default in the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes.

In accordance with a general rule with respect to municipalities, judgements against the District may not be enforced to levy and execution against property owned by the District.

The federal Bankruptcy Code allows public bodies, such as the District, recourse to the protection of a Federal Court for the purpose of adjusting outstanding indebtedness. Section 85.80 of the Local Finance Law contains specific authorization for any municipality in the State or its emergency control board to file a petition under any provision of federal bankruptcy law for the composition or adjustment of municipal indebtedness. While this Local Finance Law provision does not apply to school districts, there can be no assurance that it will not be made so applicable in the future.

Under the Bankruptcy Code, a petition may be filed in federal bankruptcy court by a municipality which is insolvent or unable to meet its debts as they mature. Generally, the filing of such a petition operates as a stay of any proceeding to enforce a claim against the municipality. The Bankruptcy Code also requires the municipality to file a plan for the adjustment of its debts, which may modify or alter the rights of creditors and would authorize the federal bankruptcy court to permit the municipality to issue certificates of indebtedness, which could have priority over existing creditors, and which could be



secured. Any plan of adjustment confirmed by the court must be approved by the requisite majority of creditors. If confirmed by the bankruptcy court, the plan would be binding upon all creditors affected by it. The District has the legal capacity to file a petition under the Bankruptcy Code.

It might be asserted that under the Bankruptcy Code interest and principal debt service payments made by the District within 90 days of the District filing a bankruptcy petition were voidable preferences. In the event these assertions were made and sustained by the bankruptcy court, the recipients of those preferential payments could be required to refund them, and their claims would then be treated as if the preferential payments had not been made.

At the Extraordinary Session of the State Legislature held in November 1975, legislation was enacted which purported to suspend the right to commence or continue an action in any court to collect or enforce certain short-term obligations of the City of New York. The effect of such act was to create a three-year moratorium on action to enforce the payment of such obligations. On November 19, 1976, the Court of Appeals, the State's highest court, declared such act to be invalid on the ground that it violated the provisions of the State Constitution requiring a pledge by such City of its faith and credit for the payment of such obligations.

As a result of the Court of Appeals decision, the constitutionality of that portion of Title 6-A of the Local Finance Law enacted at the 1975 Extraordinary Session of the State Legislature, authorizing any county, town or village with respect to which the State has declared a financial emergency to petition the State Supreme Court to stay the enforcement against such municipality of any claim for payment relating to any contract, debt or obligation of the municipality during the emergency period, is subject to doubt. In any event, no such emergency has ever been declared with respect to the District.

No principal or interest payment on District indebtedness is past due. The District has never defaulted on the payment of principal of or interest of any indebtedness.

## **THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **General Information**

The North Collins Central School District is a small rural district located 22 miles south of Buffalo, New York on Route 62. The District covers approximately 58 square miles. The District's facilities are located on two campuses, the Elementary School (Grades Pre-K-6) and the Jr.-Sr. High School (Grades 7-12). The District is served by an excellent network of State highways, providing access to the New York State Thruway at Exit 57A, approximately 6 miles to the South. The District is a mixture of residential and agricultural areas with many of its residents commuting to nearby areas for employment. Other residents are employed in agriculture with fruit farms, dairy farms and nursery farms. Water and sewer services are provided primarily by the Village of North Collins. Electricity, natural gas and telephone service are provided by the Niagara Mohawk, National Fuel Gas and Verizon New York Inc., respectively. Part-time police protection is provided by the Village of North Collins, supplemented by the County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police. Fire protection and ambulance service are provided each by its own volunteer organization. The District provides public education for grades Pre-K-12. Opportunities for higher education include SUNY at Buffalo and many colleges and universities in and around the Buffalo area. The North Collins Central School is enrolled in the "3-1-3" program with SUNY Fredonia and also offers several college level Advanced Placement courses.

### **District Population**

The 2021 population of the School District is estimated to be 4,141. (Source: 2021 U.S. Census Bureau estimate)

## Selected Wealth and Income Indicators

Per capita income statistics are not available for the District as such. The smallest areas for which such statistics are available, which include the District are the Towns, Village and County listed below. The Figures set below with respect to such Towns, Village, County and State are included for information only. It should not be inferred from the inclusion of such data in this Official Statement that the Towns, Village, County or State are necessarily representative of the District, or vice versa.

	<u>Per Capita Income</u>			<u>Median Family Income</u>		
	<u>2000</u>	<u>2006-2010</u>	<u>2018-2022</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2006-2010</u>	<u>2018-2022</u>
Towns Of:						
Brant	\$19,803	\$24,215	39,218	\$47,130	\$60,473	\$99,348
Collins	14,082	14,908	28,320	45,647	54,261	75,417
Concord	19,477	23,650	39,363	49,848	55,202	91,425
Eden	23,060	28,379	40,744	60,640	73,675	94,007
Evans	19,122	26,968	35,016	50,765	67,734	82,577
North Collins	19,253	26,168	37,186	50,781	55,984	87,500
Village of:						
North Collins	16,528	21,362	26,818	47,679	54,583	76,643
County Of:						
Erie	20,357	26,378	39,703	49,490	63,404	92,038
State Of:						
New York	23,389	30,948	41,173	51,691	67,405	100,846

Note: 2019-2023 American Community Survey Estimates are not available as of the date of this Official Statement.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 census, 2006-2010 and 2018-2022 American Survey data.

## District Facilities

Name	Grades	Year Built	Current Maximum Capacity	Date of Last Addition or Alteration
Elementary School	Pre-K-6	1958	592	2020
Junior/Senior High School	7-12	1936	572	2020

Source: District Officials

## District Employees

The School District employs 132 full-time employees and 11 part-time employees. The number of members, the collective bargaining units which represent them and their current contract expiration dates are as follows:

Bargaining Unit	Employees	Expiration Date
United Teachers	73	6/30/2026
Civil Service Employees Association	52	6/30/2023*

\*Currently under negotiations.

Source: District Officials

## Historical and Projected Enrollment

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Projected</u>
2019-20	581	2024-25	555
2020-21	538	2025-26	555
2021-22	547	2026-27	552
2022-23	557	2027-28	537
2023-24	564	2028-29	542

Source: District Officials

## Employee Pension Benefits

All non-teaching and non-certified administrative employees of the District eligible for pension or retirement benefits under the Retirement and Social Security Law of the State of New York are members of the New York and Local Employees' Retirement System ("ERS"). Teachers and certified administrators are members of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS"). Payments to TRS are deducted from the School District's State aid payments. Both the ERS and the TRS (together, the "Retirement Systems") are non-contributory with respect to members hired prior to July 27, 1976. Other than those in Tier V and Tier VI, all members hired on or after July 27, 1976, with less than 10 years of service must contribute 3% of their gross annual salary toward the cost of retirement programs.

On December 10, 2009, pension reform legislation was signed into law that created a new Tier V pension level. Key components of Tier V include:

- Raising the minimum age at which most civilians can retire without penalty from 55 to 62 and imposing a penalty of up to 38% for any civilian who retires prior to age 62.
- Requiring ERS employees to continue contributing 3% of their salaries toward pension costs so long as they accumulate additional pension credits.
- Increasing the minimum years of service required to draw a pension from 5 years to 10 years.
- Capping the amount of overtime that can be considered in the calculation of pension benefits for civilians at \$15,000 per year, and for police and firefighters at 15% of non-overtime wages.

Members of the TRS have a separate Tier V benefit structure that will achieve equivalent savings as other civilian public employees. It includes:

- Raising the minimum age an individual can retire without penalty from 55 to 57 years.
- Contributing 3.5% of their annual wages to pension costs rather than 3% and continuing this increased contribution so long as they accumulate additional pension credits.
- Increasing the 2% multiplier threshold for final pension calculations from 20 to 25 years.

In accordance with constitutional requirements, Tier V applies only to public employees hired after December 31, 2009, and before April 2, 2012.

On March 16, 2012, legislation was signed into law that created a new Tier VI pension program. The Tier VI plan only applies to those employees hired on or after April 1, 2012. The new pension tier has progressive contribution rates between 3% to 6% of salary; it increases the retirement age for new employees from 62 to 63 and includes provisions allowing early retirement with penalties. Under previous tiers, there was no limit to the number of public employers a public employee worked for from which retirement benefits could be calculated. Tier VI permits only two salaries to be included in the calculation. The pension multiplier for Tier VI is 1.75% for the first 20 years of service and 2% thereafter; vesting will occur after 10 years of service. The final average salary is based on a five-year average instead of the previous Tiers' three-year average. Pension eligible overtime for civilian and non-uniformed employees will be capped at \$15,000, indexed for inflation. For uniformed employees outside of New York City, the cap is set at 15% of base pay. The number of sick and leave days that can be applied toward retirement service credit is reduced from 200 to 100. The legislation includes an optional defined contribution plan for new non-union employees with annual salaries of \$75,000 or more. The State is required to fund any pension enhancements on an ongoing basis. This is a potential future cost savings for local governments.

The District is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The actual contribution for the last five years and the budgeted figures for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 fiscal years is as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>ERS</u>	<u>TRS</u>
2018-2019	\$240,840	\$534,145
2019-2020	246,199	462,149
2020-2021	275,380	563,349
2021-2022	221,795	528,354
2022-2023	237,863	563,048
2023-2024 (Budgeted)	260,227	486,860

Source: District records.

Source: Audited financial statements for the 2017-2018 fiscal year through the 2021-2022 fiscal year and the adopted budgets of the District for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years. This table is not audited.

**Retirement Incentive Program** – Pursuant to various laws enacted between 1991 and 2002, the State Legislature authorized local governments to make available certain early retirement incentive programs to its employees. The District does have an early retirement incentive program. The program starts at \$10,000 after 10 years which increases by \$667 and then maxes out at \$20,000 as long as they are within the 365 days after the teacher first became eligible to retire under the NYSTRS.

**Historical Trends and Contribution Rates** – Historically there has been a State mandate requiring full (100%) funding of the annual actuarially required local governmental contribution out of current budgetary appropriations. With the strong performance of the Retirement System in the 1990s, the locally required annual contribution declined to zero. However, with the subsequent decline in the equity markets, the pension system became underfunded. As a result, required contributions increased substantially from 15% to 20% of payroll for the employees’ and the police and fire retirement systems,

respectively. Wide swings in the contribution rate resulted in budgetary planning problems for many participating local governments.

A chart of average ERS and TRS rates as a percent of payroll (2019 to 2024) is show below:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>ERS</u>	<u>TRS</u>
2018-2019	14.9	10.62
2019-2020	14.6	8.86
2020-2021	14.6	9.53
2021-2022	16.2	9.8
2022-2023	11.6	10.29
2023-2024	13.1	7.6

In 2003, Chapter 49 of the Laws of 2003 amended the Retirement and Social Security Law and the Local Finance Law. The amendments empowered the State Comptroller to implement a comprehensive structural reform program for ERS. The reform program established a minimum contribution for any local governmental employer equal to 4.5% of pensionable salaries for bills which were due December 15, 2003, and for all fiscal years thereafter, as a minimum annual contribution where the actual rate would otherwise be 4.5% or less due to the investment performance of the fund. In addition, the reform program instituted a billing system to match the budget cycle of municipalities and school districts that will advise such employers over one year in advance concerning actual pension contribution rates for the next annual billing cycle. Under the previous method, the requisite ERS contributions for a fiscal year could not be determined until after the local budget adoption process was complete. Under the new system, a contribution for a given fiscal year is based on the valuation of the pension fund on the prior April 1 of the calendar year preceding the contribution due date instead of the following April 1 in the year of contribution so that the exact amount may now be included in a budget.

Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2010 (Part TT) amended the Retirement and Social Security Law to authorize participating employers, if they so elect, to amortize an eligible portion of their annual required contributions to ERS when employer contribution rates rise above certain levels. The option to amortize the eligible portion began with the annual contribution due February 1, 2011. The amortizable portion of an annual required contribution is based on a “graded” rate by the State Comptroller in accordance with formulas provided in Chapter 57. Amortized contributions are to be paid in equal annual installments over a ten-year period; but may be prepaid at any time. Interest is to be charged on the unpaid amortized portion at a rate to be determined by the State Comptroller, which approximates a market rate of return on taxable fixed rate securities of a comparable duration issued by comparable issuers. The interest rate is established annually for that year’s amortized amount and then applies to the entire ten years of the amortization cycle of that amount. When in any fiscal year, the participating employer’s graded payment eliminates all balances owed on prior amortized amounts, any remaining graded payments are to be paid into an employer contribution reserve fund established by the State Comptroller for the employer, to the extent that amortizing employer has no currently unpaid prior amortized amounts, for future such use.

The District is not amortizing any pension payments, nor does it intend to do so in the foreseeable future.

**Stable Rate Pension Contribution Option** - The State’s 2013-14 Enacted Budget included a provision that provides local governments and school districts, including the District, with the option to “lock-in” long-term, stable rate pension contributions for a period of years determined by the State Comptroller and ERS and TRS. The stable rates would be 12% for ERS and 12.5% for TRS. The pension contribution rates under this program would reduce near-term payments for employers; but will require higher than normal contributions in later years.

The District did not participate in the Stable Rate Pension Contribution Option, nor does it intend to do so in the foreseeable future.

The State’s 2019-2020 Enacted Budget will allow school districts in the State to establish a reserve fund for the purpose of funding/offsetting the cost of TRS contributions. School districts may pay into such fund, during any particular fiscal year, an amount not to exceed two percent of the total compensation or salaries of all district-employed teachers who are members of the TRS paid during the immediately preceding fiscal year; provided that the balance of such fund may not exceed ten percent of the total compensation or salaries of all district-employed teachers who are members of the TRS paid during the

immediately preceding fiscal year. A TRS Reserve was established June 18, 2019. The ending balance in that reserve as of June 30, 2023 was \$246,570.01.

The investment of monies, and assumptions underlying same, of the Retirement Systems covering the District's employees is not subject to the direction of the District. Thus, it is not possible to predict, control or prepare for future unfunded accrued actuarial liabilities of the Retirement Systems ("UAALs"). The UAAL is the difference between total actuarially accrued liabilities and actuarially calculated assets available for the payment of such benefits. The UAAL is based on assumptions as to retirement age, mortality, projected salary increases attributed to inflation, across-the-board raises and merit raises, increases in retirement benefits, cost-of-living adjustments, valuation of current assets, investment return and other matters. Such UAALs could be substantial in the future, requiring significantly increased contributions from the District which could affect other budgetary matters. Concerned investors should contact the Retirement Systems administrative staff for further information on the latest actuarial valuations of the Retirement Systems.

### **Other Post-Employment Benefits**

The District provides post-retirement healthcare benefits to various categories of former employees. These costs may be expected to rise substantially in the future. School districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, unlike other municipal units of government in the State, have been prohibited from reducing retiree health benefits or increasing health care contributions paid by retirees below the level of benefits or contributions afforded to or required from active employees since the implementation of Chapter 729 of the Laws of 1994. Legislative attempts to provide similar protection to retirees of other local units of government in the State have not succeeded as of this date. Nevertheless, many such retirees of all varieties of municipal units in the State do presently receive such benefits.

**OPEB** - refers to "other post-employment benefits," meaning other than pension benefits. OPEB consists primarily of health care benefits; and may include other benefits such as disability benefits and life insurance. Until now, these benefits have generally been administered on a pay-as-you-go basis and have not been reported as a liability on governmental financial statements.

**GASB 75** - requires municipalities and school districts to account for OPEB liabilities much like they already account for pension liabilities, generally adopting the actuarial methodologies used for pensions, with adjustments for the different characteristics of OPEB and the fact that most municipalities and school districts have not set aside any funds against this liability. However, GASB 75 also addresses certain circumstances in which a non-employer entity provides financial support for OPEB of employees of another entity and requires: (a) explanations of how and why the OPEB liability changed from year to year; (b) amortization and reporting of deferred inflows and outflows due to assumption changes; (c) use of a discount rate that takes into account resources of an OPEB plan and how they will be invested to maximize coverage of the liability; (d) a single actual cost method and; (e) immediate recognition of OPEB expense and effects of changes to benefit terms.

Under GASB 75, a total OPEB liability is determined for each municipality or school district. A net change in the total OPEB Liability is calculated as the sum of changes for the year including service cost, interest, difference between expected and actual experience, changes in benefit terms, changes in assumptions or other inputs, less the benefit payments made by the School District for the year.

Based on the most recent actuarial valuation dated June 30, 2022 and financial data as of June 30, 2023, the School District's beginning year total OPEB liability was \$1,501,627, the net change for the year was (\$135,694) resulting in a total OPEB liability of \$1,365,933 for a fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The aforementioned liability is recognized and disclosed in accordance with GASB 75 standards in the School District's June 30, 2023 financial statements.

The total OPEB liability is required to be determined through an actuarial valuation every two years, at a minimum. However, OPEB plans with fewer than 100 members may use an alternative measurement method in place of an actuarial valuation. Additional information about GASB 75 and other accounting rules applicable to municipalities and school districts may be obtained from GASB.

There is no authority in current State law to establish a trust account or reserve fund for this liability. While State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli proposed a bill in April of 2015 that would create an optional investment pool to help local governments fund their OPEB liabilities, such legislation has not advanced past the committee stage.

The School District's total OPEB liability is expected to increase. As is the case with most municipalities, this is being handled by the School District on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. Substantial future increases could have a material adverse impact upon the School District's finances and could force the School District to reduce services, raise taxes or both.

### Major Employers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nature of Business</u>	<u>Estimated Number of Employees</u>
Crescent	Manufacturing	137
North Collins Central School District	Public Education	140
E&D Specialty Stands, Inc.	Manufacturing	53
American Wire Tie	Manufacturing	31
Save-A-Lot	Discount Grocery Store	25

Source: District Officials

### Unemployment Rate Statistics

Unemployment statistics are not available for the District as such. The smallest area for which such statistics are available (which includes the District) is the County. The data set forth below with respect to the County is included for information purposes only. It should not be inferred from the inclusion of such data in this Statement that the District is necessarily representative of the County or vice versa.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Erie County Unemployment Rate</u>	<u>New York State Unemployment Rate</u>	<u>U.S. Unemployment Rate</u>
2018	4.4%	4.1%	3.9%
2019	4.1%	3.8%	3.7%
2020	9.5%	10.0%	8.3%
2021	5.5%	6.9%	3.9%
2022	3.6%	4.3%	3.6%

Source: Department of Labor, State of New York. (Note: Figures not seasonally adjusted)

### 2023 Monthly Figures

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Erie County	4.2%	3.9%	3.5%	2.7%	3.1%	3.2%	3.3%	3.8%	3.4%	3.8%	N/A	N/A
New York State	4.6%	4.5%	4.0%	3.7%	3.8%	4.2%	4.1%	4.4%	4.0%	4.4%	N/A	N/A

Source: Department of Labor, State of New York. (Note: Figures not seasonally adjusted).

## **Investment Policy**

Pursuant to State law, including Sections 10 and 11 of the GML, the District is generally permitted to deposit moneys in banks or trust companies located and authorized to do business in the State. All such deposits, including special time deposit accounts and certificates of deposit, in excess of the amount insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, are required to be secured in accordance with the provisions of and subject to the limitations of Section 10 of the GML.

The District may also temporarily invest moneys in: (1) obligations of the United States of America; (2) obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America where the payment of principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States of America; (3) obligations of the State of New York; (4) with the approval of the New York State Comptroller, in tax anticipation notes or revenue anticipation notes issued by any municipality, school district, or district corporation, other than those notes issued by the District, itself; (5) certificates of participation issued in connection with installment purchase agreements entered into by political subdivisions of the State pursuant to Section 109-b(10) of the GML; (6) obligations of a New York public benefit corporation which are made lawful investments for municipalities pursuant to the enabling statute of such public benefit corporation; or (7) in the case of moneys held in certain reserve funds established by the District pursuant to law, in obligations of the District.

All of the foregoing investments are required to be payable or redeemable at the option of the owner within such times as the proceeds will be needed to meet expenditures for purposes for which the moneys were provided and, in the case of obligations purchased with the proceeds of bonds or notes, shall be payable or redeemable in any event, at the option of the owner, within two years of the date of purchase. Unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, such instruments and investments must be purchased through, delivered to and held in custody of a bank or trust company in the State pursuant to a written custodial agreement as provided by Section 10 of the GML.

The Board of Education of the District has adopted an investment policy and such policy conforms with applicable laws of the State governing the deposit and investment of public moneys. All deposits and investments of the District are made in accordance with such policy.

## **Form of School Government**

The District is an independent entity governed by an elected board of education comprised of seven members. District operations are subject to the provisions of the State Education Law affecting school districts; other statutes applicable to the District include the General Municipal Law, the Local Finance Law and the Real Property Tax Law.

Members of the Board of Education are elected on a staggered term basis by qualified voters at the annual election of the District (held on the third Tuesday in May). The term of office for each board member is five years and the number of terms that may be served is unrestricted. A president is selected by the board from its members and also serves as the chief fiscal officer of the District. The Board of Education is vested with various powers and duties as set forth in the Education Law. Among these are the adoption of annual budgets (subject to voter approval), the levy of real property taxes for the support of education, the appointment of such employees as may be necessary, and other such duties reasonably required to fulfill the responsibilities provided by law.

The Board of Education appoints the Superintendent of Schools who serves at the pleasure of the Board. Such Superintendent is the chief executive officer of the District and the education system. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent to enforce all provisions of law and all rules and regulations relating to the management of the schools and other educational, social and recreational activities under the direction of the Board of Education. Also, certain of the financial functions of the District are the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and the Treasurer.

## **Budgetary Procedures**

Pursuant to the Education Law, the Board of Education of the School District annually prepares a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. A public hearing on such budget is held not less than seven and not more than fourteen days prior to the vote. The Board of Education causes notice of such public hearing to be published four times beginning seven weeks prior to the vote. After the public hearing, but not less than six days prior to the budget vote, the School District must mail a school budget notice to all qualified voters which contains the total budgeted amount, the dollar and percentage increase or decrease



in the proposed budget (or contingency budget) as compared to the current budget, the percentage increase or decrease in the consumer price index, the estimated property tax levy, the basic STAR exemption impact and the date, time and place of the budget vote. After the budget hearing and subsequent notice, a referendum upon the question of the adoption of the budget is held on the third Tuesday in May each year. All qualified School District residents are eligible to participate.

Pursuant to Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 of the State of New York ("Chapter 97"), beginning with the 2012-13 fiscal year, if the proposed budget requires a tax levy increase that does not exceed the lesser of 2% (plus certain adjustments, if applicable) or the rate of inflation (the "Tax Cap"), then a majority vote is required for approval. If the proposed budget requires a tax levy increase that exceeds the Tax Cap, the budget proposition must include special language and a 60% vote is required for approval. Any separate proposition that would cause the School District to exceed the School District Tax Cap also must receive at least 60% voter approval.

If the proposed budget is not approved by the required margin, the Board of Education may resubmit the original budget or a revised budget to the voters on the third Tuesday in June, or adopt a contingency budget (which would provide for ordinary contingent expenses, including debt service) that levies a tax levy no greater than that of the prior fiscal year (i.e. a 0% increase in the tax levy).

If the resubmitted and/or revised budget is not approved by the required margin, the Board of Education must adopt a budget that requires a tax levy no greater than that of the prior fiscal year (i.e.: a 0% increase in the tax levy). For a complete discussion of Chapter 97, see "Tax Levy Limitation Law" herein.

The budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year was adopted by the qualified voters on May 18, 2021 by a vote of 76 to 51. The School District's 2021-22 Budget remained within the School District Tax Cap imposed by Chapter 97 of the laws of 2011.

The budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year was adopted by the qualified voters on May 17, 2022 by a vote of 156 to 46. The School District's 2022-23 Budget remained within the School District Tax Cap imposed by Chapter 97 of the laws of 2011.

The budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year was adopted by the qualified voters on May 16, 2023 by a vote of 117 to 33. The School District's 2023-24 Budget remained within the School District Tax Cap imposed by Chapter 97 of the laws of 2011.

## **State Aid**

The District receives appropriations from the State of State aid for operating, building and other purposes at various times throughout its fiscal year, pursuant to formulas and payment schedules set forth by statute. In its adopted budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year, approximately 54.35% of the revenues of the District are estimated to be received in the form of State aid. While the State has a constitutional duty to maintain and support a system of free common schools that provides a "sound basic education" to children of the State, there can be no assurance that the State appropriation for State aid to school districts will be continued in future years, either pursuant to existing formulas or in any form whatsoever.

In addition to the amount of State Aid budgeted annually by the District, the State makes payments of STAR aid representing tax savings provided by school districts to their taxpayers under the STAR Program.

The State is not constitutionally obligated to maintain or continue State aid to the District. No assurance can be given that present State aid levels will be maintained in the future. State budgetary restrictions which could eliminate or substantially reduce State aid could have a material adverse effect upon the District, requiring either a counterbalancing increase in revenues from other sources to the extent available, or a curtailment of expenditures (See also "MARKET AND RISK FACTORS").

There can be no assurance that the State appropriation for building aid and other State aid to school districts will be continued in future years, either pursuant to existing formulas or in any form whatsoever. State aid, including building aid appropriated and apportioned to the School District, can be paid only if the State has such monies available therefor. The availability of such monies and the timeliness of such payment could be affected by a delay in the adoption of the State budget or their elimination therefrom.

There can be no assurance that the State's financial position will not change materially and adversely from current projections. If this were to occur, the State would be required to take additional gap-closing actions. Such actions may include but are not limited to reductions in State agency operations, delays, or reductions in payments to local governments or other recipients of State aid including school districts in the State. Reductions in the payment of State aid could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State.

The amount of State aid to school districts can vary from year to year and is dependent in part upon the financial condition of the State. During the 2011 to 2019 fiscal years of the State, State aid to school districts was paid in a timely manner; however, during the State's 2010 and 2020 fiscal years, State budgetary restrictions resulted in delayed payments of State aid to school districts in the State. In addition, the availability of State aid and the timeliness of payment of State aid to school districts could be affected by a delay in adoption of the State budget, which is due at the start of the State's fiscal year of April 1. The State's budget has been adopted by April 1 or shortly thereafter for over ten (10) years. The State's 2021-22 Enacted Budget was adopted on April 7, 2021. No assurance can be given that the State will not experience delays in the adoption of the budget in future fiscal years. Significant delays in the adoption of the State budget could result in delayed payment of State aid to school districts in the State which could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State.

Should the District fail to receive State aid expected from the State in the amounts and at the times expected, occasioned by a delay in the payment of such monies or by a mid-year reduction in State aid, the District is authorized by the Local Finance Law to provide operating funds by borrowing in anticipation of the receipt of uncollected State aid.

#### **Federal Aid Received by the State –**

The State receives a substantial amount of federal aid for health care, education, transportation, and other governmental purposes, as well as federal funding to respond to, and recover from, severe weather events and other disasters. Many of the policies that drive this federal aid may be subject to change under the federal administration and Congress. Current federal aid projections, and the assumptions on which they rely, are subject to revision in the future as a result of changes in federal policy, the general condition of the global and national economies and other circumstances.

President Biden has signed into law the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package that includes \$350 billion to state, local and territorial governments to keep their frontline workers employed, distribute the vaccine, increase testing, reopen schools, and maintain vital services. The American Rescue Plan also includes an additional \$1,400 payment to eligible individuals and families, enhanced unemployment aid, rental, and utility assistance to low- and moderate-income households, an increase in food stamp benefits, additional funding for childcare and an increase in childcare tax credits. As of the date of this Official Statement it is not possible to predict the long-term impacts that the American Rescue Plan will have on the finances of the State.

Since March 2020, the State has been awarded over \$14 billion in Federal education COVID response funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act; Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 ("CRRSA"); and the American Rescue Plan ("ARP") Act. These funds are supporting the ability of local educational agencies to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools in the State. The District has been allocated a total of approximately \$1,706,194 in ARP funds and \$540,692 in CRRSA funds. As of June 30, 2023, the District has received \$999,859 in ARP funds and \$476,399 in CRRSA funds.

Reductions in Federal funding levels could have a materially adverse impact on the State budget. In addition to the potential fiscal impact of policies that may be proposed and adopted by the new administration and Congress, the State budget may be adversely affected by other actions taken by the Federal government, including audits, disallowances, and changes to Federal participation rates or other Medicaid rules.

**State Aid History** - State aid to school districts within the State has declined in some recent years before increasing again in more recent years.

The State's 2018-2019 Enacted Budget included nearly \$1 billion in additional education funding, representing a 3.9% increase over 2017-2018. Approximately \$859 million of that increase was comprised of traditional public-school aid,

including increased Foundation Aid and full-funding of expense-based aids. Formula-based school aid stood at \$26.03 billion statewide, a 3.4% increase over the prior year. The State's 2018-19 Enacted Budget included an increase of \$618 million in Foundation Aid for school districts. Foundation Aid totaled nearly \$17.8 billion statewide. For the seventh consecutive year, the Foundation Aid increase was distributed using a one-year, off formula methodology. The State's 2018-2019 Enacted Budget guaranteed that all school districts receive an increase in Foundation Aid over their 2017-2018 levels. \$50 million of the Foundation Aid increase was "set aside" for certain school districts to fund community schools. The State's 2018-2019 Enacted Budget fully funded all expense-based aid for 2018-2019, including building, transportation, BOCES and special education aid. These categories served as State reimbursements for school district expenses made in the prior year, based on school district-specific aid ratios. A total of \$240 million was approved for increases in all expense-based aids in 2018-2019.

The State's 2019-2020 Enacted Budget included a total of \$27.69 billion for School Aid, a year-to-year funding increase of \$956 million or 3.6 percent and provided additional funding for Foundation Aid of \$338.0 million and \$409.65 million in reimbursements for expense-based aids. In addition, the State's 2019-2020 Enacted Budget increased the Community Schools set-aside funding amount by \$49.99 million to a total of \$250.0 million. This increased funding is targeted to districts with failing schools and/or districts experiencing significant growth in English language learners. The State's 2019-2020 Enacted Budget increased the minimum community schools funding amount from \$75,000 to \$100,000. This ensures all high-need districts across the State can apply the funds to a wide-range of activities.

The State's 2020- 2021 Enacted Budget - Due to the anticipated impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on State revenues, State aid in the State's 2020-2021 Enacted Budget was 3.7% lower than in the State's 2019-2020 Enacted Budget but was offset in part with increased Federal support. This reduction in State Operating Funds support was offset by approximately \$1.1 billion in funding provided to the State through the Federal CARES Act, including the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Education Relief Fund and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. With these Federal funds, State aid in the school district fiscal year 2020-2021 was approximately \$27.9 billion, an annual increase of approximately \$100 million or 0.4%. The State's 2020-2021 Enacted Budget continued prior year funding levels for existing programs, including Foundation Aid, Community Schools, and Universal Prekindergarten. The 2020-2021 Enacted Budget also provided over \$200 million in support for competitive grant programs, including \$1 million for development of a new Civics Education curriculum and \$10 million for a Student Mental Health program. Funding for expense-based aids, such as Building Aid, Transportation Aid, and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Aid continued under existing aid formulas. The out-year growth in School Aid reflected then current projections of the ten-year average growth in State personal income. The State's 2020-2021 Enacted Budget authorized the State's Budget Director to make periodic adjustments to State Aid, in the event that actual State revenues come in below 99% of estimates or if actual disbursements exceed 101% of estimates. Pursuant to that provision, in October 2020, the State announced that, in the absence of Federal funding to offset such lost revenue, the State had begun to take steps to reduce spending, including but not limited to, temporarily holding back 20% of most aid payments to local governments and school districts. However, the 2020-2021 State aid declines were offset, in part, by \$1.1 billion of increased federal funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. With these federal funds, State aid totaled \$27.9 billion in the State's 2020-2021 Enacted Budget, an annual increase of approximately \$100 million or 0.4% from the State's 2019-2020 Enacted Budget. As of February 1, 2021, the State Education Department ("SED") advised school districts that the State Division of the Budget would, at some point, provide approval for SED to make the payments to school districts for State aid and other Pre-K-12 grant programs that had been subject to the above-referenced 20% withholding. Such approval was received, and the State released all of the withheld funds prior to June 30, 2021.

The State's 2021-22 Enacted Budget included \$29.5 billion in state aid to school districts, and significantly increased funding for schools and local governments, including a \$1.4 billion increase in Foundation Aid and a three-year phase in of the full restoration to school districts of Foundation Aid that was initially promised in 2007. Additionally, the budget includes the use of \$13 billion of federal funds for emergency relief, along with the Governor's Emergency Education Relief, which includes, in part, the allocation of \$629 million to school districts as targeted grants in an effort to address learning loss as a result of the loss of enrichment and after-school activities. In addition, \$105 million of federal funds are to be allocated to expand full-day kindergarten programs. Under the budget, school districts are to be reimbursed for the cost of delivering school meals and instructional materials in connection with COVID-19 related school closures in spring 2020, along with the costs of keeping transportation employees and contractors on stand-by during the short-term school closures prior to the announcement of the closure of schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 year. Under the budget, local governments are to receive a full restoration of proposed cuts to Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding and will receive a full restoration of \$10.3 million in proposed Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) aid cuts where applicable.

The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget provides \$31.5 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2022-23 school year, the highest level of State aid ever. This represents an increase of \$2.1 billion or 7.2 percent compared to the 2021-22 school year and includes a \$1.5 billion or 7.7 percent Foundation Aid increase. The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget also programs \$14 billion of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief and Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds to public schools. This funding, available for use over multiple years, is designed to assist public schools to reopen for in-person instruction, address learning loss, and respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs due to the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget allocates \$100 million over two years for a new State matching fund for school districts with the highest needs to support efforts to address student well-being and learning loss. In addition, the State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget increases federal funds by \$125 million to expand access to full-day prekindergarten programs for four-year-old children in school districts statewide in the 2022-23 school year.

On February 1, 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul delivered the Executive Budget to the New York State Legislature. The 2023-24 Executive Budget includes a \$3.1 billion or a 10% increase in school aid, the largest in State history, totaling \$34.5 billion in school aid. The foundation aid formula will be fully funded for the first time in the program's history by way of a \$2.7 billion increase, including a dedication of \$250 million to establish high-impact tutoring programs. There is a \$392 million increase in all other school aid programs including expense-based aids, categorical aids, and competitive grants. A \$20 million in grant funding will establish new Early College High School and Pathways in Technology Early College High School Programs. An investment of \$10 million over two years in competitive funding for school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, and community colleges will be made to promote job readiness. An additional \$125 million will be used to expand high-quality full-day prekindergarten, resulting in universal prekindergarten to be phased into 95 percent of the State. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, public school districts were awarded \$14 billion of federal elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds, available for use over multiple years. The 2023-24 Executive Budget is subject to approval by the State Legislature and then it must be signed into law by the Governor. There is no assurance that the 2023-24 Executive Budget will be adopted and no way to predict what changes the Governor and the Legislature may agree to.

**State Aid Litigation** - In January 2001, the State Supreme Court issued a decision in *Campaign for Fiscal Equity v. New York* mandating that the system of apportionment of State aid to school districts within the State be restructured by the Governor and the State Legislature. On June 25, 2002, the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court reversed that decision. On June 26, 2003, the State Court of Appeals, the highest court in the State, reversed the Appellate Division, holding that the State must, by July 30, 2004, ascertain the actual cost of providing a sound basic education, enact reforms to the system of school funding and ensure a system of accountability for such reforms. The Court of Appeals further modified the decision of the Appellate Division by deciding against a Statewide remedy and instead limited its ruling solely to the New York City school system.

After further litigation, on appeal in 2006, the Court of Appeals held that \$1.93 billion of additional funds for the New York City schools — as initially proposed by the Governor and presented to the Legislature as an amount sufficient to provide a sound basic education — was reasonably determined. State legislative reforms in the wake of the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity* decision included increased accountability for expenditure of State funds and collapsing over 30 categories of school aid for school districts in the State into one classroom operating formula referred to as foundation aid. The stated purpose of foundation aid is to prioritize funding distribution based upon student need. As a result of the Court of Appeals ruling schools were to receive \$5.5 billion increase in foundation aid over a four fiscal year phase-in covering 2007 to 2011.

A case related to the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc. v. State of New York* was heard on appeal on May 30, 2017, in *New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights v. State of New York ("NYSER")* and a consolidated case on the right to a sound basic education. The *NYSER* lawsuit asserts that the State has failed to comply with the original decision in the Court of Appeals in the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity* case, and asks the Court of Appeals to require the State to develop new methodologies, formulas and mechanisms for determining State aid, to fully fund the foundation aid formula, to eliminate the supermajority requirement for voter approval of budgets which increase school district property tax levies above the property tax cap limitation, and related matters. On June 27, 2017, the Court of Appeals held that the plaintiffs' causes of action were properly dismissed by the earlier Appellate Division decision except in so far as two causes of action regarding accountability mechanisms and sufficient State funding for a "sound basic education" as applicable solely to the school districts in New York City and Syracuse. The Court emphasized its previous ruling in the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity* case that absent "gross education inadequacies", claims regarding State funding for a "sound basic education" must be made on a district-by-district basis based on the specific facts therein. On October 14, 2021, Governor Hochul announced that New

York State has reached an agreement to settle and discontinue the *New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights v. New York State* case, following through on the State's commitment to fully fund the current Foundation Aid formula to New York's school districts over three years and ending the State's prior opposition to providing such funding. The litigation, which has been ongoing since 2014, sought to require New York State to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula that was put into place following the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity* cases, and has been previously opposed by the State. Foundation Aid was created in 2007 and takes school district wealth and student need into account to create an equitable distribution of state funding to schools, however, New York State has never fully funded Foundation Aid, The new settlement requires New York to phase-in full funding of Foundation Aid by the FY 2024 budget. In the State's 2022 Enacted Budget approved in April 2022, the Executive and Legislature agreed to fully fund the Foundation Aid by FY 2024 budget and enacted this commitment into law. A breakdown of the currently anticipated Foundation Aid funding is available below:

- FY 2022: \$19.8 billion, covering 30% of existing shortfall.
- FY 2023: Approximately \$21.3 billion, covering 50% of the anticipated shortfall.
- FY 2024: Approximately \$23.2 billion, eliminating the anticipated shortfall, and funding the full amount of Foundation Aid for all school Districts.

The following table illustrates the percentage of total revenue of the District for each of the below fiscal years comprised of State aid and budgeted figures for 2023-24 fiscal years.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>Total State Aid</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Revenues Consisting of State Aid</u>
2018-2019	\$15,507,251	\$8,867,938	57.19%
2019-2020	14,300,285	7,869,369	55.03
2020-2021	14,565,333	7,653,722	52.55
2021-2022	15,412,105	8,513,279	55.24
2022-2023	16,181,165	9,037,030	55.85
2023-2024 (Budgeted)	16,918,077	9,195,517	54.35

Source: Audited financial statements for the 2018-2019 fiscal year through the 2022-2023 fiscal year and the adopted budget of the District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This table is not audited.

### **Fiscal Stress Monitoring**

The New York State Comptroller has developed a Fiscal Stress Monitoring System ("FSMS") to provide independent information to School District officials, taxpayers, and policy makers regarding the various levels of fiscal stress under which the State's diverse school districts are operating.

The fiscal stress scores are based on financial information submitted as part of each School District's ST-3 report filed yearly with the State Education Department. Using financial indicators that include year-end fund balance, cash position and patterns of operating deficits, the Office of the State Comptroller system creates an overall fiscal stress score which classifies whether a district is in "significant fiscal stress," in "moderate fiscal stress," as "susceptible to fiscal stress" or "no designation." Entities that do not accumulate the number of points that would place them in a stress category will receive a financial score but will be classified in a category of "no designation". This classification should not be interpreted to imply that the entity is completely free of fiscal stress conditions. Rather, the entity's financial information, when objectively scored according to the FSMS criteria, did not generate sufficient points to place it in one of the three established stress categories.

The reports of State Comptroller for the past five fiscal years of the District are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending In</u>	<u>Stress Designation</u>	<u>Fiscal Score</u>
2022	No Designation	10.0
2021	No Designation	6.7
2020	No Designation	6.7
2019	No Designation	0.0
2018	No Designation	11.7

Note: See the official website of the New York State Comptroller for more information on FSMS. Reference to websites implies no warranty of accuracy of information therein.

## **New York State Comptroller Report of Examination**

The State Comptroller's office, i.e., the Department of Audit and Control, periodically performs a compliance review to ascertain whether the District has complied with the requirements of various State and Federal statutes. These audits can be found by visiting the Audits of Local Governments section of the Office of the State Comptroller website.

The State Comptroller's office released an audit report of the District on June 23, 2023. The purpose of the audit was to determine if District Officials maintained a complete and accurate inventory of information technology (IT) assets for the period of July 1, 2021-November 22, 2022.

### **Key Findings**

District officials did not maintain a complete and accurate inventory of IT assets (computers, tablets, document cameras, etc.) As a result, District officials cannot be assured that these assets are adequately accounted for and would be detected if lost, stolen, misused or if they became obsolete.

- The District's IT inventory records were incomplete and inaccurate, in part because the records were not always updated to include all acquisitions of, removed/disposed of, or recycled IT assets.
- Of the 79 IT assets tested, officials could not locate 30 IT assets: 22 that cost about \$14,000 (eight computers, four tablets and 10 additional IT assets) and another eight IT assets (five computers, one tablet and two other items) of unknown cost. Officials could not tell us how much they cost because the District's inventory records were incomplete.
- No annual physical inventory count was performed.

### **Key Recommendations**

- Adopt a comprehensive written IT asset inventory policy to track IT assets.
- Perform an annual physical inventory.

A copy of the complete report and response can be found via the website of the Office of the New York State Comptroller.

Note: Reference to website implies no warranty of accuracy of information therein.

## **Other Information**

The statutory authority for the power to spend money for the object or purpose, or to accomplish the object or purpose, for which the Notes were issued is the Education Law and the Local Finance Law.

No principal or interest upon any obligation of the School District is past due.

The fiscal year of the School District is from July 1 to June 30.

Other than "Estimated Calculation of Overlapping Indebtedness", this Official Statement does not include the financial data of any other political subdivisions of the State having power to levy taxes within the School District

## **Financial Statements**

The School District retains an independent Certified Public Accountant, whose most recent report covers the period ended June 30, 2023, and may be found attached hereto as Appendix B.

The District complies with the Uniform System of Accounts as prescribed for school districts in New York State. This system differs from generally accepted accounting principles as prescribed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Industry Audit Guide, "Audits of State and Local Governmental Units", and codified in Government Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting ("GAAFR"), published by the National Committee on Government Accounting.

**TAX INFORMATION**

**Assessed and Full Valuations**

Fiscal Year Ended  
June 30:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Assessed Valuations:</b>					
Brant	\$ 27,118,889	\$ 27,158,912	\$ 27,104,522	\$ 27,033,537	\$ 27,146,231
Collins	6,542,376	6,778,558	6,722,256	6,726,756	6,838,172
Concord	27,536,873	27,549,437	27,564,455	27,522,522	27,529,863
Eden	617,443	615,891	616,167	609,897	613,039
Evans	6,021,938	6,054,586	5,969,346	5,930,421	5,939,953
North Collins	<u>161,971,431</u>	<u>164,768,131</u>	<u>167,130,136</u>	<u>167,830,473</u>	<u>170,420,997</u>
Total	<u>\$ 229,808,950</u>	<u>\$ 232,925,515</u>	<u>\$ 235,106,882</u>	<u>\$ 235,653,606</u>	<u>\$ 238,488,255</u>
<b>Equalization Rates:</b>					
Brant	76.00%	73.00%	68.00%	63.00%	59.00%
Collins	54.00%	52.00%	46.00%	42.00%	36.00%
Concord	40.00%	36.00%	36.00%	34.00%	32.00%
Eden	57.00%	53.00%	51.00%	46.00%	41.00%
Evans	82.00%	77.00%	73.00%	65.00%	58.00%
North Collins	80.00%	71.00%	66.00%	59.00%	56.00%
<b>Full Valuations:</b>					
Brant	\$ 35,682,749	\$ 37,203,989	\$ 39,859,591	\$ 42,910,376	\$ 46,010,561
Collins	12,115,511	13,035,688	14,613,600	16,016,086	18,994,922
Concord	68,842,183	76,526,214	76,567,931	80,948,594	86,030,822
Eden	1,083,233	1,162,058	1,208,171	1,325,863	1,495,217
Evans	7,343,827	7,863,099	8,177,186	9,123,725	10,241,298
North Collins	<u>202,464,289</u>	<u>232,067,790</u>	<u>253,227,479</u>	<u>284,458,429</u>	<u>304,323,209</u>
Total	<u>\$ 327,531,791</u>	<u>\$ 367,858,839</u>	<u>\$ 393,653,957</u>	<u>\$ 434,783,072</u>	<u>\$ 467,096,029</u>

Equalized values shown here are those used by the School District for tax levy purposes as provided in the Real Property Tax Law. In some cases, equalization rates established specifically for school tax apportionment may have been used, as is also provided in the Real Property Tax Law.

**Tax Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value**

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Brant	\$ 21.81	\$ 20.71	\$ 21.19	\$ 21.02	\$ 21.52
Collins	30.69	29.07	31.33	31.53	35.27
Concord	41.43	42.00	40.03	38.95	39.67
Eden	29.07	28.53	28.26	28.79	30.97
Evans	20.21	19.63	19.74	20.37	21.89
North Collins	20.72	21.29	21.83	22.45	22.67



## Tax Collection Procedure

School taxes are due by October 15 without penalty. There is a 7.5% penalty added to payments from October 18 through October 31, and a 9% penalty added to payments made in November. The last day for payment is December 1. On December 5 all unpaid taxes are turned over to the County Treasurer for re-levy on County/Town tax rolls unless paid to the County by December 31.

The District is reimbursed by the County for all unpaid taxes, with the exception of holdbacks for court orders or assessment changes, in April of each year and is thus assured of 100% collection of its annual levy.

## Tax Collection Record

Fiscal Year Ended June 30:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024*</u>
Total Tax Levy	\$5,428,000	\$5,561,615	\$5,672,845	\$5,757,938	\$5,930,100
Amount Uncollected	158,430	118,475	95,949	97,087	153,283.00
% Uncollected	2.91%	2.13%	2.13%	1.93%	2.58%

\*Tax Collection Figures as of 11/2/23

## Real Property Tax Revenues

The following table illustrates the percentage of total revenues of the District for each of the below fiscal years comprised of Real Property Taxes.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>Total Real Property Taxes</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Revenues Consisting of Real Property Taxes</u>
2018-2019	\$15,507,251	\$4,643,523	29.94%
2019-2020	14,300,285	4,702,163	32.88
2020-2021	14,565,333	4,860,950	33.37
2021-2022	15,412,105	5,018,179	32.56
2022-2023	16,181,165	5,132,397	31.72
2023-2024 (Budgeted)	16,918,077	5,253,849	31.05

Source: Audited financial statements for the 2018-2019 fiscal year through 2022-2023 fiscal year and the adopted budget of the District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This table is not audited.

## Major Taxpayers 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>
Supply-National Fuel Gas	Utility	24,196,000
National Fuel Gas Supply Corp	Utility	5,015,235
National Fuel Gas Dist. Corp	Utility	4,482,146
Crescent Marketing Inc	Manufacturing	2,050,000
National Grid	Utility	2,031,732
Phillips WNY Farm Prop	Dairy Farm	1,981,200
Gabel William H	Dairy Farm	1,800,820
Niagara Mohawk Power Corp	Utility	1,725,142
Niagara Mohawk dba Nat I Grid	Utility	1,218,998
JKR Development, LLC	Housing Developer	<u>1,107,200</u>
Total		\$45,608,473

1. The above taxpayers represent 20% of the School District's 2023-24 Assessed Value of \$238,488,255.

As of the date of this Official Statement, the District does not currently have any pending or outstanding tax certiorari claims that are known to have a material impact on the District.

## General Fund Operations

District finances are operated primarily through its General Fund. All taxes and most other revenues are paid into this fund and all current operating expenditures are made from it. (A statement of such revenues and expenditures for the five-year period ending June 30, 2023, is contained in the Appendices). As reflected in the Appendices, the District derives the bulk of its annual revenues from a tax on real property and from State aid. Capital improvements are generally financed by the issuance of bonds and bond anticipation notes.

## STAR – School Tax Exemption

The STAR (School Tax Relief) program provides State-funded exemptions from school property taxes to homeowners for their primary residences. School districts are reimbursed by the State for real property taxes exempted pursuant to the STAR Program.

Homeowners over 65 years of age with household adjusted gross incomes, less the taxable amount of total distributions from individual retirement accounts and individual retirement annuities (“STAR Adjusted Gross Income”) of \$93,200 or less in 2023-2024, increased annually according to a cost of living adjustment, are eligible for a “full value” exemption of the first \$81,400 for the 2023-24 school year (adjusted annually). Other homeowners with household STAR Adjusted Gross income not in excess of \$250,000 (\$500,000 in the case of a STAR credit, as discussed below) are eligible for a \$30,000 “full value” exemption on their primary residence.

Part A of Chapter 60 of the Laws of 2016 of the State of New York (“Chapter 60”) gradually converts the STAR program from a real property tax exemption to a personal income tax credit. Chapter 60 prohibits new STAR exemptions from being granted unless at least one of the applicants held title to the property on the taxable status date of the assessment roll that was used to levy school district taxes for the 2015-2016 school year (generally, March 1, 2015), and the property was granted a STAR exemption on that assessment roll. A new homeowner may receive a new personal income tax credit in the form of a check. A taxpayer who is eligible for the new credit will receive a check from the State equal to the amount by which the STAR exemption would have reduced his or her school tax bill. A homeowner who owned his or her home on the taxable

status date for the assessment roll used to levy taxes for the 2015-2016 school year, and who received a STAR exemption on that roll, may continue to receive a STAR exemption on that home as long as he or she still owns and primarily resides in it. No further action is required (unless the homeowner has been receiving Basic STAR and wants to apply for Enhanced STAR, which is permissible).

The State's 2019-20 Enacted Budget made several changes to the STAR program, which went into effect immediately. The changes are intended to encourage homeowners to switch from the STAR exemption to the STAR credit. The income limit for the exemption has been lowered to \$250,000, compared with a \$500,000 limit for the credit. The amount received for the STAR exemption will remain the same each year, while the amount of the STAR credit can increase up to two percent annually. Homeowners with STAR Adjusted Gross Income of \$250,000 or less have the option to select the credit or the exemption.

The State's 2020-21 Enacted Budget further modified the STAR program. Under such legislation, property owners with property tax delinquencies greater than one year are not eligible for the Basic STAR exemption or the Basic STAR credit. Recipients of the Enhanced STAR exemptions and credits are not impacted by this program; they may continue to receive STAR benefits even if their property taxes are delinquent. While Governor Cuomo had issued various Executive Orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that temporarily precluded the State Tax Department from disallowing STAR exemptions or credits the most recent of such Executive Orders expired on July 5, 2021.

The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget provided \$2.2 billion in State funding for a new one-time property tax relief credit, the Homeowner Tax Rebate Credit, for eligible low- and middle-income households, as well as eligible senior households. Under this program, basic STAR exemption and credit beneficiaries with incomes below \$250,000 and Enhanced STAR recipients are eligible for the property tax rebate where the benefit is a percentage of the homeowners' existing STAR benefit.

## **TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW**

On June 24, 2011, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 was signed into law by the Governor. The Tax Levy Limit Law modified the then-current law by imposing a limit on the amount of real property taxes that a school district may levy. The Law affected school district tax levies for the school district fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012.

On June 25, 2015, Chapter 20 of the 2015 Laws of New York amended the Tax Levy Limitation Law to extend its expiration from June 15, 2016, to June 15, 2020. The State's enacted budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, made the Tax Levy Limitation Law permanent.

Prior to the enactment of the Law, there was no statutory limitation on the amount of real property taxes that a school district could levy if its budget had been approved by a simple majority of its voters. In the event the budget had been defeated by the voters, the school district was required to adopt a contingency budget. Under a contingency budget, school budget increases were limited to the lesser of four percent (4%) of the prior year's budget or one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the consumer price index ("CPI").

The Tax Levy Limit Law requires that a school district hereafter submit its proposed tax levy (not its proposed budget) to the voters each year and imposes a limitation on the amount of tax levy growth from one fiscal year to the next. Such limitation is the lesser of (i) 2% or (ii) the annual percentage increase in the CPI, as described in the Law. Tax levies that do not exceed such limit will require approval by at least 50% of the voters. Approval by at least 60% of the voters will be required for a tax levy in excess of the limit. In the event the voters reject the tax levy, the school district's tax levy for the ensuing fiscal year may not exceed the amount of the tax levy for the prior fiscal year, without any stated exceptions.

There are exceptions for school districts to the tax levy limitation provided in the law, including expenditures made on account of certain tort settlements and certain increases in the average actuarial contribution rates of the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System. School districts are also permitted to carry forward a certain portion of their unused levy limitation from a prior year.

There is also an exception for school districts for "Capital Local Expenditures" subject to voter approval where required by law. This term is defined in a manner that does not include certain items for which a school district may issue debt, including the payment of judgments or settled claims, including tax certiorari payments, and cashflow borrowings, including

28 tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, budget notes and deficiency notes. “Capital Local Expenditures” are defined as “the taxes associated with budgeted expenditures resulting from the financing, refinancing, acquisition, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of or otherwise providing for school district capital facilities or school district capital equipment, including debt service and lease expenditures, and transportation capital debt service, subject to the approval of the qualified voters where required by law”. The portion of the tax levy necessary to support “Capital Local Expenditures” is defined as the “Capital Tax Levy,” and is an exclusion from the tax levy limitation, applicable to the Notes. The State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance has promulgated a regulation that will allow school districts, beginning in the year 2020-2021 school year, to adjust the exclusion to reflect a school district’s share of capital expenditures related to projects funded through a board of cooperative education services (“BOCES”).

## **STATUS OF INDEBTEDNESS**

### **Constitutional Requirements**

The New York State Constitution limits the power of the District (and other municipalities and certain school districts of the State) to issue obligations and to contract indebtedness. Such constitutional limitations in summary form and as generally applicable to the District include the following:

Purpose and Pledge. The District shall not give or loan any money or property to or in aid of any individual or private undertaking or give or loan its credit to or in aid of any of the foregoing or any public corporation.

The District may contract indebtedness only for a District purpose and shall pledge its faith and credit for the payment of principal of and interest thereon.

Payment and Maturity. Except for certain short-term indebtedness contracted in anticipation of taxes or to be paid within three fiscal year periods, indebtedness shall be paid in annual installments commencing no later than two years after the date such indebtedness shall have been contracted and ending no later than the expiration of the period of probable usefulness of the object or purpose as determined by statute; unless substantially level or declining annual debt service is utilized, no installment may be more than fifty percent in excess of the smallest prior installment. The District is required to provide an annual appropriation for the payment of interest due during the year on its indebtedness and for the amounts required in such year for amortization and redemption of its serial bonds and such required annual installments on its notes.

Debt Limit. The District has the power to contract indebtedness for any school district purpose so long as the principal amount thereof shall not exceed ten per centum of the full valuation of the taxable real estate of the District and subject to certain enumerated deductions. The constitutional method for determining full valuation by taking the assessed valuation of taxable real estate for the last completed assessment roll and applying thereto the ratio which such assessed valuation bears to the full valuation as determined by the State Office of Real Property Services. The State Legislature is required to prescribe the manner by which such ratio shall be determined.

### **Statutory Procedure**

In general, the State Legislature has, by the enactment of the Local Finance Law, authorized the powers and procedure for the District to borrow and incur indebtedness subject, of course, to the constitutional provisions set forth above. The power to spend money, however, generally derives from other laws, including the Education Law.

The District is generally required by such laws to submit propositions for the expenditure of money for capital purposes to the qualified electors of the District. Upon approval thereby, the Board of Education may adopt a bond resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in anticipation of the bonds. With respect to certain school building construction projects, the District is not permitted to spend in excess of \$100,000 for construction costs until the plans and specifications for such project have been approved by the Commissioner of Education of the State. The District has obtained such approval with respect to the project to be financed by the Notes.

Each bond resolution usually authorizes the construction, acquisition or installation of the object or purpose to be financed, sets forth the plan of financing and specifies the maximum maturity of the bonds subject to the legal (Constitution, Local Finance Law, and case law) restrictions relating to the period of probable usefulness with respect thereto.

The Local Finance Law also provides that where a bond resolution is published with a statutory form of notice, the validity of the bonds authorized thereby, including bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale thereof, may be contested only if:

1. (a) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose of which the District is not authorized to expend money; or

(b) The provisions of the law which should be complied with as of the date of publication of the notice were not substantially complied with;

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within 20 days after the date of such publication of the notice; or

2. Such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of New York.

The District typically complies with this estoppel procedure, and it has done so with respect to the bond resolution pursuant to which the Notes are being issued. It is a procedure that is recommended by Bond Counsel, but it is not an absolute legal requirement.

The Board, as the finance board of the District, has the power to enact bond resolutions. In addition, such finance board has the power to authorize the sale and issuance of obligations. However, such finance board may delegate the power to sell the obligations to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District, pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

The District is further subject to constitutional limitation by the general constitutionally imposed duty on the State Legislature to restrict the power of taxation and contracting indebtedness; however, the State Legislature is prohibited by a specific constitutional provision from restricting the power of the District to levy taxes on real estate for the payment of interest on or principal of indebtedness theretofore contracted.

Statutory law in the State permits bond anticipation notes to be renewed each year provided annual principal installments are made in reduction of the total amount of such notes outstanding, commencing no later than two years from the date of the first issuance of such notes and provided that such renewal issues do not exceed five years beyond the original date of borrowing. Additionally, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, legislation has been adopted that allows certain bond anticipation notes originally issued between 2015 and 2021 to be renewed up to seven years prior to the issuance of serial bonds.

In general, the Local Finance Law contains provisions providing the District with power to issue certain other short term general obligation indebtedness including revenue, tax anticipation, budget, and capital notes.

### **Debt Outstanding End of Fiscal Year**

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Serial Bonds	\$1,730,000	\$1,320,000	\$8,775,000	\$7,855,000	\$6,885,000
Bond Anticipation Notes	\$0	\$7,880,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Debt Outstanding</b>	<b>\$1,730,000</b>	<b>\$9,200,000</b>	<b>\$8,775,000</b>	<b>\$7,855,000</b>	<b>\$6,885,000</b>

## Status of Outstanding Bond Issues

Year of Issue: 2021  
 Amount Issued: \$7,880,000  
 Purpose/Instrument: Construction/Serial Bond

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2024	\$ 530,000	\$ 137,700
2025	485,000	127,100
2026	495,000	117,400
2027	520,000	107,500
2028	475,000	97,100
2029	510,000	87,600
2030	520,000	77,400
2031	530,000	67,000
2032	540,000	56,400
2033	555,000	45,600
2034	565,000	34,500
2035	575,000	23,200
2036	<u>585,000</u>	<u>11,700</u>
Totals:	\$ 6,885,000	\$ 990,200

## Total Annual Bond Principal and Interest Due

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total Debt Service</u>	<u>%Paid</u>
2024	\$ 530,000	\$ 137,700	\$ 667,700	8.48%
2025	485,000	127,100	612,100	16.25%
2026	495,000	117,400	612,400	24.03%
2027	520,000	107,500	627,500	32.00%
2028	475,000	97,100	572,100	39.26%
2029	510,000	87,600	597,600	46.85%
2030	520,000	77,400	597,400	54.43%
2031	530,000	67,000	597,000	62.01%
2032	540,000	56,400	596,400	69.59%
2033	555,000	45,600	600,600	77.21%
2034	565,000	34,500	599,500	84.83%
2035	575,000	23,200	598,200	92.42%
2036	<u>585,000</u>	<u>11,700</u>	<u>596,700</u>	100.00%
Totals:	\$ 6,885,000	\$ 990,200	\$ 7,875,200	

### Cash Flow Borrowings

The District has no Tax Anticipation Notes or Revenue Anticipation Notes outstanding and has not issued any in recent years. The District does not anticipate issuing such notes in the current fiscal year.

### Status of Short-Term Indebtedness

The School District has no outstanding short-term indebtedness as of the date of this Official Statement.

### Capital Project Plans

On May 17, 2022 the District voters approved a \$7,950,000 Capital Improvements Project, 2022, for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and renovation, in part, and the construction of improvements, upgrades and one or more additions to various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof). Funding for the project will consist of \$1,822,913 capital reserve monies, \$177,087 of available funds of the district, and the remaining \$5,950,000 to be borrowed through bond anticipation notes and serial bonds. This is the first borrowing against said authorization.

## **Building Aid Estimate**

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 760 of the Laws of 1963, the District is eligible to receive a Building Aid Estimate from the New York State Department of Education. The District has not applied for such estimate; but anticipates that aid may be received on its outstanding indebtedness at their Building Aid Ratio of 80.7%.

The State building aid ratio is calculated each year based upon a formula which reflects Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA) and the full value per pupil compared with the State average. Consequently, the estimated aid will vary over the life of each issue. State building aid is further dependent upon the continued apportionment of funds by the State Legislature.

A fundamental reform of building aid was enacted as Chapter 383 of the Laws of 2001. The provisions legislated, among other things, a new "assumed amortization" payout schedule for future State building aid payments based on an annual "average interest rate" and mandatory periods of probable usefulness with respect to the allocation of building aid. The School District has no reason to believe that it will not ultimately receive all of the building aid it anticipates; however, no assurance can be given as to when and how much building aid the School District will receive in relation to its outstanding debt. See "State Aid" herein.



## Debt Statement Summary

As of January 11, 2024

<u>Town</u>	<u>Taxable Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>State Equalization Rate</u>	<u>Taxable Full Valuation</u>
Brant	\$ 27,146,231	59.00%	\$ 46,010,561
Collins	6,838,172	36.00%	18,994,922
Concord	27,529,863	32.00%	86,030,822
Eden	613,039	41.00%	1,495,217
Evans	5,939,953	58.00%	10,241,298
North Collins	170,420,997	56.00%	<u>304,323,209</u>
			<u>\$ 467,096,029</u>
Debt Limit: 10% of Full Valuation			\$ 46,709,603
Inclusions:			
Serial Bonds			<u>\$ 6,885,000</u>
Total Inclusions:			<u>\$ 6,885,000</u>
Exclusions:			
Building Aid Estimate	1		<u>\$0</u>
Total Exclusions:			<u>\$0</u>
Total Net Indebtedness Before Giving Effect to This Issue:			\$ 6,885,000
New Monies This Issue:			<u>2,800,000</u>
Total Net Indebtedness			<u>\$ 9,685,000</u>
Net Debt Contracting Margin			\$ 37,024,603
Percentage of Debt-Contracting Power Exhausted			20.73%

Notes:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 760 of the Laws of New York State of 1963, the School District receives aid on existing building debt. Since the Gross Indebtedness of the School District is within the debt limit, the School District is not required to apply for a Building Aid Estimate and therefore is not permitted to deduct Estimated Building Aid

## Estimated Overlapping Indebtedness

<u>Overlapping Unit</u>	<u>Applicable Equalized Value</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Gross Indebtedness</u>	<sup>1</sup> <u>Exclusions</u>	<u>Net Indebtedness</u>	<u>Estimated Applicable Overlapping Indebtedness</u>
Erie County	\$ 467,096,029	0.63%	\$ 459,738,635	N/A	\$ 459,738,635	\$ 2,896,116
Town of Brant	\$ 46,010,561	25.76%	192,849	N/A	192,849	49,680
Town of Collins	\$ 18,994,922	6.40%	770,000	N/A	-	49,294
Town of Concord	\$ 296,712,454	11.49%	1,939,623	N/A	1,939,623	222,832
Town of Eden	\$ 86,030,822	0.22%	13,340,000	N/A	13,340,000	29,159
Town of Evans	\$ 1,230,231,542	0.83%	17,568,000	N/A	-	146,248
Town of North Collins	\$ 10,241,298	100.00%	249,797	N/A	249,797	249,797
Village of North Collins	\$ 53,997,499	100.00%	4,540,100	N/A	4,540,100	4,540,100
<b>Total</b>						<u>\$ 8,183,227</u>

Source: Comptroller's Special Report on Municipal Affairs for Local Fiscal Years Ended in 2022

Notes: 1 Bonds and Bond Anticipation notes as of 2023 fiscal year. Not adjusted to include subsequent bond and note sales  
 N/A Information not available from source document

## Debt Ratios

The following table sets forth certain ratios relating to the District's indebtedness as of January 11, 2024:

	Amount	Per Capita (a)	Percentage of Full Value (b)
Net Indebtedness	\$ 9,685,000	\$ 2,338.81	2.073%
Net Indebtedness Plus Net Overlapping Indebtedness	\$ 17,868,227	\$ 4,314.95	3.825%

(a) The District's estimated population is 4,141. (Source: 2021 U.S. Census Bureau estimate)

(b) The District's full valuation of taxable real estate for 2023-24 is \$467,096,029

Note: The above ratios do not take into account State building aid the District will receive for past and current construction building projects.

## MARKET AND RISK FACTORS

There are various forms of risk associated with investing in the Notes. One such risk is that the District will be unable to promptly pay interest and principal on the Notes as they become due (see "Remedies of Noteholders on Default," herein). If a Noteholder elects to sell his or her investment prior to its scheduled maturity date, market access or price risk may be incurred. The following is a discussion of certain events that could affect the risk of investing in the Notes. In addition, there may be other risk factors which a potential investor must consider. In order to make an informed investment decision, an investor should be thoroughly familiar with the entire Official Statement, including its appendices, as well as all areas of potential risk.

There are a number of factors which could have a detrimental effect on the ability of the District to continue to generate revenues, particularly its property taxes. For instance, the termination of a major commercial enterprise or an unexpected revenue increase in tax certiorari proceedings could result in a reduction in the assessed valuation of taxable real property in the District. In addition, to the extent that the District is dependent on State aid, there can be no assurance that such aid will be continued in the future. Unforeseen developments could also result in substantial increases in District expenditures, thus placing considerable strain on the District's financial condition.

The financial condition of the District as well as the market for the Notes could be affected by a variety of factors, some of which are beyond the District's control. There can be no assurance that adverse events in the State, including for example, the seeking by a municipality or remedies pursuant to the Federal Bankruptcy Code or otherwise, will not occur which might affect the market price of and the market for the Notes. If a significant default or other financial crisis should occur in the affairs of the State or any of its agencies or political subdivisions thereby further impairing the acceptability of obligations issued by borrowers within the State, both the ability of the District to arrange for additional borrowings, and the market for and market value of outstanding debt obligations, including the Notes, could be adversely affected.

If and when a holder of any Note should elect to sell a Note prior to its maturity, there can be no assurance that a market shall have been established, maintained and be in existence for the purchase and sale of any of the Notes. In addition, the price and principal value of the Notes is dependent on the prevailing level of interest rates, if interest rates rise. The price of a Note will decline, causing the Noteholder to incur a capital loss upon the sale of such Note (unless such Note is held to maturity).

On December 22, 2017, then-President Trump signed into law the significant tax reform legislation that is generally referred to as the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017" (the "TCJA"). The TCJA made significant changes to the Code, most of which became effective for the 2018 tax year. The TCJA made extensive changes to the deductibility of various taxes, including placing a cap of \$10,000 on a taxpayer's deduction of state and local taxes.

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (H.R. 5376). This legislation will impose a minimum tax of 15 percent on the "adjusted financial statement income" of certain large corporations, generally

consisting of corporations (other than S corporations, regulated investment companies and real estate investment trusts) with at least \$1 billion in average annual earnings, and certain foreign-parented multinational corporations with at least \$100 million in average annual earnings, determined over a three-year period. For this purpose, adjusted financial statement income is not reduced for interest and earned on tax-exempt obligations. Prospective holders of the Notes that could be subject to this minimum tax should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the potential consequences of owning the Notes.

## **Cyber Security**

The District, like many other public and private entities, relies on technology to conduct its operations. As a recipient and provider of personal, private, or sensitive information, the District faces multiple cyber threats including, but not limited to hacking, viruses, malware and other attacks on computer and other sensitive digital networks and systems. To mitigate the risk of business operations impact and/or damage from cyber incidents or cyber-attacks, the District invests in various forms of cybersecurity and operation controls; however, no assurances can be given that such security and operational control measures will be completely successful to guard against cyber threats and attacks. The results of any such attack could impact business operations and/or damage District digital networks and systems and the costs of remedying any such damage could be substantial.

## **COVID – 19**

The outbreak of COVID-19, a serious respiratory disease caused by a novel strain of coronavirus, was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020.

## **Economic Impacts**

The outbreak of COVID-19 has drastically affected travel, commerce, and financial markets globally. While several vaccines have been developed and are now being deployed world-wide, the full and continuing impact of the pandemic is difficult to predict due to uncertainties regarding its ultimate duration and severity. Uncertainty regarding the short, medium, and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic initially caused extreme volatility across all financial markets, including the primary and secondary markets for municipal bonds. In the United States, Congress and the Federal Reserve took immediate significant steps to backstop those markets and to provide much needed liquidity, and the markets then generally stabilized. Still, given these conditions, it is possible that the process of trading the Notes in the secondary market could be affected in ways that are difficult to predict.

## **Federal Response**

The federal government has passed several pieces of legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including the \$2.3 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act of 2020 and the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (“ARP” or the “Arp Act”) of 2021, both of which provide funding for pandemic-related expenses and attempt to address financial stability and liquidity issues through a variety of stimulus measures.

Stimulus Efforts for State and Local Governments: The CARES Act included a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund, which provided funds to states, tribal governments and local governments with populations exceeding 500,000 (local governments with smaller populations could receive monies from the amount allocated to their state). This money was intended for programs that were necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency resulting from the pandemic. This money was not intended to be used to directly account for revenue shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it could indirectly assist with revenue shortfalls in cases where the expenses that were covered by this fund would otherwise create a further budget shortfall.

The CARES Act also included an Education Stabilization Fund, which provided \$30.75 billion for K-12 and higher education systems. There were three main forms of relief: \$13.2 billion for K-12 schools that was administered on a state-by-state basis, \$14 billion for public and private colleges and universities, and \$3 billion in emergency relief that governors could distribute to schools, colleges and universities that were particularly affected by COVID-19 and the ensuing crisis.

The ARP Act included an additional \$350 billion for states, tribal governments, and local governments. Notably, in addition to the uses allowed under the CARES Act, ARP funds can be used to replace revenues lost due to COVID-19 and to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. These broader categories allow such governments much more flexibility in utilizing the funds.

The ARP Act also included a total of \$170.3 billion in funding for education, including more than \$122.8 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (“ESSER”). The largest portion of such ESSER funds was to be distributed to school districts based on their relative share of Title I funding, but additional moneys were also allocated to help schools address learning time lost by students, after-school and summer enrichment programs, and administration costs.

## **State Response**

Executive Orders: Pursuant to emergency powers granted by the State Legislature, former Governor Cuomo and current Governor Hochul have released a number of executive orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to State Executive Order 202.4, every school in the State was directed to close no later than March 18, 2020. While schools were originally ordered closed until April 1, the time period was later extended to May 15, and then through the end of the school year. School districts must normally maintain 180-day in-class attendance for State aid; however, this requirement was waived to the extent attributable to COVID-19 related closures during the 2019-20 school year. Additionally, pursuant to State Executive Orders Nos. 202.13 and 202.26, the school district elections and budget votes that normally would have been held in-person on May 19, 2020, were postponed and conducted by absentee ballot, with such ballots being counted on June 16, 2020.

While initially “non-essential” employees were mandated to work from home, starting on May 15, 2020, regions of the State that met certain criteria were allowed to begin reopening.

As COVID-19 cases began to rise again in the fall of 2020, the State shifted to a strategy based on identifying areas with higher positivity rates and implementing successively higher restrictions in such areas. When COVID-19 cases dropped again, affected areas could be removed from the list. As of March 22, 2021, all remaining location-based restrictions were lifted.

Due to the spread of Delta and Omicron variants in the fall and winter of 2021, the State implemented a mask mandate; however, as of February 9, 2022, such State-wide mandate has been lifted.

Since increased supplies of COVID-19 vaccines have become available, the State has encouraged residents to get vaccinated and, currently, all New Yorkers five years of age or older are eligible to receive a vaccine.

Up-to-date information on the State’s COVID-19 response can be found at <https://forward.ny.gov>. Reference to website implies no warranty of accuracy of information therein.

State Budget: The City of New York was an early epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, and as a result the State suffered significant revenue shortfalls and unanticipated expenses beginning at the end of the State’s 2019-2020 fiscal year and continuing during the State’s 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years.

In response, the State’s 2020-21 Enacted Budget allowed the State to reduce expenditures (including aid to local school districts and municipalities) if tax receipts were lower than anticipated. Accordingly, in June 2020 the State Division of the Budget (“DOB”) began withholding 20 percent of most local aid payments, although such aid has generally since been restored.

Many of the State’s 2020-2021 Enacted Budget decisions were based on the uncertainty of future federal aid. In the period of time since such decisions were made, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law (on March 11, 2021), which legislation includes almost \$24 billion in funding for various levels of government in the State, including approximately \$12.5 billion for the State, \$6 billion for New York City, and \$4 billion to be divided among counties in the State; another \$12 billion is intended to be used toward the safe reopening of K-12 schools as well as colleges and universities.

Accordingly, the State's 2021-2022 Enacted Budget was more expansive (about 10% higher) than the prior budget, including significantly increased funding for schools and local governments. School districts benefitted from a \$1.4 billion increase in Foundation Aid and a three-year Foundation Aid full restoration phase-in that will allow all school districts to receive in full, by the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the increased level of Foundation Aid that was originally promised in 2007, along with a \$105 million expansion of full-day prekindergarten. Local governments also received a full restoration of proposed cuts to Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding. Further, municipalities that host Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) facilities received a full restoration of \$10.3 million in proposed VLT aid cuts.

The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget provides \$31.5 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2022-23 school year, the highest level of State aid ever. This represents an increase of \$2.1 billion or 7.2 percent compared to the 2021-22 school year and includes a \$1.5 billion or 7.7 percent Foundation Aid increase. The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget also programs \$14 billion of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief and Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds to public schools. This funding, available for use over multiple years, is designed to assist public schools to reopen for in-person instruction, address learning loss, and respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs due to the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget allocates \$100 million over two years for a new State matching fund for school districts with the highest needs to support efforts to address student well-being and learning loss. In addition, the State's 2022-23 Enacted Budget increases federal funds by \$125 million to expand access to full-day prekindergarten programs for four-year-old children in school districts statewide in the 2022-23 school year.

Although both the State's 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Enacted Budgets contained additional aid for school districts and municipalities, it is uncertain whether the State will have future budget shortfalls necessitating cuts to State aid. Reductions in the payment of State aid could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State, including the District.

Legislation Allowing Financial Flexibility for Municipalities and School Districts: On August 24, 2020, former Governor Cuomo signed legislation allowing municipalities and school districts additional financial flexibility in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas municipalities and school districts in the State typically may only pursue short-term financing for five years, under certain circumstances the new legislation allows note financing for up to an additional two years prior to converting to long-term bonds.

The new legislation also allows municipalities and school districts additional flexibility related to the use of reserve funds or inter-fund transfers for costs associated with COVID-19. The typical mandatory or permissive referendum requirements for the expenditure of funds from a capital reserve fund have been waived for capital costs attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moneys from a capital reserve fund can also be temporarily advanced for operating costs or other costs attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic, so long as such moneys are repaid within five fiscal years, with interest. Additionally, while inter-fund transfers must typically be repaid by the end of the fiscal year in which the transfer is made, inter-fund advances for costs attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic do not need to be repaid until the close of the following fiscal year.

During the course of the pandemic, the District has seen increased expenditures for personal protective equipment, partitions for all classrooms, cleaning staff and additional technology for students and teachers; much of this spending has been covered by the federal dollars that have made their way to the District under the relief legislation discussed above.

While the continuing and future impacts of COVID-19 on the global, federal, State, and local economies cannot be predicted with any certainty, the ongoing pandemic could have a significant adverse effect on the District's finances.

Although the District has not yet experienced any lasting adverse financial effects, it is continuing to monitor this situation and, in the absence of any future relief litigation, will attempt to mitigate any such adverse effects through program cuts or staffing reductions, as may be needed.

## TAX EXEMPTION

Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel will deliver an opinion that, under existing law, the interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income, of the holders thereof for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for the purpose of the individual alternative minimum tax imposed by the Code. However, such opinion will note that the District, by failing to comply with certain restrictions contained in the Code, may cause interest on the Notes to become subject to federal income taxation from the date of issuance of the Notes. We observe that interest on the notes will be included in the adjusted financial statement income of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. Such opinion will state that interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by New York State or any political subdivision thereof (including the City of New York).

In rendering the foregoing opinion, Hodgson Russ LLP will note that the exclusion of the interest on the Notes from gross income for federal income tax purposes is subject to among other things, continuing compliance by the District with the applicable requirements of Sections 141, 148 and 149 of the Code and regulations promulgated thereunder (collectively, the “Tax Requirements”). In the opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP, the tax certificate and the non-arbitrage certificate that will be executed and delivered by the District in connection with the issuance of the Notes (collectively, the “Certificates”) establish the requirements and procedures, compliance with which will satisfy the Tax Requirements applicable to the Notes.

The Tax Requirements referred to above, which must be complied with in order that interest on the Notes remains excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, include, but are not limited to:

1. The requirement that the proceeds of the Notes be used in a manner so that the Notes are not obligations which meet the definition of a “private activity bond” within the meaning of Code Section 141;
2. The requirement contained in Code Section 148 relating to arbitrage bonds; and
3. The requirement the payment of principal or interest on the Notes not be directly or indirectly guaranteed (in whole or in part) by the United States (or any agency or instrumentality thereof) as provided in Section 149(b) of the Code.

In the Certificates, the District will covenant to comply with the Tax Requirements, and to refrain from taking any action which would cause the interest on the Notes to be includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes. Any violation of the Tax Requirements may cause the interest on the Notes to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes from the date of issuance of the Notes. Hodgson Russ LLP expresses no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Notes.

Prospective purchasers of the Notes should be aware that ownership of, accrual or receipt of interest on, or disposition of, the Notes may have collateral federal income tax consequences for certain taxpayers, including financial institutions, property and casualty insurance companies, S corporations, certain foreign corporation, individual recipients of Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits, and taxpayers who may be deemed to have incurred or continued indebtedness to purchase or carry such obligations. Prospective purchasers should consult their tax advisors as to any possible collateral consequences from their ownership of, or receipt of interest on, or disposition of, the Notes. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion regarding any such collateral federal tax consequences.

In general, information reporting requirements will apply to non-corporate holders with respect to payments of principal, payments of interest, and proceeds of the sale of a bond or note before maturity within the United States. Backup withholding may apply to a holder of the Notes under Code Section 3406, if such holder fails to provide the information required on Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, or the IRS has specifically identified the holder as being subject to backup withholding because of prior underreporting. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a beneficial owner, and which constitutes over-withholding, would be allowed as a refund or credit against such beneficial owner’s United States federal income tax provided the required information is furnished to the IRS. Neither the information reporting requirement nor the backup withholding requirement affects the excludability of interest on the Notes from gross income for federal income tax purposes.

Bond Counsel has not undertaken to advise in the future whether any events occurring after the date of issuance of the Notes may affect the tax status of interest on the Notes. The Code has been continuously subject to legislative modifications, amendments, and revisions and proposals for future changes are regularly submitted by leaders of the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. No representation is made as to the likelihood of such proposals being enacted in their current or similar form, or if enacted, the effective date of any such legislation, and no assurances can be given that such proposals or amendments will not materially and adversely affect the economic value of the Notes or the tax consequences of ownership of the Notes. Prospective purchasers are encouraged to consult their own legal and tax advisors with respect to these matters.

## **APPROVAL OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The validity of the Notes will be covered by the unqualified legal opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel to the School District, such opinion to be delivered with the Notes.

## **CONTINUING DISCLOSURE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES**

The School District has established procedures designed to ensure that future filings of continuing disclosure information will be in compliance with existing continuing disclosure obligations, including transmitting such filings to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board established pursuant to Section 15B(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 through the Electronic Municipal Market Access System.

## **LITIGATION**

In common with other school districts, the District from time to time receives notices of claim and is party to litigation. In the opinion of the District, after consultation with its attorney, unless otherwise set forth herein and apart from matters provided for by applicable insurance coverage, there are no significant claims or actions pending in which the District has not asserted a substantial and adequate defense, nor which, if determined against the District, would have an adverse material effect on the financial condition of the District.

## **BOND RATING**

The Notes are not rated. The purchaser(s) of the Notes may choose to have a rating completed after the sale at the expense of the purchaser(s), including any fees to be incurred by the District.

S&P Global has assigned an underlying rating of “A+” to the outstanding bonds of the District. Such rating reflects only the view of such rating agency and an explanation of the significance of such rating should be obtained from the respective rating agency. There can be no assurance that such rating will not be revised or withdrawn, if in the judgement of agency circumstances so warrant. Any change or withdrawal of such rating may have an adverse effect on the market price and the availability of a secondary market for the outstanding bonds and notes of the District.

Generally, rating agencies base their ratings on the information and materials furnished to it and on investigations, studies and assumptions by the respective rating agency. There is no assurance that a particular rating will apply for any given period of time or that it will not be lowered or withdrawn entirely if, in the judgment of the agency originally establishing the rating, circumstances so warrant. Any downward revision or withdrawal of the rating of the outstanding bonds may have an adverse effect on the market price of the outstanding bonds.



## **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

R.G. Timbs, Inc. is a Municipal Advisor, registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. The Municipal Advisor serves as independent municipal advisor to the District on matters relating to debt management. The Municipal Advisor is a municipal advisory and consulting organization and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, marketing, or trading municipal securities or any other negotiated instruments. The Municipal Advisor has provided advice as to the plan of financing and the structuring of the Notes and has reviewed and commented on certain legal documents, including this Official Statement. The advice on the plan of financing and the structuring of the Notes was based on materials provided by the District and other sources of information believed to be reliable. The Municipal Advisor has not audited, authenticated, or otherwise verified the information provided by the District or the information set forth in this Official Statement or any other information available to the District with respect to the appropriateness, accuracy, or completeness of disclosure of such information and no guarantee, warranty, or other representation is made by the Municipal Advisor respecting the accuracy and completeness of or any other matter related to such information and this Official Statement.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

The execution and delivery of this Official Statement have been duly authorized by the Board. Concurrently with the delivery of the Notes, the District will furnish a certificate to the effect that as of the date of the Official Statement, the Official Statement did not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, subject to the condition that while information in the Official Statement obtained from sources other than the District is not guaranteed as to accuracy, completeness or fairness, the District has no reason to believe and does not believe that such information is materially inaccurate or misleading, and to the knowledge of the District, since the date of the Official Statement, there have been no material transactions not in the ordinary course of affairs entered into by the District and no material adverse changes in the general affairs of the District or in its financial condition as shown in the Official Statement other than as disclosed in or contemplated by the Official Statement. Certain information contained in the Official Statement has been obtained from sources other than the District. All quotations from and summaries and explanations of provisions of laws herein do not purport to be complete and reference is made to such laws for full and complete statements of their provisions.

So far as any statements made in this Official Statement involve matters of opinion or estimates, whether or not expressly stated, they are set forth as such and not as representations of fact, and no representation is made that any of the statements will be realized. Neither this Official Statement nor any statement which may have been made verbally or in writing is to be construed as a contract with the holders of the Notes.

Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel, to the District, expresses no opinion as to the accuracy or completeness of information in any documents prepared by or on behalf of the District for use in connection with the offer and sale of the Notes, including but not limited to, the financial or statistical information in this Official Statement.

R.G. Timbs, Inc. may place a copy of this Official Statement on its website at [www.RGTimbsInc.net](http://www.RGTimbsInc.net). Unless this Official Statement specifically indicates otherwise, no statement on such website is included by specific reference or constitutes a part of this Official Statement. R.G. Timbs, Inc. has prepared such website information for convenience, but no decisions should be made in reliance upon that information. Typographical or other errors may have occurred in converting original source documents to digital format, and neither the School District nor R.G. Timbs, Inc. assumes any liability or responsibility for errors or omissions on such website. Further, R.G. Timbs, Inc. and the School District disclaim any duty or obligation either to update or to maintain that information or any responsibility or liability for any damages caused by viruses in the electronic files on the website.

The School District's contact information is as follows: Tina Ellis, District Treasurer, phone: (716) 337-0101 x 1308; email: [tellis@northcollinscsd.org](mailto:tellis@northcollinscsd.org)

Additional copies of the Notice of Sale and the Official Statement may be obtained from the offices of R.G. Timbs, Inc., telephone number (877) 315-0100 x5 or at [www.RGTimbsInc.net](http://www.RGTimbsInc.net).

**North Collins Central School District**

**Dated: January 18, 2024**  
**North Collins, New York**

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Michelle DeCarlo  
President of the Board of Education  
and Chief Fiscal Officer

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Financial Information**

## General Fund – Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	Budget <u>2024</u>
Beginning Fund Balance - July 1	\$7,462,528	\$8,008,380	\$5,668,157	\$6,155,509	\$6,263,716	\$6,263,716
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Real Property Taxes	\$4,643,523	\$4,702,163	\$4,860,950	\$5,018,179	\$5,132,397	\$5,253,849
Other Tax Items	809,665	750,003	709,044	660,989	642,828	679,251
Non-Property Tax Items	741,355	621,642	871,338	907,024	946,467	900,000
Charges for Services	86,840	24,047	44,082	23,975	15,772	16,500
Use of Money & Property	143,131	122,608	84,622	105,277	193,243	100,460
Sale of Property/Comp. for Loss	9,688	116,673	2,878	50	22,317	11,500
Miscellaneous	122,539	78,982	79,392	84,007	138,570	76,000
State Aid	8,867,938	7,869,369	7,653,722	8,513,279	9,037,030	9,195,517
Federal Aid	17,698	14,798	259,305	60,514	52,541	50,000
Interfund Transfer	<u>64,874</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>38,811</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>635,000</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$15,507,251</b>	<b>\$14,300,285</b>	<b>\$14,565,333</b>	<b>\$15,412,105</b>	<b>\$16,181,165</b>	<b>\$16,918,077</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
General Support	\$1,913,417	\$1,811,982	\$1,782,770	\$1,940,994	\$2,015,074	\$2,226,343
Instruction	7,489,779	7,766,241	7,611,291	7,798,532	7,728,268	8,800,336
Transportation	1,136,104	1,368,392	922,819	1,175,461	1,181,904	1,850,574
Community Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employee Benefits	2,915,100	3,061,946	3,113,222	3,275,949	3,130,412	3,355,124
Debt Service	1,507,000	478,175	635,400	1,112,962	1,136,200	1,255,700
Interfund Transfer	<u>0</u>	<u>2,153,772</u>	<u>276,337</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,120,825</u>	<u>130,000</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$14,961,400</b>	<b>\$16,640,508</b>	<b>\$14,341,839</b>	<b>\$15,303,898</b>	<b>\$17,312,683</b>	<b>\$17,618,077</b>
Adjustments	1	0	263,858	0	0	0
<b>Year End Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$8,008,380</b>	<b>\$5,668,157</b>	<b>\$6,155,509</b>	<b>\$6,263,716</b>	<b>\$5,132,198</b>	<b>\$5,563,716</b>
<b>Excess (Deficit) Revenues Over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$545,851</b>	<b>(\$2,340,223)</b>	<b>\$223,494</b>	<b>\$108,207</b>	<b>(\$1,131,518)</b>	<b>(\$700,000)</b>

Source: Audited Annual Financial Reports and Annual Budget. This table is NOT audited.

Note: 1. Appropriated Fund Balance planned to be used.

E. Estimated

## General Fund – Comparative Balance Sheet

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets:					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$7,832,393	\$5,480,321	\$6,174,682	\$5,564,353	\$4,228,473
Due from Other Governments	721,893	546,524	474,704	724,521	486,544
State & Federal Aid Receivable	143,230	143,821	282,451	809,407	1,144,757
Due from Other Funds	<u>218,034</u>	<u>387,357</u>	<u>321,970</u>	<u>345,760</u>	<u>462,298</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$8,915,550</u>	<u>\$6,558,023</u>	<u>\$7,253,807</u>	<u>\$7,444,041</u>	<u>\$6,322,072</u>
Liabilities:					
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$109,027	\$153,954	\$255,567	\$375,030	\$328,598
Due to Retirement Systems	<u>798,143</u>	<u>735,912</u>	<u>842,731</u>	<u>805,295</u>	<u>861,276</u>
Total Liabilities:	<u>\$907,170</u>	<u>\$889,866</u>	<u>\$1,098,298</u>	<u>\$1,180,325</u>	<u>\$1,189,874</u>
Fund Balances:					
Restricted	6,446,018	4,303,392	4,764,421	4,887,487	3,637,897
Assigned	934,276	739,354	740,509	705,276	790,268
Unassigned	<u>628,086</u>	<u>625,411</u>	<u>650,579</u>	<u>670,953</u>	<u>704,033</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$8,008,380</u>	<u>\$5,668,157</u>	<u>\$6,155,509</u>	<u>\$6,263,716</u>	<u>\$5,132,198</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$8,915,550</u>	<u>\$6,558,023</u>	<u>\$7,253,807</u>	<u>\$7,444,041</u>	<u>\$6,322,072</u>

Source: Audited Annual Financial Reports. This table is NOT audited.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Audited Financial Statements For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

*Note: Such Financial Reports and opinions were prepared as of the date thereof and have not been reviewed and/or updated by the District's Auditors in connection with the preparation and dissemination of this official statement. Consent of the Auditors for inclusion of the Audited Financial Reports in this Official Statement has neither been requested nor obtained.*

**NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**JUNE 30, 2023**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Board of Education  
North Collins Central School District

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### *Opinions*

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the remaining fund information of North Collins Central School District (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 financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the remaining fund information of the District as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and budgetary comparison for the general fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

#### *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 Auditors' 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.

#### *Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and 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 one year beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditors' 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 auditors' 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 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.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that management's discussion and analysis and other required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplementary information as listed in the table of contents, including the schedule of expenditures of federal awards required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* 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 basic 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 financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the accompanying supplementary information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the 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 September 19, 2023 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyndon & McCormick, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 19, 2023

**Management's Discussion and Analysis (unaudited)**

June 30, 2023

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**Introduction**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) of North Collins Central School District (the District) provides an overview of the District's financial activities and performance for the year ended June 30, 2023. The information contained in the MD&A should be considered in conjunction with the information presented as part of the District's financial statements that follow. This MD&A, the financial statements, and notes thereto are essential to a full understanding of the District's financial position and results of operations. The District's financial statements have the following components: (1) government-wide financial statements; (2) governmental fund financial statements; (3) reconciliations between the government-wide and governmental fund financial statements; (4) fiduciary fund statements; (5) notes to the financial statements; and (6) supplementary information.

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the District's finances in a manner similar to a private-sector business. The statement of net position presents information on all of the District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources with the net difference reported as net position. The statement of activities presents information showing how the District's net position changed during each year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in the statement for some items that will result in cash flows in future periods. The government-wide financial statements present information about the District as a whole. All of the activities of the District are considered to be governmental activities.

Governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of resources, as well as on balances of resources available at the end of the year. Such information may be useful in evaluating the District's near-term financing requirements. Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, the reader may better understand the long-term impact of the District's near-term financing decisions. The reconciliation portion of the financial statements facilitates the comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

Fiduciary funds are used to report fiduciary activities, which may include pension and other postemployment benefit trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. The District maintains a custodial fund for student activity accounts. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of these funds are not available to support District programs. The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential for a full understanding of the government-wide, governmental fund, and fiduciary fund financial statements.

Supplementary information further explains and supports the financial statements and includes information required by generally accepted accounting principles and the New York State Education Department.

<b>Condensed Statement of Net Position</b>	<b>2023</b>	2022	Change	
			\$	%
Current assets and other assets	\$ 7,600,000	\$ 13,965,000	\$ (6,365,000)	(45.6%)
Capital assets	<b>21,828,000</b>	21,719,000	109,000	0.5%
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>29,428,000</b>	35,684,000	(6,256,000)	(17.5%)
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>	<b>4,151,000</b>	4,078,000	73,000	1.8%
Long-term liabilities	<b>10,348,000</b>	9,754,000	594,000	6.1%
Other liabilities	<b>1,258,000</b>	1,496,000	(238,000)	(15.9%)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>11,606,000</b>	11,250,000	356,000	3.2%
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>512,000</b>	7,533,000	(7,021,000)	(93.2%)
<b>Net position</b>				
Net investment in capital assets	<b>14,722,000</b>	13,625,000	1,097,000	8.1%
Restricted	<b>4,747,000</b>	5,240,000	(493,000)	(9.4%)
Unrestricted	<b>1,992,000</b>	2,114,000	(122,000)	(5.8%)
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 21,461,000</b>	\$ 20,979,000	\$ 482,000	2.3%

Net position amounted to \$21,461,000 and \$20,979,000 as of June 30, 2023 and 2022. The largest portion of the District's net position is its investment in capital assets consisting of land, buildings and improvements, and furniture and equipment, less outstanding debt used to acquire those assets. The District uses capital assets to provide services to students; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending.

The District's net position also includes resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used, which includes scholarship funds for students and reserves set aside for specific purposes governed by statutory laws and regulations. Such reserves include the capital reserve, which is set aside to pay for future renovations, equipment, and bus purchases as approved by the District's voters; an employee benefit accrued liability reserve, which is restricted to pay for future accumulated sick and vacation time; and a retirement contribution reserve, which is restricted to fund contributions paid by the District to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (ERS). Other restricted resources include property loss and liability, unemployment insurance, repair, and debt service reserves.

Total assets decreased by \$6,256,000 (\$5,174,000 increase in 2022). Current and other assets decreased by \$6,365,000 (\$5,914,000 increase in 2022) primarily as a result of the District's proportionate share of the TRS and ERS net pension positions resulting in a liability of \$1,713,000 in 2023 compared to an asset of \$5,797,000 in 2022. Fluctuations are largely a result of differences between projected and actual investment earnings. Capital assets increased \$109,000 (\$740,000 decrease in 2022) due to capital spending of \$1,694,000 exceeding depreciation and amortization expense and disposals.

Long-term liabilities increased by \$594,000 (decrease of \$2,002,000 in 2022) as a result of the increase of \$1,713,000 in the TRS and ERS net pension liability offset by principal repayments of \$970,000 and a decrease in the OPEB liability of \$136,000 due to changes in actuarial assumptions. Other liabilities decreased \$238,000 (\$338,000 increase in 2022) due to a decrease in accounts payable at year end due to timing of payments.

Changes in deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources include changes in pension activity at the State level which are required to be reflected in the District's financial statements. Deferred outflows of resources include contributions required to be paid by the District to the State pension systems after the measurement date. Deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources also reflect variances from actuarial assumptions, actual results of investment earnings compared to projected earnings, and changes of assumptions. The District has no control or authority over these transactions. Also included in deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources are differences between expected and actual experience and changes of assumptions related to the District's total OPEB liability.

<b>Condensed Statement of Activities</b>	<b>2023</b>	2022	Change	
			\$	%
<b>Revenues</b>				
Program revenues				
Charges for services	\$ 173,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 43,000	33.1%
Operating grants and contributions	1,817,000	1,970,000	(153,000)	(7.8%)
General revenues				
Real property taxes	5,775,000	5,679,000	96,000	1.7%
Sales tax	946,000	907,000	39,000	4.3%
State aid	9,037,000	8,513,000	524,000	6.2%
Other	313,000	98,000	215,000	219.4%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>18,061,000</b>	17,297,000	764,000	4.4%
<b>Expenses</b>				
Instruction	13,136,000	12,085,000	1,051,000	8.7%
Support services				
General support	2,477,000	2,269,000	208,000	9.2%
Pupil transportation	1,593,000	1,448,000	145,000	10.0%
Food service	225,000	283,000	(58,000)	(20.5%)
Interest	148,000	175,000	(27,000)	(15.4%)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>17,579,000</b>	16,260,000	1,319,000	8.1%
Change in net position	482,000	1,037,000	(555,000)	(53.5%)
Net position – beginning	20,979,000	19,942,000	1,037,000	5.2%
<b>Net position – ending</b>	<b>\$ 21,461,000</b>	\$ 20,979,000	\$ 482,000	2.3%

District revenues increased \$764,000 in 2023 (increase of \$1,666,000 or 10.7% in 2022). State aid increased by \$524,000 in 2023 (increase of \$859,000 or 11.2% in 2022) primarily due to increases in general aid of \$122,000, transportation aid of \$229,000, and BOCES aid of \$92,000. Other revenue increased \$215,000 in 2023 (decrease of \$4,000 or 3.9% in 2022) due to an increase in interest earnings of \$87,000 and an increase in refunds of prior year expenditures of \$90,000.

Total expenses increased \$1,319,000 in 2023 (increase of \$111,000 or 0.7% in 2022) mainly as a result of net pension expense of \$1,156,000 in 2023 compared to net pension income of \$373,000 in 2022.

### Financial Analysis of the District's Funds

Total fund balances for the governmental funds decreased from \$6,678,000 to \$6,348,000 as described below:

- The general fund experienced a net decrease in fund balance of \$1,132,000 (increase of \$108,000 in 2022). The decrease is primarily due to the transfer of the \$2,000,000 capital reserve to the capital projects fund. This is offset by the increase in state aid as previously discussed.
- The capital projects fund experienced a net increase in fund balance of \$779,000 (decrease of \$412,000 in 2022), which is due to the capital reserve transfer as previously discussed, offset by expenses incurred for the capital improvements project. Capital outlay expenditures were \$1,316,000 as compared to \$485,000 in 2022.

### General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The revenue budget for 2023 was \$15,574,000. Actual revenue was over budget by \$607,000 or 3.9%. The largest fluctuation was state sources which were \$283,000 over budget.

Actual expenditures and carryover encumbrances were less than the final amended budget by \$1,367,000 or 8.2%. Significant variances between actual and final budgeted expenditures occurred in programs for children with handicapping conditions, employee benefits, teaching – regular school, and pupil transportation. These differences are due to conservative budgeting and a conscious effort to manage expenses.

## Capital Assets

	<b>2023</b>	2022
Land and land improvements	<b>\$ 3,459,000</b>	\$ 3,459,000
Buildings and improvements	<b>32,445,000</b>	32,350,000
Furniture and equipment	<b>621,000</b>	726,000
Vehicles	<b>2,530,000</b>	2,551,000
Construction in progress	<b>1,253,000</b>	32,000
	<b>40,308,000</b>	39,118,000
Accumulated depreciation	<b>(18,703,000)</b>	(17,549,000)
	<b>21,605,000</b>	21,569,000
Right-to-use leased equipment, net	<b>223,000</b>	150,000
	<b>\$ 21,828,000</b>	\$ 21,719,000

Current year additions totaling \$1,694,000 were primarily for building improvements as part of the capital improvement project and the purchase of three vehicles, offset by depreciation and amortization expense and disposals of \$1,585,000.

## Debt

At June 30, 2023, the District had \$7,107,000 in bonds and related premiums, with \$530,000 due within one year (\$8,094,000 outstanding at June 30, 2022). Outstanding compensated absences payable were \$163,000, with \$26,000 expected to be paid within one year (\$158,000 outstanding at June 30, 2022).

Additional information on the District's long-term liabilities can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

## Current Financial Issues and Concerns

Federal revenue sources have increased due to additional pandemic-related funding, but the full extent of Federal assistance is not yet known. The District will need to plan accordingly to ensure continuity of programs upon the eventual reduction in these funds. School districts in New York State are also impacted by the political pressures imposed on elected officials in funding of education. Year to year changes in funding levels and State aid formulas complicate this planning process.

## Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the funds it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Scott Taylor, Superintendent, North Collins Central School District, 2045 School Street, North Collins, New York 14111.

NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Statement of Net Position**

June 30, 2023

(With comparative totals as of June 30, 2022)

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 4,570,727	\$ 5,868,224
Due from other governments	486,544	724,521
State and federal aid receivable	1,500,801	1,569,093
Investments	1,025,559	-
Inventory	16,272	5,271
Net pension asset	-	5,797,489
Capital assets (Note 4)	40,658,624	39,375,994
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(18,829,980)	(17,657,018)
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>29,428,547</b>	<b>35,683,574</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	4,125,303	4,049,002
Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB	25,742	28,766
<b>Total deferred outflows of resources</b>	<b>4,151,045</b>	<b>4,077,768</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	396,367	690,555
Due to retirement systems	861,276	805,295
Long-term liabilities		
Due within one year:		
Bonds	530,000	970,000
Compensated absences	26,000	38,000
Due beyond one year:		
Bonds and related premiums	6,576,957	7,124,031
Compensated absences	137,000	120,000
Net pension liability	1,712,543	-
Total OPEB liability	1,365,933	1,501,627
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>11,606,076</b>	<b>11,249,508</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>		
Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions	365,698	7,428,967
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB	146,700	104,322
<b>Total deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>512,398</b>	<b>7,533,289</b>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	14,721,687	13,624,945
Restricted	4,746,882	5,240,019
Unrestricted	1,992,549	2,113,581
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 21,461,118</b>	<b>\$ 20,978,545</b>

See accompanying notes.



NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Statement of Activities**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

(With summarized comparative totals for June 30, 2022)

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue	
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	2023	2022
Governmental activities					
General support	\$ 2,476,995	\$ 109,307	\$ -	\$ (2,367,688)	\$ (2,165,342)
Instruction	13,136,158	15,772	1,607,540	(11,512,846)	(10,442,121)
Pupil transportation	1,592,372	-	-	(1,592,372)	(1,448,646)
Interest expense	148,026	-	-	(148,026)	(174,688)
School food service	225,108	47,977	209,214	32,083	70,575
	<u>\$ 17,578,659</u>	<u>\$ 173,056</u>	<u>\$ 1,816,754</u>	<u>(15,588,849)</u>	<u>(14,160,222)</u>
<b>General revenues</b>					
Real property taxes				5,775,225	5,679,168
Sales tax				946,467	907,024
Other				312,700	97,909
State aid				9,037,030	8,513,279
<b>Total general revenues</b>				<u>16,071,422</u>	<u>15,197,380</u>
Change in net position				482,573	1,037,158
Net position - beginning				20,978,545	19,941,387
<b>Net position - ending</b>				<u>\$ 21,461,118</u>	<u>\$ 20,978,545</u>

NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds**

June 30, 2023

(With comparative totals as of June 30, 2022)

	General	Special Aid	Capital Projects	Debt Service	Food Service	Miscellaneous Special Revenue	Total Governmental Funds	
							2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>								
Cash	\$ 3,202,914	\$ 180,094	\$ 747,146	\$ 288,980	\$ 78,972	\$ 72,621	\$ <b>4,570,727</b>	\$ 5,868,224
Due from other governments	486,544	-	-	-	-	-	<b>486,544</b>	724,521
State and federal aid receivable	1,144,757	344,300	-	-	11,744	-	<b>1,500,801</b>	1,569,093
Due from other funds, net	462,298	-	-	-	2,458	238	<b>464,994</b>	423,486
Investments	1,025,559	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,025,559</b>	-
Inventory	-	-	-	-	16,272	-	<b>16,272</b>	5,271
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 6,322,072</b>	<b>\$ 524,394</b>	<b>\$ 747,146</b>	<b>\$ 288,980</b>	<b>\$ 109,446</b>	<b>\$ 72,859</b>	<b>\$ 8,064,897</b>	<b>\$ 8,590,595</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>								
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 328,598	\$ 59,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,669	\$ -	\$ <b>390,667</b>	\$ 683,755
Due to retirement systems	861,276	-	-	-	-	-	<b>861,276</b>	805,295
Due to other funds, net	-	464,994	-	-	-	-	<b>464,994</b>	423,486
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,189,874</b>	<b>524,394</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,716,937</b>	<b>1,912,536</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>								
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	16,272	-	<b>16,272</b>	5,271
Restricted	3,637,897	-	747,146	288,980	-	72,859	<b>4,746,882</b>	5,240,019
Assigned	790,268	-	-	-	90,505	-	<b>880,773</b>	793,704
Unassigned	704,033	-	-	-	-	-	<b>704,033</b>	639,065
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>5,132,198</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>747,146</b>	<b>288,980</b>	<b>106,777</b>	<b>72,859</b>	<b>6,347,960</b>	<b>6,678,059</b>
<b>Total liabilities and fund balances</b>	<b>\$ 6,322,072</b>	<b>\$ 524,394</b>	<b>\$ 747,146</b>	<b>\$ 288,980</b>	<b>\$ 109,446</b>	<b>\$ 72,859</b>	<b>\$ 8,064,897</b>	<b>\$ 8,590,595</b>

See accompanying notes.

**Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds  
Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position**

June 30, 2023

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**Total fund balances - governmental funds** \$ 6,347,960

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and are not reported as assets in governmental funds. 21,828,644

The District's proportionate share of the net pension position as well as pension-related deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources are recognized on the government-wide statements and include:

Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	4,125,303	
Net pension liability	(1,712,543)	
Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions	<u>(365,698)</u>	2,047,062

The Districts total OPEB liability as well as OPEB-related deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources are recognized on the government-wide statements and include:

Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB	25,742	
Total OPEB liability	(1,365,933)	
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB	<u>(146,700)</u>	(1,486,891)

Certain liabilities are not due and payable currently and therefore are not reported as liabilities of the governmental funds. These liabilities are:

Bonds and related premiums	(7,106,957)	
Accrued interest	(5,700)	
Compensated absences	<u>(163,000)</u>	(7,275,657)

**Net position - governmental activities** \$ 21,461,118

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NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and  
Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

(With summarized comparative totals for June 30, 2022)

	General	Special Aid	Capital Projects	Debt Service	Food Service	Miscellaneous Special Revenue	Total Governmental Funds	
							2023	2022
<b>Revenues</b>								
Real property taxes	\$ 5,132,397	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,132,397	\$ 5,018,179
Real property tax items	642,828	-	-	-	-	-	642,828	660,989
Nonproperty taxes	946,467	-	-	-	-	-	946,467	907,024
Charges for services	15,772	-	-	-	-	-	15,772	23,975
Use of money and property	193,243	-	76	3,878	25	10	197,232	105,427
Sale of property and compensation for loss	22,317	-	-	-	-	-	22,317	50
Miscellaneous	138,570	-	-	-	-	65,796	204,366	96,460
State sources	9,037,030	185,641	-	-	4,826	-	9,227,497	8,658,544
Federal sources	52,541	1,369,358	-	-	204,388	-	1,626,287	1,825,022
Sales	-	-	-	-	47,977	-	47,977	1,877
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>16,181,165</b>	<b>1,554,999</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>3,878</b>	<b>257,216</b>	<b>65,806</b>	<b>18,063,140</b>	<b>17,297,547</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>								
General support	2,015,074	19,916	-	-	237,593	62,778	2,335,361	2,228,225
Instruction	7,728,268	1,342,106	-	-	-	-	9,070,374	9,019,921
Pupil transportation	1,181,904	44,556	-	-	-	-	1,226,460	1,218,566
Employee benefits	3,130,412	172,286	-	-	677	-	3,303,375	3,431,807
Debt service								
Principal	970,000	-	-	-	-	-	970,000	920,000
Interest	166,200	-	-	-	-	-	166,200	192,962
Cost of sales	-	-	-	-	5,868	-	5,868	23,640
Capital outlay	-	-	1,315,601	-	-	-	1,315,601	485,303
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>15,191,858</b>	<b>1,578,864</b>	<b>1,315,601</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>244,138</b>	<b>62,778</b>	<b>18,393,239</b>	<b>17,520,424</b>
Excess revenues (expenditures)	989,307	(23,865)	(1,315,525)	3,878	13,078	3,028	(330,099)	(222,877)
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>								
Operating transfers, net	(2,120,825)	23,865	2,094,559	2,391	-	10	-	-
Net change in fund balances	(1,131,518)	-	779,034	6,269	13,078	3,038	(330,099)	(222,877)
Fund balances (deficit) - beginning	6,263,716	-	(31,888)	282,711	93,699	69,821	6,678,059	6,900,936
<b>Fund balances - ending</b>	<b>\$ 5,132,198</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 747,146</b>	<b>\$ 288,980</b>	<b>\$ 106,777</b>	<b>\$ 72,859</b>	<b>\$ 6,347,960</b>	<b>\$ 6,678,059</b>

See accompanying notes.

**Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances to the Statement of Activities**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

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**Total net change in fund balances - governmental funds** \$ (330,099)

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. In the statement of activities, the cost of the assets is allocated over estimated useful lives as depreciation and amortization expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceed depreciation expense, amortization expense, and disposals. 109,668

Pension expense is recognized when paid on the fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances and actuarially determined on the statement of activities. These differences are:

2023 TRS and ERS contributions	769,377	
2023 ERS accrued contribution	237,863	
2022 ERS accrued contribution	(221,795)	
2023 TRS net pension expense	(723,360)	
2023 ERS net pension expense	<u>(432,547)</u>	(370,462)

OPEB expense is recognized when paid on the fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances and actuarially determined on the statement of activities. 90,292

Payments of long-term liabilities are reported as expenditures in the governmental funds and as a reduction of debt in the statement of net position. 970,000

In the statement of activities, certain expenses are measured by the amounts earned during the year.

In the governmental funds these expenditures are reported when paid. These differences are:

Interest	1,100	
Amortization of bond premium	17,074	
Compensated absences	<u>(5,000)</u>	13,174

**Change in net position - governmental activities** \$ 482,573

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NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Budget (Non-GAAP) and Actual - General Fund**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Encumbrances	Variance with Final Budget Over/(Under)
	Original	Final			
<b>Revenues</b>					
Local sources					
Real property taxes	\$ 5,101,320	\$ 5,101,320	\$ 5,132,397		\$ 31,077
Real property tax items	659,618	659,618	642,828		(16,790)
Nonproperty taxes	825,000	825,000	946,467		121,467
Charges for services	15,500	15,500	15,772		272
Use of money and property	94,410	94,410	193,243		98,833
Sale of property and compensation for loss	2,500	2,500	22,317		19,817
Miscellaneous	71,000	71,000	138,570		67,570
State sources	8,754,473	8,754,473	9,037,030		282,557
Federal sources	50,000	50,000	52,541		2,541
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>15,573,821</b>	<b>15,573,821</b>	<b>16,181,165</b>		<b>607,344</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
General support					
Board of education	14,000	14,000	5,971	-	(8,029)
Central administration	238,746	238,746	235,292	-	(3,454)
Finance	241,435	253,197	223,917	-	(29,280)
Staff	69,715	71,433	40,576	-	(30,857)
Central services	1,398,042	1,396,934	1,288,417	-	(108,517)
Special items	219,500	234,915	220,901	-	(14,014)
Instruction					
Instruction, administration, and improvement	439,198	461,784	440,487	-	(21,297)
Teaching - regular school	3,606,215	3,633,180	3,418,604	-	(214,576)
Programs for children with handicapping conditions	2,892,474	2,760,755	2,369,090	-	(391,665)
Occupational education	561,028	550,622	532,703	-	(17,919)
Teaching - special schools	16,802	16,802	3,374	-	(13,428)
Instructional media	474,770	473,526	448,835	-	(24,691)
Pupil services	543,890	554,813	515,175	-	(39,638)
Pupil transportation	1,451,305	1,451,063	1,181,904	90,268	(178,891)
Employee benefits	3,345,777	3,401,127	3,130,412	-	(270,715)
Debt service					
Principal	970,000	970,000	970,000	-	-
Interest	166,200	166,200	166,200	-	-
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>16,649,097</b>	<b>16,649,097</b>	<b>15,191,858</b>	<b>90,268</b>	<b>(1,366,971)</b>
Excess revenues (expenditures)	(1,075,276)	(1,075,276)	989,307	(90,268)	1,974,315
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>					
Operating transfers in	500,000	500,000	-		(500,000)
Operating transfers out	(130,000)	(2,130,000)	(2,120,825)		(9,175)
Appropriated fund balance and carryover encumbrances	705,276	2,705,276	-		(2,705,276)
<b>Total other financing sources (uses)</b>	<b>1,075,276</b>	<b>1,075,276</b>	<b>(2,120,825)</b>		<b>(3,196,101)</b>
<b>Excess revenues (expenditures) and other financing sources (uses)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (1,131,518)</b>	<b>\$ (90,268)</b>	<b>\$ (1,221,786)</b>

See accompanying notes.

NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Custodial Fund**

June 30, 2023

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**Assets**

Cash \$ 45,983

**Net Position**

Extraclassroom activity balances \$ 45,983

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NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Custodial Fund**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

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**Additions**

Student activity additions \$ 63,269

**Deductions**

Student activity deductions 58,348

Change in net position 4,921

Net position - beginning 41,062

**Net position - ending** \$ 45,983

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## Notes to Financial Statements

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### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Reporting Entity

North Collins Central School District (the District) is governed by Education and other laws of the State of New York (the State). The District's Board of Education has responsibility and control over all activities related to public school education within the District. The District's Superintendent is the chief executive officer and the President of the Board serves as the chief fiscal officer. The Board members are elected by the public and have decision-making authority, the power to designate management, the ability to influence operations, and the primary accountability for fiscal matters.

The District provides education and support services such as administration, transportation, and plant maintenance. The District receives funding from local, state, and federal sources and must comply with requirements of these funding sources. However, the District is not included in any other governmental reporting entity as defined by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), nor does it contain any component units.

The financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with GAAP as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the District's accounting policies are described below.

#### Joint Venture

The District is one of 27 participating school districts in the Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). Formed under §1950 of Education Law, a BOCES is a voluntary cooperative association of school districts in a geographic area that shares planning, services, and programs, and also provides educational and support activities. There is no authority or process by which the District can terminate its status as a component of BOCES.

The component school district boards elect the members of the BOCES governing body. There are no equity interests and no single participant controls the financial or operating policies. BOCES may also contract with other municipalities on a cooperative basis under State General Municipal Law.

A BOCES' budget is comprised of separate spending plans for administrative, program, and capital costs. Each component school district shares in administrative and capital costs determined by its enrollment. Participating districts are charged a service fee for programs in which students participate, and for other shared contracted administrative services. Participating districts may issue debt on behalf of BOCES; there is no such debt issued by the District.

During the year ended June 30, 2023, the District was billed \$2,418,000 for BOCES administrative and program costs, recognized revenue of \$77,000 as a refund from prior year expenditures paid to BOCES, and received \$109,000 in rental income for space allocated to BOCES services. Audited financial statements are available from BOCES' administrative offices.

#### Public Entity Risk Pools

The District participates in the NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust and the Erie #2 Area Schools Self-Funded Workers' Compensation Consortium, which are public entity risk pools. These plans are designed to provide health and workers' compensation insurance coverage for participating entities. These activities are further presented in Note 8.



## Basis of Presentation

*Government-Wide Statements:* The statement of net position and the statement of activities display financial activities of the overall District, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize double counting of internal activities. These statements are required to distinguish between *governmental* and *business-type* activities of the District. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties. The District does not maintain any business-type activities.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the District's governmental activities.

- Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Indirect expenses relate to the administration and support of the District's programs, including personnel, overall administration, and finance. Employee benefits are allocated to functional expenses as a percentage of related payroll expense.
- Program revenues include (a) charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs, (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational requirements of a particular program, and (c) capital grants and contributions limited to the purchase or construction of specific capital assets, if any. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes and state aid, are presented as general revenues.

*Fund Financial Statements:* The fund financial statements provide information about the District's funds, including fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category – *governmental and fiduciary* – are presented. The emphasis of the fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column.

The District reports the following major funds:

- *General fund.* This is the District's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.
- *Special aid fund.* This fund is used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources – other than expendable trusts or major capital projects – such as federal, state, and local grants and awards that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specific purposes. Either governments or other third parties providing the grant funds impose these restrictions.

The District also elected to display the following as major funds:

- *Capital projects fund.* This fund is used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.
- *Debt service fund.* This fund is used to account for resources that are restricted to expenditure for principal and interest. Financial resources that are being accumulated for principal and interest payments maturing in future years are also included in this fund.
- *Food service fund.* This fund is a special revenue fund whose specific revenue sources, including free and reduced meal subsidies received from state and federal programs, are assigned to the operation of the District's breakfast and lunch programs.
- *Miscellaneous special revenue fund.* This fund is used to account for resources that are restricted to student scholarships. Donations are made by third parties and District personnel manage the funds and assist with determination of scholarship recipients.

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. Fiduciary funds are used to report fiduciary activities, which may include pension and other postemployment benefit trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. The District maintains a custodial fund for student activity accounts.

The financial statements include certain prior year summarized comparative information in total but not by separate governmental activities and major funds. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the District's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2022, from which the summarized information was derived.

### **Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus**

The government-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the District receives value directly without giving equal value in exchange, include property and sales taxes, grants, and donations. Revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which taxes are levied. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The District considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if they are collected within ninety days after year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims and judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. Capital asset purchases are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of long-term liabilities are reported as other financing sources.

Under the terms of grant agreements, revenues are recognized to the extent of program expenditures. Amounts received in advance of the expenditures are considered unearned and reported as revenue when the expense is incurred.

### **Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### **Property Tax Calendar**

The District levies real property taxes no later than September 1. For the year ended June 30, 2023, the tax lien was issued on July 12, 2022 for collection from September 1 through December 1, 2022. Thereafter, uncollected amounts became the responsibility of Erie County and were submitted to the District by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year as required by law.

### **Budget Process, Amendments, and Encumbrances**

District administration prepares a proposed budget for the general fund requiring approval by the Board. A public hearing is held upon completion and filing of the tentative budget. Subsequently, the budget is adopted by the Board. The proposed budget is then presented to voters of the District. The budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 was approved by a majority of the voters in a general election held on May 17, 2022.

Annual appropriations are adopted and employed for control of the general fund. These budgets are adopted on a GAAP basis under the modified accrual basis of accounting. Appropriations established by the adoption of the budget constitute a limitation on expenditures (and encumbrances) which may be incurred. Appropriations authorized for the current year may be increased by the planned use of specific restricted, committed, and assigned fund balances and subsequent budget amendments approved by the Board as a result of new revenue sources not included in the original budget.

Major capital expenditures are subject to individual project budgets based on the cost of the project and external financing rather than annual appropriations. For the capital projects fund, these budgets do not lapse at year end and are carried over to the completion of the project.

Encumbrance accounting is used to assure budgetary control over commitments related to unperformed (executory) contracts for goods or services outstanding at the end of each year. Encumbrances are budgetary expenditures in the year committed and again in the subsequent period when the expenditure is paid. All budget appropriations that are unencumbered lapse at the end of the fiscal year. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are presented for GAAP-related purposes as committed or assigned fund balances and do not constitute expenditures or liabilities. At July 1, encumbrances carried forward from the prior year are reestablished as budgeted appropriations.

**Investments**

Investments include collateralized deposits, repurchase agreements, and U.S. Treasury Securities held in external investment pools and recorded at fair value.

**Inventory**

Inventory consists of food and similar goods related to food service operations and is recorded at the lower of first-in, first-out cost or net realizable value. Donated commodities are stated at values which approximate market.

**Capital Assets**

Capital assets are reported at actual or estimated historical cost based on appraisals. Contributed assets are recorded at fair value at the time received. Depreciation and amortization are provided in the government-wide statements over estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred; significant improvements are capitalized.

Capitalization thresholds for determining which assets are added to capital accounts and the estimated useful lives of capital assets are:

	Capitalization Policy	Estimated Useful Life in Years
Land improvements	\$ 20,000	20
Buildings and improvements	\$ 25,000	50
Furniture and equipment	\$ 5,000	5 - 20
Vehicles	\$ 10,000	8

**Bond Premiums**

Premiums received upon the issuance of debt are included as other financing sources in the governmental funds statements when issued. In the government-wide statements, premiums are recognized with the related debt issue and amortized on a straight-line basis as a component of interest expense over the life of the related obligation.

**Pensions**

The District participates in the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) and the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System (ERS) (the Systems) as mandated by State law. The Systems recognize benefit payments when due and payable in accordance with benefit terms; investment assets are reported at fair value. On the government-wide statements, the District recognizes its proportionate share of the net pension position, deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources, pension expense (revenue), and information about and changes in the fiduciary net position on the same basis as reported by the respective defined benefit pension plans.

**Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)**

On the government-wide statements, the total OPEB liability, deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB expense for the District’s defined benefit healthcare plan (Note 7) have been measured on the same basis as reported by the plan. Benefit payments are due and payable in accordance with benefit terms.

## Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences reported in the government-wide financial statements consists of unpaid accumulated sick and vacation time. The liability has been calculated using the vesting method, in which leave amounts for both employees currently eligible to receive payments and those expected to become eligible to receive such payments are included. Sick pay is accrued on the basis of negotiated contracts with administrators and employee groups which provide for the payment of accumulated sick time at retirement or the option of converting this amount to provide for payment of health insurance until exhausted.

The government-wide financial statements reflect the entire liability, while in the governmental funds financial statements, only the amount of matured liabilities is accrued based on expendable available financial resources.

## Equity Classifications

### Government-Wide Statements

The District is required to classify net position into three categories:

- *Net investment in capital assets* – consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization, reduced by outstanding balances of any related debt obligations that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- *Restricted* – consists of restricted assets reduced by related liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Restrictions are imposed by external organizations such as federal or state laws or required by the terms of the District's bonds.
- *Unrestricted* – the net amount of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of net investment in capital assets or the restricted component of net position and therefore are available for general use by the District.

### Governmental Fund Statements

The District considers unrestricted resources to have been spent first when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, unless the use of the restricted amount was appropriated in the current year's budget. Within unrestricted fund balance, the District considers committed, assigned, then unassigned resources to have been spent when an expenditure is incurred for which amounts in any of those fund balance classifications could be used.

Fund balance is categorized as follows:

Nonspendable:		
Inventory	\$	16,272
Restricted:		
Capital		2,695,263
Debt service		288,980
Employee benefit accrued liability		349,190
Repairs		114,717
Retirement contribution		905,146
Property loss and liability		126,757
Unemployment insurance		193,970
Scholarships		72,859
Assigned:		
Designated for subsequent year		700,000
Encumbrances		90,268
Food service		90,505
Unassigned		704,033
	\$	<u>6,347,960</u>

Nonspendable fund balances represent resources that cannot be spent as they are not expected to be converted to cash and include inventory.

Restricted fund balances generally result from reserves created by the State of New York Legislature and included in General Municipal Law, State Education Law, or Real Property Tax Law as authorized for use by the Board of Education. Certain reserves may require voter approval for their establishment and/or use. Earnings on invested resources are required to be added to the various reserves.

Fund balance restrictions include scholarships donated to the District by third parties for the benefit of students and the following reserves:

- *Capital* – is used to accumulate funds to finance all or a portion of future capital projects for which bonds may be issued. Voter authorization is required for both the establishment of the reserve and payments from the reserve. In prior years, District voters approved a reserve that can be funded to a maximum of \$2,500,000 together with interest over a ten-year period; this reserve has been fully funded. In 2019, District voters approved an additional capital reserve to a maximum of \$2,500,000 plus interest over a ten-year period. In 2023, District voters approved the transfer of the \$2,000,000 funded to date in this reserve to the capital projects fund and approved subsequent termination of the reserve. District voters also approved the establishment of a new reserve, which can also be funded to \$2,500,000 plus interest over a ten-year period. This reserve was funded to \$700,000 during 2023. Amounts remaining and available for use in the general fund at June 30, 2023 total \$1,948,117.
- *Debt service* – is used to account for proceeds from the sale of property that was financed by obligations still outstanding, interest and earnings on outstanding obligations (including bond premiums), and remaining bond proceeds not needed for their original purpose as required under §165 of Finance Law. This reserve must be used to pay the debt service obligations for which the original money was generated.
- *Employee benefit accrued liability* – is used to account for the payment of accumulated vacation and sick time due upon termination of an employee's services. It is established by a majority vote of the Board and is funded by budgetary appropriations and such other reserves and funds that may be legally appropriated.
- *Repairs* – is used to accumulate funds to finance costs of major repairs to capital improvements or equipment, and requires a public hearing prior to its use.
- *Retirement contribution* – is used to finance retirement contributions payable to TRS and ERS. For TRS, funding is limited to 2% annually of eligible salaries with a maximum reserve of 10% of eligible salaries. At June 30, 2023, the retirement contribution reserve includes \$353,570 for TRS and \$551,576 for ERS.
- *Property loss and liability* – is used to pay property loss and liability claims incurred. Separate funds for property loss and liability claims are required. These reserves may not separately exceed 3% of the annual budget. The Board authorized the establishment of a property loss reserve in the amount of \$115,000 and a liability reserve in the amount of \$125,000 plus accumulated earnings.
- *Unemployment insurance* – is used to pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund for payments made to claimants as the District has elected to use the benefit reimbursement method.

Committed fund balances are authorized by the Board of Education as recommended by the District's management prior to the end of the fiscal year, although funding of the commitment may be established subsequent to year end.

Assigned fund balances include the planned use of existing fund balance to offset the subsequent year's tax levy. Additionally, the Board of Education has given the District's management the authority to assign fund balances for specific purposes that are neither restricted nor committed.

### **Interfund Balances**

The operations of the District include transactions between funds including resources for cash flow purposes. These interfund receivables and payables are repaid within one year. Permanent transfers of funds provide financing or other services.

In the government-wide statements, the amounts reported on the statement of net position for interfund receivables and payables represent amounts due between different fund types (governmental activities and fiduciary funds). Eliminations have been made for all interfund receivables and payables between the funds, with the exception of those due from or to fiduciary funds.

Interfund receivables and payables are netted on the accompanying governmental funds balance sheet as the right of legal offset exists. It is the District’s practice to settle these amounts at the net balances due between funds.

**2. Cash and Investments**

Cash management is governed by State laws and as established in the District’s written policies. Cash resources must be deposited in FDIC-insured commercial banks or trust companies located within the State. The District’s banking policies permit the Treasurer to use demand accounts, certificates of deposit, and external investment pools. Invested resources are limited to obligations of the United States Treasury and its Agencies, repurchase agreements, and obligations of the State or its localities.

Collateral is required for demand and time deposits and certificates of deposit not covered by Federal Deposit Insurance. Obligations that may be pledged as collateral are obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of the State and its municipalities and school districts.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure the District’s deposits may not be returned to it. At June 30, 2023, the District’s bank deposits were fully insured by FDIC coverage or collateralized with securities held by the pledging institutions’ trust departments or agents in the District’s name.

Credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the District’s investment in a single issuer. The District’s external investment pool is rated AAAM by S&P Global Ratings.

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. In order to limit its exposure, the District’s external investment pool limits the maturity dates of its investments. The dollar weighted average days to maturity (WAM) at June 30, 2023 is 33 days. Next interest rate reset dates for floating rate securities are used in calculation of the WAM. The weighted average life of the pool is 74 days.

**3. Interfund Transactions – Fund Financial Statements**

Fund	Receivable	Payable	Transfers	
			In	Out
General	\$ 477,059	\$ 14,761	\$ -	\$ 2,120,825
Special aid	108,765	573,759	23,865	-
Capital projects	-	-	2,094,559	-
Debt service	-	-	2,391	-
Food service	2,458	-	-	-
Misc. special revenue	238	-	10	-
	<u>\$ 588,520</u>	<u>\$ 588,520</u>	<u>\$ 2,120,825</u>	<u>\$ 2,120,825</u>

The District’s general fund provides cash flow to other funds throughout the year. These amounts are repaid in the subsequent year when funds are received from the State after final expenditure reports have been submitted and approved. The general fund made permanent transfers to the special aid fund for the District’s local share of the summer school handicap program as required by law, to the capital projects fund to move capital reserve funds as approved by District voters and pay for capital outlay, and to the debt service fund for principal and interest payments.

#### 4. Capital Assets

	July 1, 2022	Increases	Retirements/ Reclassifications	June 30, 2023
<b>Non-depreciable and non-amortizable capital assets:</b>				
Land	\$ 62,346	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,346
Construction in progress	31,888	1,221,042	-	1,252,930
Total non-depreciable and non-amortizable assets	94,234	1,221,042	-	1,315,276
<b>Depreciable capital assets:</b>				
Land improvements	3,396,531	-	-	3,396,531
Buildings and improvements	32,350,790	94,559	-	32,445,349
Furniture and equipment	725,847	27,183	(132,279)	620,751
Vehicles	2,550,951	224,732	(245,204)	2,530,479
Total depreciable assets	39,024,119	346,474	(377,483)	38,993,110
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>				
Land improvements	(2,851,609)	(184,350)	-	(3,035,959)
Buildings and improvements	(12,657,717)	(1,095,116)	-	(13,752,833)
Furniture and equipment	(543,249)	(26,640)	130,371	(439,518)
Vehicles	(1,496,632)	(223,326)	245,204	(1,474,754)
Total accumulated depreciation	(17,549,207)	(1,529,432)	375,575	(18,703,064)
Total depreciable assets, net	21,474,912	(1,182,958)	(1,908)	20,290,046
<b>Right-to-use lease assets:</b>				
Equipment	257,641	126,437	(33,840)	350,238
Accumulated amortization	(107,811)	(52,945)	33,840	(126,916)
Total right-to-use assets, net	149,830	73,492	-	223,322
	\$ 21,718,976	\$ 111,576	\$ (1,908)	\$ 21,828,644

Depreciation and amortization expense has been allocated to the following functions: general support \$45,381, instruction \$1,326,583 and pupil transportation \$210,413.

As of June 30, 2023, net investment in capital assets consists of the following:

Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	\$ 21,828,644
Bonds and related premiums	(7,106,957)
	<u>\$ 14,721,687</u>

#### 5. Long-Term Liabilities

	July 1, 2022	Increases	Decreases	June 30, 2023	Amount Due in One Year
Bonds	\$ 7,855,000	\$ -	\$ 970,000	\$ 6,885,000	\$ 530,000
Bond premiums	239,031	-	17,074	221,957	-
Compensated absences	158,000	5,000	-	163,000	26,000
	\$ 8,252,031	\$ 5,000	\$ 987,074	\$ 7,269,957	\$ 556,000

#### Existing Obligations

Description	Maturity	Rate	Balance
Serial bonds – 2021	June 2036	2.00%	\$ 6,885,000

## Debt Service Requirements

Years ending June 30,	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 530,000	\$ 137,700
2025	485,000	127,100
2026	495,000	117,400
2027	520,000	107,500
2028	475,000	97,100
2029-2033	2,655,000	334,000
2034-2036	1,725,000	69,400
	<u>\$ 6,885,000</u>	<u>\$ 990,200</u>

## 6. Pension Plans

### Plan Descriptions

The District participates in the following cost-sharing, multiple employer, public employee retirement systems:

- TRS is administered by the New York State Teachers’ Retirement Board and provides benefits to plan members and beneficiaries as authorized by the Education Law and the Retirement and Social Security Law of the State of New York. TRS issues a publicly available financial report that contains financial statements and required supplementary information. The report may be obtained from the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System at [www.nystrs.org](http://www.nystrs.org).
- ERS provides retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits. New York State Retirement and Social Security Law governs obligations of employers and employees to contribute and provide benefits to employees. ERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. This report may be obtained from the New York State and Local Retirement System at [www.osc.state.ny.us/retire](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire).

*Benefits:* The Systems provide retirement, disability, and death benefits for eligible members, including automatic cost of living adjustments. In general, retirement benefits are determined based on an employee’s individual circumstances using a pension factor, an age factor, and final average salary. The benefits vary depending on the individual’s employment tier. Pension factors are determined based on tier and an employee’s years of service, among other factors.

*Contribution Requirements:* No employee contribution is required for those hired prior to July 1976. The Systems require employee contributions of 3% of salary for the first 10 years of service for those employees who joined the Systems from July 1976 through December 2009. Participants hired on or after January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2012 are required to contribute 3.5% (TRS) or 3% (ERS) of compensation throughout their active membership in the Systems. Participants hired on or after April 1, 2012 are required to contribute a percentage ranging from 3% to 6% each year, based on their level of compensation. Pursuant to Article 11 of Education Law, an actuarially determined contribution rate is established annually for TRS by the New York State Teachers’ Retirement Board. This rate was 10.29% for 2023. For ERS, the Comptroller annually certifies the rates used, expressed as a percentage of the wages of participants, to compute the contributions required to be made by the District to the pension accumulation fund. For 2023, these rates ranged from 8.3% - 13.1%.

The amount outstanding and payable to TRS for the year ended June 30, 2023 was \$563,048. A liability to ERS of \$237,863 is accrued based on the District’s legally required contribution for employee services rendered from April 1 through June 30, 2023.

### Net Pension Position, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources

At June 30, 2023, the District reported a liability of \$583,985 for its proportionate share of the TRS net pension position and a liability of \$1,128,558 for its proportionate share of the ERS net pension position.



The TRS total pension liability at the June 30, 2022 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2021, with update procedures applied to roll forward the total pension liability to June 30, 2022. The District's proportion of the net pension position was based on the ratio of its actuarially determined employer contribution to TRS's total actuarially determined employer contributions for the fiscal year ended on the measurement date. At June 30, 2022, the District's proportion was 0.030433%, a decrease of 0.000803 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2021.

The ERS total pension liability at the March 31, 2023 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of April 1, 2022, with update procedures applied to roll forward the total pension liability to March, 31 2023. The District's proportion of the net pension position was based on the ratio of its actuarially determined employer contribution to ERS's total actuarially determined employer contributions for the fiscal year ended on the measurement date. At March 31, 2023, the District's proportion was 0.0052628%, an increase of 0.0005586 from its proportion measured as of March 31, 2022.

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the District recognized net pension expense of \$1,155,907 on the government-wide statements (TRS expense of \$723,360 and ERS expense of \$432,547). At June 30, 2023, the District reported deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources as follows:

	TRS		ERS	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 611,942	\$ (11,702)	\$ 120,200	\$ (31,694)
Changes of assumptions	1,132,831	(235,245)	548,100	(6,058)
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	754,563	-	-	(6,630)
Changes in proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions	50,106	(54,412)	106,650	(19,957)
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	563,048	-	237,863	-
	<u>\$ 3,112,490</u>	<u>\$ (301,359)</u>	<u>\$ 1,012,813</u>	<u>\$ (64,339)</u>

District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as an addition to (a reduction of) the net pension asset (liability) in the subsequent year. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Years ending June 30,	TRS	ERS
2024	\$ 423,582	\$ 179,920
2025	226,608	(36,505)
2026	(97,081)	247,608
2027	1,487,080	319,588
2028	194,483	-
Thereafter	13,411	-
	<u>\$ 2,248,083</u>	<u>\$ 710,611</u>

### Actuarial Assumptions

For TRS, the actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2021 valuation, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to June 30, 2022, were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020. These assumptions are:

*Inflation* – 2.4%

*Salary increases* – Based on TRS member experience, dependent on service, ranging from 1.95%-5.18%

*Projected Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)* – 1.3% compounded annually

*Investment rate of return* – 6.95% compounded annually, net of investment expense, including inflation

*Mortality* – Based on TRS member experience, with adjustments for mortality improvements based on Society of Actuaries' Scale MP-2021, applied on a generational basis

*Discount rate* – 6.95%

The long-term expected rate of return on TRS pension plan investments was determined in accordance with Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 27, *Selection of Economic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations*. Consideration was given to expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) for each major asset class as well as historical investment data and plan performance.

For ERS, the actuarial assumptions used in the April 1, 2022 valuation, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to March 31, 2023, were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2020. These assumptions are:

- Inflation* – 2.9%
- Salary increases* – 4.4%
- COLA* – 1.5% annually
- Investment rate of return* – 5.9% compounded annually, net of investment expense, including inflation
- Mortality* – Society of Actuaries’ Scale MP-2021
- Discount rate* – 5.9%

The long-term expected rate of return on ERS pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expenses and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

### Investment Asset Allocation

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return (net of the long-term inflation assumption) for each major asset class and the Systems’ target asset allocations as of the applicable valuation dates are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	TRS		ERS	
	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equities	33%	6.5%	32%	4.3%
Global and international equities	20%	6.9%-7.2%	15%	6.9%
Private equities	8%	9.9%	10%	7.5%
Real estate equities	11%	6.2%	9%	4.6%
Domestic fixed income securities	16%	1.1%	23%	1.5%
Global fixed income securities	2%	0.6%	-	-
Bonds and mortgages	6%	2.4%	-	-
Short-term	1%	(0.3)%	1%	-
Other	3%	3.3%-5.3%	10%	5.4%-5.8%
	<u>100%</u>		<u>100%</u>	

### Discount Rate

The discount rate projection of cash flows assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the Systems’ fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected 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 benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

The following presents the District’s proportionate share of its net pension position calculated using the discount rate of 6.95% (TRS) and 5.9% (ERS) and the impact of using a discount rate that is 1% higher or lower than the current rate.

	1.0% Decrease	At Current Discount Rate	1.0% Increase
District’s proportionate share of the TRS net pension asset (liability)	\$ (5,384,611)	\$ (583,985)	\$ 3,453,311
District’s proportionate share of the ERS net pension asset (liability)	\$ (2,727,240)	\$ (1,128,558)	\$ 207,327

## 7. OPEB

### Plan Description

The District maintains a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan (the Plan) providing for continuation of medical insurance benefits for certain District employees and their spouses based on various contracts as negotiated from time to time. Eligibility for benefits is based on covered employees who retire from the District and have met vesting requirements. For retirees hired prior to July 1, 2005, the District pays \$133 per month towards single coverage and \$292 per month for family coverage. Upon attainment of age 65, coverage is converted to a Medicare policy subject to the same District caps on premium costs. For employees hired on or after July 1, 1995, retirees receive an amount equal to their final year of service increment that can be taken as a lump sum or applied to medical premiums until exhausted; such amounts are not considered an OPEB liability. Surviving spouses receive continuation of benefits for life unless they remarry. A group of grandfathered administrators are provided 100% premium coverage paid by the District for life for single or family coverage with similar surviving spouse provisions. The Plan has no assets, does not issue financial statements, and is not a trust.

At June 30, 2022, employees covered by the Plan include:

Active employees	92
Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	47
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	-
	<u>139</u>

### Total OPEB Liability

The District’s total OPEB liability of \$1,365,933 was measured as of March 31, 2023 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022, rolled through an interim valuation to June 30, 2023.

The total OPEB liability was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

*Healthcare cost trend rates* – based on the National Health Expenditure Projections 2014-2030 for short-term rates and the Society of Actuaries Getzen Long-Term Healthcare Cost Trend Resource Model v2023 version 1f (updated October 2022) for long-term rates, initially 5.5%, with an ultimate rate of 4.0% after 2070

*Salary increases* – 3.53%

*Mortality* – Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Tables, Headcount-Weighted, without separate contingent survivor mortality, fully generational using scale MP-2021

*Discount rate* – 3.78% based on the Fidelity Municipal GO AA 20-Year Bond rate as of the measurement date

*Inflation rate* – 2.53%

### Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

	Total OPEB Liability
Balance at June 30, 2022	\$ 1,501,627
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	11,915
Interest	39,919
Changes of benefit terms	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(1,035)
Changes of assumptions or other inputs	(83,525)
Benefit payments	(102,968)
Net changes	(135,694)
Balance at June 30, 2023	\$ 1,365,933

The following presents the sensitivity of the District's total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate, including what the District's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% higher or lower than the current discount rate:

	1.0% Decrease (2.78%)	Discount Rate (3.78%)	1.0% Increase (4.78%)
Total OPEB liability	\$ (1,471,361)	\$ (1,365,933)	\$ (1,273,774)

The following presents the sensitivity of the District's total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates, including what the District's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using trend rates that are 1% higher or lower than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	1.0% Decrease (4.5% to 3.0%)	Healthcare Cost Trend Rate (5.5% to 4.0%)	1.0% Increase (6.5% to 5.0%)
Total OPEB liability	\$ (1,336,286)	\$ (1,365,933)	\$ (1,398,927)

### OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the District recognized OPEB expense of \$9,652. At June 30, 2023, the District reported deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ (41,562)
Changes of assumptions or other inputs	-	(105,138)
Benefits paid subsequent to the measurement date	25,742	-
	\$ 25,742	\$ (146,700)

Benefit payments subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the total OPEB liability in the subsequent year. Amounts reported as deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Years ending June 30,	
2024	\$ (42,182)
2025	(42,182)
2026	(20,056)
2027	(10,570)
2028	(10,570)
Thereafter	(21,140)
	\$ (146,700)

**8. Risk Management**

**General Liability**

The District purchases commercial insurance for various risks of loss due to torts, theft, damage, errors and omissions, and natural disasters. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three years.

**Health Insurance**

The District participates in the NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust (the Plan). The Plan has been established to administer a health insurance program to lower the costs of such coverage to the 19 participating members as of June 30, 2022 (the most recent information available).

The District has transferred all risk to the plan. Plan members pay monthly premium equivalents based upon a pro-rata share of expenditures. All funds received are pooled and administered as a common fund. Refunds are not made nor additional assessments charged other than the annual premium equivalent. If the Plan's assets were to be exhausted, members would be equally responsible for the remaining liabilities.

The Plan has published its own financial report for the year ended June 30, 2022, which can be obtained from Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, New York 14224.

**Workers' Compensation**

The District participates in the Erie #2 Area Schools Self-Funded Workers' Compensation Consortium (the Plan) sponsored by Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES. The Plan administers a workers' compensation insurance fund pursuant to Article 5 of the Workers' Compensation Law to finance the liability and risk related to workers' compensation claims and to lower the costs of coverage to the participating members. The Plan includes 24 participating members as of June 30, 2022 (the most recent information available).

The District has transferred partial risk to the Plan. Plan members pay monthly premium equivalents based upon a pro-rata share of expenditures. All funds received are pooled and administered as a common fund. Plan members could be subjected, however, to pro-rata supplemental assessments in the event that the Plan's assets are not adequate to meet claims. To date, these supplemental assessments have not been required.

The Plan has published its own financial report for the year ended June 30, 2022, which can be obtained from Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, 8685 Erie Road, Angola, New York 14006.

## **9. Commitments and Contingencies**

### **Grants**

The District receives financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants and calculated aid as determined by the State. The expenditure of grant funds generally requires compliance with the terms and conditions specified in the agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. State aid payments are based upon estimated expenditures and pupil statistics, are complex, and subject to adjustment. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the District. Based on prior experience, management expects such amounts to be immaterial.

### **Construction Commitments**

The District's taxpayers have approved the 2022-2023 capital improvements project that remains in progress at year end and is budgeted not to exceed \$7,950,000. At June 30, 2023, \$1,252,930 has been expended on the project.

### **Litigation**

The District is subject to claims and lawsuits that arise in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, these claims and lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect upon the financial position of the District.

NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Position  
New York State Teachers' Retirement System**

As of the measurement date of June 30,	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
District's proportion of the net pension position	0.030433%	0.031236%	0.030409%	0.030320%	0.029782%	0.030166%	0.029120%	0.028307%	0.028214%	0.028033%
District's proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability)	\$ (583,985)	\$ 5,412,939	\$ (840,285)	\$ 787,719	\$ 538,530	\$ 229,293	\$ (311,822)	\$ 2,940,175	\$ 3,142,864	\$ 184,525
District's covered payroll	\$ 5,391,367	\$ 5,513,725	\$ 5,216,129	\$ 5,029,614	\$ 4,908,194	\$ 4,825,324	\$ 4,538,945	\$ 4,252,065	\$ 4,199,043	\$ 4,106,157
District's proportionate share of the net pension position as a percentage of its covered payroll	10.83%	98.17%	16.11%	15.66%	10.97%	4.75%	6.87%	69.15%	74.85%	4.49%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	98.57%	113.20%	97.76%	102.17%	101.53%	100.66%	99.01%	110.46%	111.48%	100.70%

The following is a summary of changes of assumptions:

Inflation	2.4%	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%	2.25%	2.5%	2.5%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Salary increases	1.95%-5.18%	1.95%-5.18%	1.90%-4.72%	1.90%-4.72%	1.90%-4.72%	1.90%-4.72%	1.90%-4.72%	4.0%-10.9%	4.0%-10.9%	4.0%-10.9%
Cost of living adjustments	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
Investment rate of return	6.95%	6.95%	7.1%	7.1%	7.25%	7.25%	7.5%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Discount rate	6.95%	6.95%	7.1%	7.1%	7.25%	7.25%	7.5%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Society of Actuaries' mortality scale	MP-2021	MP-2020	MP-2019	MP-2018	MP-2014	MP-2014	MP-2014	AA	AA	AA

NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of District Contributions  
New York State Teachers' Retirement System**

For the years ended June 30,	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Contractually required contribution	\$ 563,048	\$ 528,354	\$ 425,458	\$ 462,149	\$ 534,145	\$ 481,003	\$ 565,528	\$ 601,864	\$ 745,387	\$ 677,243
Contribution in relation to the contractually required contribution	(563,048)	(528,354)	(425,458)	(462,149)	(534,145)	(481,003)	(565,528)	(601,864)	(745,387)	(677,243)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
District's covered payroll	\$ 5,471,798	\$ 5,391,367	\$ 5,513,725	\$ 5,216,129	\$ 5,029,614	\$ 4,908,194	\$ 4,825,324	\$ 4,538,945	\$ 4,252,065	\$ 4,199,043
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	10.29%	9.80%	9.53%	8.86%	10.62%	9.80%	11.72%	13.26%	17.53%	16.13%



NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Position  
New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System**

As of the measurement date of March 31,	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
District's proportion of the net pension position	0.0052628%	0.0047042%	0.0050000%	0.0050677%	0.0049640%	0.0051304%	0.0055790%	0.0055053%	0.0052329%
District's proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability)	\$ (1,128,558)	\$ 384,550	\$ (4,979)	\$ (1,341,967)	\$ (351,713)	\$ (165,582)	\$ (524,214)	\$ (883,610)	\$ (176,781)
District's covered payroll	\$ 1,825,053	\$ 1,706,051	\$ 1,712,831	\$ 1,655,411	\$ 1,584,401	\$ 1,548,881	\$ 1,505,603	\$ 1,482,437	\$ 1,430,531
District's proportionate share of the net pension position as a percentage of its covered payroll	61.84%	22.54%	0.29%	81.07%	22.20%	10.69%	34.82%	59.61%	12.36%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	90.78%	103.65%	99.95%	86.39%	96.27%	98.24%	94.70%	90.70%	97.90%

The following is a summary of changes of assumptions:

Inflation	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.7%
Salary increases	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.2%	4.2%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	4.9%
Cost of living adjustments	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%
Investment rate of return	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	6.8%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.5%
Discount rate	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	6.8%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.5%
Society of Actuaries' mortality scale	MP-2021	MP-2020	MP-2020	MP-2018	MP-2014	MP-2014	MP-2014	MP-2014	MP-2014

Data prior to 2015 is unavailable.

NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of District Contributions  
New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System**

For the years ended June 30,	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Contractually required contribution	\$ 206,329	\$ 264,454	\$ 242,789	\$ 235,455	\$ 229,786	\$ 228,307	\$ 227,045	\$ 273,362	\$ 258,040	\$ 295,025
Contribution in relation to the contractually required contribution	(206,329)	(264,454)	(242,789)	(235,455)	(229,786)	(228,307)	(227,045)	(273,362)	(258,040)	(295,025)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
District's covered payroll	\$ 1,825,053	\$ 1,706,051	\$ 1,712,831	\$ 1,655,411	\$ 1,584,401	\$ 1,548,881	\$ 1,505,603	\$ 1,482,437	\$ 1,430,531	\$ 1,465,676
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	11.31%	15.50%	14.17%	14.22%	14.50%	14.74%	15.08%	18.44%	18.04%	20.13%

NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of Changes in the District's  
Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios**

For the years ended June 30,	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total OPEB liability - beginning	\$ 1,501,627	\$ 1,709,191	\$ 1,829,689	\$ 1,864,857	\$ 1,839,609	\$ 1,719,157
Changes for the year:						
Service cost	11,915	7,087	8,217	8,722	7,811	7,281
Interest	39,919	36,348	42,836	60,190	62,420	61,350
Changes of benefit terms	-	-	-	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(1,035)	(76,008)	(78,965)	(128,217)	87,177	135,453
Changes of assumptions or other inputs	(83,525)	(59,926)	18,048	148,002	(13,832)	28,327
Benefit payments	(102,968)	(115,065)	(110,634)	(123,865)	(118,328)	(111,959)
Net change in total OPEB liability	(135,694)	(207,564)	(120,498)	(35,168)	25,248	120,452
Total OPEB liability - ending	\$ 1,365,933	\$ 1,501,627	\$ 1,709,191	\$ 1,829,689	\$ 1,864,857	\$ 1,839,609
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 5,252,143	\$ 5,077,478	\$ 4,980,336	\$ 4,691,132	\$ 4,538,634	\$ 4,538,634
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	26.01%	29.57%	34.32%	39.00%	41.09%	40.53%

No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of GASB Statement No. 75.

The following is a summary of changes of assumptions:

Healthcare cost trend rates	5.5% - 4.0%	6.10% - 4.37%	4.08% - 4.00%	5.20% - 4.18%	6.20% - 4.23%	5.30% - 4.17%
Salary increases	3.53%	3.44%	3.11%	3.22%	3.36%	3.31%
Discount rate	3.78%	2.83%	2.27%	2.48%	3.44%	3.61%
Inflation rate	2.53%	2.44%	2.11%	2.22%	2.37%	2.31%
Society of Actuaries' mortality scale	MP-2021	MP-2021	MP-2020	MP-2019	MP-2018	MP-2017

Data prior to 2018 is unavailable.

**Supplementary Information**  
**Schedule of Change from Original to Final Budget and**  
**Calculation of Unrestricted Fund Balance Limit - General Fund**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

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Original expenditure budget	\$ 16,773,821
Encumbrances carried over from prior year	5,276
Use of capital reserve	<u>2,000,000</u>
Revised expenditure budget	<u>\$ 18,779,097</u>
* * *	
Unrestricted Fund Balance	
Assigned	\$ 790,268
Unassigned	<u>704,033</u>
	1,494,301
Encumbrances included in assigned fund balance	(90,268)
Appropriated fund balance used for tax levy	<u>(700,000)</u>
Amount subject to 4% limit pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §1318	<u>\$ 704,033</u>
§1318 of Real Property Tax Law - unrestricted fund balance limit calculation	
2024 expenditure budget (unaudited)	\$ 17,618,077
4% of budget	<u>704,723</u>
Actual percentage of 2024 expenditure budget	<u>4.0%</u>

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NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Supplementary Information**  
**Schedule of Capital Project Expenditures**

June 30, 2023

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Project Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenditures			Unexpended Balance
			Prior Years	Current Year	Total	
2023 Capital Outlay Project	\$ 100,000	\$ 94,559	\$ -	\$ 94,559	\$ 94,559	\$ -
2022-2023 Capital Improvements Project	7,950,000	7,950,000	31,888	1,221,042	1,252,930	6,697,070
	<u>\$ 8,050,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,044,559</u>	<u>\$ 31,888</u>	<u>\$ 1,315,601</u>	<u>\$ 1,347,489</u>	<u>\$ 6,697,070</u>

NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Supplementary Information**  
**Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program Title	Assistance Listing Number	Grantor Number	Expenditures
<u>U.S. Department of Education:</u>			
Passed Through New York State Education Department			
Special Education Cluster:			
Special Education Grants to States	84.027	0032-22-0237	\$ 5,702
Special Education Grants to States	84.027	0032-23-0237	146,731
COVID-19 Special Education Grants to States	84.027	5532-22-0237	25,327
Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173	0033-23-0237	9,740
COVID-19 Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173	5533-22-0237	2,964
Total Special Education Cluster			190,464
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0011-22-2144	14,326
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0011-23-2144	217,339
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0021-23-0835	126,373
Rural Education	84.358	S358A213048	3,226
Rural Education	84.358	S358A222898	29,011
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	0147-23-0835	19,130
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204-23-0835	8,382
Education Stabilization Fund:			
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425D	5891-21-0835	171,515
American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	5880-21-0835	363,024
American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	5883-21-0835	30,701
American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	5882-21-0835	24,200
American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	5884-21-0835	171,667
Total Education Stabilization Fund			761,107
Total U.S. Department of Education			1,369,358
<u>U.S. Department of Homeland Security:</u>			
Passed Through New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services			
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)	97.036	335148	11,157
<u>U.S. Department of Agriculture:</u>			
Passed Through New York State Education Department			
Child Nutrition Cluster:			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	N/A	42,445 <sup>1</sup>
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	144,878 <sup>1</sup>
Pandemic EBT Administrative Costs	10.649	N/A	1,256
Passed Through New York State Office of General Services			
Child Nutrition Cluster:			
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	15,809 <sup>1</sup>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			204,388
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			\$ 1,584,903

<sup>1</sup> Total Child Nutrition Cluster - \$203,132

**Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards**

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**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards presents the activity of all federal award programs administered by North Collins Central School District (the District), an entity as defined in Note 1 to the District’s basic financial statements. Federal awards received directly from federal agencies, as well as federal awards passed through from other governmental agencies, are included on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

**Basis of Accounting**

The District uses the modified accrual basis of accounting for each federal program, consistent with the fund basis financial statements.

The amounts reported as federal expenditures generally were obtained from the appropriate federal financial reports for the applicable programs and periods. The amounts reported in these federal financial reports are prepared from records maintained for each program, which are periodically reconciled with the District’s financial reporting system.

**Indirect Costs**

The District does not use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate permitted by the Uniform Guidance.

**Non-Monetary Federal Program**

The District is the recipient of a federal award program that does not result in cash receipts or disbursements, termed a “non-monetary program.” During the year ended June 30, 2023, the District used \$15,809 worth of commodities under the National School Lunch Program (Assistance Listing Number 10.555).

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

The Board of Education  
North Collins Central School District

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, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the remaining fund information of North Collins Central School District (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 September 19, 2023.

**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 entity'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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

**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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.



### **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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyndon & McCormick, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 19, 2023

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

The Board of Education  
North Collins Central School District

**Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program**

***Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We have audited North Collins Central School District's (the District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. The District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the types of 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 Auditors' 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***

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.

### ***Auditors' 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 a 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 Auditors' 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 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 that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Symons & McCormick, LLP*

September 19, 2023

**Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

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**Section I. Summary of Auditors' Results**

Financial Statements

Type of auditors' report issued: *Unmodified*

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? None reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? None reported

Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major programs: *Unmodified*

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with section 2 CFR 200.516(a)? No

Identification of major programs:

Name of Federal Program or Cluster	Assistance Listing Number	Amount
Education Stabilization Fund	84.425	<u>\$ 761,107</u>

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs: \$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? Yes

**Section II. Financial Statement Findings**

No matters were reported.

**Section III. Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs**

No matters were reported.

**NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**EXTRACLASROOM ACTIVITY**

**JUNE 30, 2023**

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Board of Education  
North Collins Central School District

### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying schedule of additions and deductions of North Collins Central School District (the District) Extraclassroom Activity for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the schedule.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter discussed in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the schedule referred to in the first paragraph presents fairly, in all material respects, the additions and deductions of North Collins Central School District Extraclassroom Activity for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

### Basis for Qualified Opinion

Certain accounting records of North Collins Central School District Extraclassroom Activity accounts were not adequate for us to form an opinion regarding the completeness of additions in the accompanying schedule stated at \$63,269.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule 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 qualified audit opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management for the Schedule

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this schedule in accordance with GAAP and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit is conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than 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 judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the schedule, 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 on the schedule.
- 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 schedule.

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyndon & McCormick, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 19, 2023



NORTH COLLINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY

**Schedule of Additions and Deductions**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

	July 1, 2022	Additions	Deductions	June 30, 2023
Class Clubs:				
2022	\$ 3,049	\$ -	\$ 3,049	\$ -
2023	1,717	8,389	8,196	<b>1,910</b>
2024	2,110	4	490	<b>1,624</b>
2025	1,182	-	-	<b>1,182</b>
2026	1,311	-	-	<b>1,311</b>
Character Club	250	-	-	<b>250</b>
Cheerleaders Club	214	-	214	-
Drama Club	12,469	13,239	6,308	<b>19,400</b>
Entrepreneurship Club	462	2,723	2,996	<b>189</b>
Food on the Go Club	545	1,242	706	<b>1,081</b>
Marine Biology Club	1,866	-	1,866	-
Ski Club	-	5,885	5,885	-
Student Government Club	8,241	29,248	24,929	<b>12,560</b>
Students Against Destructive Decisions Club	1,602	811	1,178	<b>1,235</b>
Yearbook Club	6,044	1,728	2,531	<b>5,241</b>
	<b>\$ 41,062</b>	<b>\$ 63,269</b>	<b>\$ 58,348</b>	<b>\$ 45,983</b>

**Notes to the Schedule**

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**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Financial Reporting Entity**

Extraclassroom Activity accounts are those operated by and for the students. Proceeds are voluntarily collected by students and are spent by them, as they deem appropriate under established guidelines. The Extraclassroom Activity accounts are included in the financial statements of North Collins Central School District in the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position.

## MANAGEMENT LETTER

September 19, 2023

The Audit Committee, Board of Education,  
and Management  
North Collins Central School District

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the remaining fund information of North Collins Central School District (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, 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 entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

### OBSERVATIONS

#### **Excess fund balance in the food service fund**

In accordance with regulations of the New York State Education Department, fund balance in the food service fund should not exceed three months' average expenditures, as defined, at any time. As a result of the COVID-related shutdowns and additional funding, the District exceeded this limit at year end. District management should submit a plan to the Child Nutrition Program Administration detailing its plans to use the excess balance. Allowable uses include improving the quality of food served or purchasing needed supplies, services, or equipment.

#### **Extraclassroom Activity Accounts**

As outlined in the New York State Education Department's 2019 Manual, *The Safeguarding, Accounting, and Auditing of Extraclassroom Activity Funds*, one of the main purposes of extraclassroom activities is to provide the District with an opportunity to teach pupils basic bookkeeping procedures in handling money and maintaining appropriate records. During our testing, we noted that the student records for three clubs did not include supporting documents. We recommend that the central treasurer meet annually with faculty advisors and student treasurers to review the proper procedures for student treasurers, including obtaining the appropriate signatures and maintaining all appropriate supporting documentation. We also suggest that the central treasurer periodically reconcile the records to those of the students.

### PRIOR YEAR RECOMMENDATION

The District maintains a multi-fund checking account which accounts for the majority of the District's cash activity in one account, which is then accounted for and reconciled between the funds. The volume of activity makes it difficult to manage and results in reconciliation errors and delays in completion of the reconciliation. We continue to recommend that District management create separate checking accounts for each fund to simplify the reconciliation process and to improve financial reporting.

### ACCOUNTING STANDARDS UPDATES

GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, is effective for the District's year ending June 30, 2024. This statement defines four categories of accounting changes and error corrections along with the required reporting requirements, which include the following: (1) *Change in accounting principle* with retroactive reporting to the earliest period presented and required financial statements footnote disclosures including an explanation as to why the change is preferable, (2) *Change in accounting estimate* with prospective reporting from the period when change occurs and required financial statement footnote disclosures, (3) *Change to or within the entity* with an adjustment to beginning net position and (4) *Error correction* with retroactive reporting to the earliest period presented and required financial statement footnote disclosures.

GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, is effective for the District's year ending June 30, 2025. This statement clarifies what is considered unused leave balances for employees. Under this statement, compensated absences should be recognized as liabilities on the government-wide statements for leave that has not been used and leave that has been used but not yet paid or settled.

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We have discussed these comments with District personnel and would be pleased to discuss them in further detail, perform any additional studies, or assist you in implementing the recommendations.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the District's management, Audit Committee, and Board of Education; others within the District; the NYS Education Department Office of Audit Services; and the Office of the NYS Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability. It is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lunden & McCormick, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.