

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED MAY 29, 2024**

**SERIAL BONDS**

**RATING – SEE “RATING” SECTION HEREIN**

**S&P Insured Rating “AA” (Stable Outlook)**

**S&P Underlying Rating “A+” (Negative Outlook)**

In the opinion of Barclay Damon LLP, Bond Counsel to the School District, under existing law and assuming compliance with certain covenants described herein and the accuracy and completeness of certain representations, certifications of fact and statements of reasonable expectations made by the School District, interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). Bond Counsel is further of the opinion that interest on the Bonds is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the alternative minimum tax imposed under the Code, however, interest on the Bonds that is included in the “adjusted financial statement income” of certain corporations is not excluded from the corporate alternative minimum tax imposed under the Code. Bond Counsel is also of the opinion that, under existing law, interest on the Bonds is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof (including The City of New York). See “TAX MATTERS” herein regarding certain other tax considerations.

The Bonds will be designated or deemed designated as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

**\$4,916,458**

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**HERKIMER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**\$4,916,458 School District (Serial) Bonds, 2024**

**(referred to herein as the “Bonds”)**

**Dated: June 13, 2024**

**Due: June 15, 2025-2039**

**MATURITIES\*\*  
CUSIP BASE #951716**

Year	Amount	Rate	Yield	CSP	Year	Amount	Rate	Yield	CSP	Year	Amount	Rate	Yield	CSP
2025	\$246,458	4.000%	3.270%	HK8	2030	\$300,000	4.000%	3.250%	HQ5	2035	365,000	4.000%	3.420%	HV4
2026	255,000	4.000%	3.380%	HL6	2031	310,000	4.000%	3.280%	HR3	2036	380,000	4.125%	3.500%	HW2
2027	280,000	4.000%	3.230%	HM4	2032	320,000	4.000%	3.360%	HS1	2037	390,000	4.250%	3.610%	HX0
2028	285,000	4.000%	3.160%	HN2	2033	330,000	4.000%	3.370%	HT9	2038	405,000	4.375%	3.680%	HY8
2029	290,000	4.000%	3.220%	HP7	2034	350,000	4.000%	3.410%	HU6	2039	410,000	4.500%	3.740%	HZ5

\*The Bonds maturing in the years 2033-2039 are subject to redemption prior to maturity. See “DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS – Optional Redemption” herein.

The scheduled payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds when due will be guaranteed under an insurance policy to be issued concurrently with the delivery of the bonds by ASSURED GUARANTY MUNICIPAL CORP.



The Bonds are general obligations of the West Canada Valley Central School District, Herkimer County, New York all the taxable real property within which is subject to the levy of ad valorem taxes to pay the Bonds and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount. See “DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS – Nature of the Obligation” herein.

The faith and credit of the West Canada Valley Central School District are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the Bonds and the interest thereon.

The Bonds will be issued as registered bonds and, when issued, will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”), which will act as securities depository for the Bonds. Individual purchases will be made in book-entry form only, in the principal amount of \$5,000 each or integral multiples thereof, with the exception of one odd denomination maturing in 2025. Purchasers will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Bonds. Interest on the Bonds will be payable on December 15, 2024, and semi-annually thereafter on June 15 and December 15 in each year until maturity (or early redemption). Principal and interest will be paid 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 Bonds, as described herein. The Bonds may not be converted into coupon bonds or be registered to the bearer. (See “DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS – Book-Entry Only System” herein).

The Bonds are offered when, as and if issued and received by the purchaser and subject to the receipt of the approving legal opinion as to the validity of the Bonds of Barclay Damon LLP, Albany, New York. It is anticipated that the Bonds will be available for delivery through the facilities of DTC located in Jersey City, New Jersey on or about June 13, 2024.

THIS REVISED OFFICIAL STATEMENT SUPPLEMENTS THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DATED MAY 21, 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, “RATINGS” SECTION, “MISCELLANEOUS” SECTION, THE DATED DATE ON PAGE 42 AND THE ADDITION OF APPENDIX E, THERE HAVE BEEN NO MATERIAL REVISIONS TO SAID OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HERKIMER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

School District Officials

**2023-24 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jessica Bartlett - President  
Shauna Michael - Vice President

Alisa Brewer  
Janine Lynch  
Sara Northup-Lynch  
Roger Kemler  
Edwin Schatzel

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Jeremy Siddon – Superintendent  
Kelley Crossett – Business Manager/Treasurer  
Daphne Raymo – District Clerk

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School District Attorney

Girvin & Ferlazzo, P.C.

**BOND COUNSEL**

**Barclay Damon LLP**

**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**



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

No person has been authorized by the School 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 Bonds 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 School District.

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**PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF:**

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**  
of the  
**WEST CANADA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**HERKIMER COUNTY, NEW YORK**  
Relating To  
**\$4,916,458 School District (Serial) Bonds, 2024**

This Official Statement, which includes the cover page, has been prepared by the West Canada Valley Central School District, Herkimer County, New York (the "District" or the "School District") in connection with the sale by the School District of \$4,916,458 aggregate principal amount of School District (Serial) Bonds, 2024 (herein referred to as the "Bonds").

The factors affecting the School District's financial condition and the Bonds are described throughout this Official Statement. Inasmuch as many of these factors, including economic and demographic factors, are complex and may influence the School District tax base, revenues, and expenditures, this Official Statement should 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 Bonds and the proceedings of the District relating thereto are qualified in their entirety by reference to the definitive form of the Bonds and such proceedings.

**Nature of the Obligation**

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

Holders of any series of notes or bonds of the District may bring an action or commence a proceeding in accordance with the civil practice law and rules to enforce the rights of the holders of such series of notes or bonds.

The Bonds will be general obligations of the District and will contain a pledge of the faith and credit of the District for the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon as required by the Constitution and laws of the State. For the payment of such principal and interest, the District has power and statutory authorization to levy ad valorem taxes on all real property within the District subject to such taxation by the District, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Although the State Legislature is restricted by Article VIII, Section 12 of the State Constitution from imposing limitations on the power to raise taxes to pay "interest on or principal of indebtedness theretofore contracted" prior to the effective date of any such legislation, the New York State Legislature may from time to time impose additional limitations or requirements on the ability to increase a real property tax levy or on the methodology, exclusions or other restrictions of various aspects of real property taxation (as well as on the ability to issue new indebtedness). On June 24, 2011, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 was signed into law by the Governor (the "Tax Levy Limitation Law" or "Chapter 97"). The Tax Levy Limitation Law applies to local governments and school districts in the State (with certain exceptions) and imposes additional procedural requirements on the ability of municipalities and school districts to levy certain year-to-year increases in real property taxes.

Under the Constitution of the State, the District is required to pledge its faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds and is required to raise real estate taxes, and without specification, other revenues, if such levy is necessary to repay such indebtedness. While the Tax Levy Limitation Law imposes a statutory limitation on the District's power to increase its annual tax levy, with the amount of such increase limited by the formulas set forth in the Tax Levy Limitation Law, it also provides the procedural method to surmount that limitation. See "TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW" herein.

The Constitutionally-mandated general obligation pledge of municipalities and school districts in New York State has been interpreted by the Court of Appeals, the State's highest court, in Flushing National Bank v. Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York, 40 N.Y.2d 731 (1976), as follows:

"A pledge of the city's faith and credit is both a commitment to pay and a commitment of the city's revenue generating powers to produce the funds to pay. Hence, an obligation containing a pledge of the City's "faith and credit" is secured by a promise both to pay and to use in good faith the city's general revenue powers to produce sufficient funds to pay the principal and interest of the obligation as it becomes due. That is why both words, "faith" and "credit" are used, and they are not tautological. That is what the words say, and this is what the courts have held they mean... So, too, although the Legislature is given the duty to restrict municipalities in order to prevent abuses in taxation, assessment, and in contracting of indebtedness, it may not constrict the City's power to levy taxes on real estate for the payment of interest on or principal of indebtedness previously contracted... While phrased in permissive language, these provisions, when read together with the requirement of the pledge and faith and credit, express a constitutional imperative: debt obligations must be paid, even if tax limits be exceeded".

In addition, the Court of Appeals in the Flushing National Bank (1976) case has held that the payment of debt service on outstanding general obligation bonds and notes takes precedence over fiscal emergencies and the police power of political subdivisions in New York State.

The pledge has generally been understood as a promise to levy property taxes without limitation as to rate or amount to the extent necessary to cover debt service due to language in Article VIII Section 10 of the Constitution, which provides an exclusion for debt 'service from Constitutional limitations on the amount of a real property tax levy, ensuring the availability of the levy of property tax revenues to pay debt service. As the Flushing National Bank (1976) Court noted, the term "faith and credit" in its context is "not qualified in any way". Indeed, in Flushing National Bank v. Municipal Assistance Corp., 40 N.Y.2d 1088 (1977) the Court of Appeals described the pledge as a direct constitutional mandate. In Quirk v. Municipal Assistance Corp., 41 N.Y.2d 644 (1977), the Court of Appeals stated that, while holders of general obligation debt did not have a right to particular revenues such as sales tax, "with respect to traditional real estate tax levies, the bondholders are constitutionally protected against an attempt by the State to deprive the city of those revenues to meet its obligations." According to the Court in Quirk, the State Constitution "requires the city to raise real estate taxes, and without specification other revenues, if such a levy be necessary to repay indebtedness."

In addition, the Constitution of the State requires that every county, city, town, village, and school district in the State provide annually by appropriation for the payment of all interest and principal on its serial bonds and certain other obligations, and that, if at any time the respective appropriating authorities shall fail to make such appropriation, a sufficient sum shall be set apart from the first revenues thereafter received and shall be applied to such purposes. In the event that an appropriating authority were to make an appropriation for debt service and then decline to expend it for that purpose, this provision would not apply. However, the Constitution of the State does also provide that the fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village, or school district may be required to set apart and apply such first revenues at the suit of any holder of any such obligations.

In Quirk v. Municipal Assistance Corp., the Court of Appeals described this as a "first lien" on revenues, but one that does not give holders a right to any particular revenues. It should thus be noted that the pledge of the faith and credit of a political subdivision in New York State is a pledge of an issuer of a general obligation bond or note to use its general revenue powers, including, but not limited to, its property tax levy to pay debt service on such obligations, but that such pledge may not be interpreted by a court of competent jurisdiction to include a constitutional or statutory lien upon any particular revenues.

While the courts in New York State have historically been protective of the rights of holders of general obligation debt of political subdivisions, it is not possible to predict what a future court might hold.

## **Description of the Bonds**

The Bonds will be dated June 13, 2024, and will mature in the principal amounts and on the dates as set forth on the cover page. The Bonds are subject to redemption prior to maturity as described herein under the heading “Optional Redemption”. The Bonds bear interest from June 13, 2024, with interest thereon payable on December 15, 2024, and semi-annually thereafter on June 15 and December 15. The “Record Date” of the Bonds will be the last business day of the calendar month preceding each such interest payment date.

The Bonds will be issued as registered bonds and, when issued, will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC, which will act as securities depository for the Bonds. Individual purchases will be made in book-entry form only, in the principal amount of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof, with the exception of one odd denomination maturing in 2025. Purchasers will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Bonds. Principal and interest will be paid 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 Bonds, as described herein.

## **Optional Redemption**

The Bonds maturing on or before June 15, 2032, will not be subject to redemption prior maturity. The Bonds maturing on or after June 15, 2033 will be subject to redemption prior to maturity as a whole or in part (selected at random if less than all of a maturity is to be redeemed) at the option of the District on June 15, 2032 or any date thereafter at par (100%), plus accrued interest to the date of redemption.

If less than all of the Bonds of any maturity are to be redeemed, the particular bonds of such maturity to be redeemed shall be selected by the District at random (by lot or in any other customary manner of selection as determined by the President of the Board of Education). Notice of such call for redemption shall be given by mailing such notice to the registered owners of the bonds not more than sixty (60) days nor less than thirty (30) days prior to such date. Notice of redemption having been given as aforesaid, the Bonds so called for redemption shall, on the date for redemption set forth in such call for redemption, become due and payable, together with interest to such redemption date, and interest shall cease to be paid thereon after such redemption date.

## **Purpose and Authorization**

The Bonds are authorized to be issued pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of New York, including among others, the Education Law, the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to a bond resolution dated December 13, 2021, authorizing the issuance of up to \$4,916,458 of serial bonds to renovate and improve various school district buildings and sites, acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings and sites are to be used, and pay incidental expenses related thereto.

The proceeds of the Bonds will redeem the \$4,811,458 Bond Anticipation Note maturing on June 21, 2024 and provide new money in the amount of \$105,000 for the aforementioned purpose.

## **Book-Entry Only System**

The Depository Trust Company (“DTC”), New York, New York, will act as securities depository for the Bonds. The Bonds will be issued as fully-registered securities 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.

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"). DTC has a Standard and Poor's rating of AA+. 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).

Purchases of Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Bonds on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Bond ("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 Bonds 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 Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Bond is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Bonds 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 Bonds 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 Bonds; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Bonds are credited, which 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 Bonds may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the Bonds, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the Bond documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of Bonds may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Bonds 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.

Principal and interest payments on the Bonds 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 detailed 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 or the District, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Principal and interest 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 Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the District. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, bond 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, bond 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 BONDS (1) PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL OF OR INTEREST OR REDEMPTION PREMIUM ON THE BONDS; (2) CONFIRMATIONS OF THEIR OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN THE BONDS; OR (3) OTHER NOTICES SENT TO DTC OR CEDE & CO., ITS PARTNERSHIP NOMINEE, AS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE BONDS, 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 BONDS; (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 BONDS.

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 Bonds**

In the event the book-entry-only system is discontinued the following provisions will apply: The Bonds will be issued in registered form in denominations of \$5,000 each or integral multiples thereof for any single maturity, with the exception of one odd denomination maturing in 2025. Principal of the Bonds when due will be payable upon presentation at the office of a bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State of New York to be named as fiscal agent by the School District upon termination of the book-entry-only system. Interest on the Bonds will remain payable on December 15, 2024, and semi-annually thereafter on June 15 and December 15, in each year to maturity. Interest on the Bonds will be payable by check or draft mailed by the fiscal agent to the registered owners of the Bonds, as shown on the registration books of the School District maintained by the fiscal agent as of the close of business on the Record Date, being the last business day of the calendar month preceding each interest payment date. Bonds may be transferred or exchanged at no cost to the registered owner for Bonds of the same maturity or any other authorized denomination or denominations in the same aggregate principal amount in the manner described on the Bonds and as referenced in certain proceedings of the School District referred to therein.



## **THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **General Information**

The West Canada Valley School District is in the Towns of Fairfield, Herkimer, Manheim, Newport, Norway and Schuyler in Herkimer County and the Town of Deerfield in Oneida County. The District covers approximately 112 square miles. The School is located on an 88-acre campus approximately mid-way between the Villages of Middleville and Newport.

The School District is primarily a rural area, with some residents employed in agriculture. Other residents also commute to the Herkimer and Utica areas for employment. Opportunities for higher education are available nearby at the Herkimer County and Mohawk Valley Community Colleges, Utica College, and SUNY Institute of Technology.

The Villages of Middleville and Newport provide public water to their residents, while the remainder of the District is served by private wells. Telephone service is provided by the Newport Telephone Company and Verizon New York Inc. Electricity is provided by National Grid. The Newport Volunteer Fire Company provides fire protection for the School District's buildings, while various additional volunteer organizations serve the remainder of the District. Police protection is provided by the New York State Police.

Residents find commercial and financial services in the Villages of Middleville and Newport as well as in the Herkimer and Utica areas. Cultural and recreational opportunities are provided by the various colleges and the Adirondack.

A network of roads and highways serve this area, including New York State Routes #28, #29 and #169, with access to the New York State Thruway at Little Falls, Utica, or Herkimer. Bus and rail transportation are also available in Utica. Air transportation is available in Syracuse or Albany.

### **District Population**

The 2022 population of the School District is estimated to be 4,391 (Source: 2022 U.S. Census Bureau estimate).

### **Economic Developments**

It has been publicly reported that First Light may be closing. The District has no information about the timing of the closure.

## 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 Villages, Towns and Counties listed below. The Figures set below with respect to such Villages Towns, Counties and State are included for information only. It should not be inferred from the inclusion of such data in this Official Statement that the Villages, Towns, Counties 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>
Villages Of:						
Middleville	\$17,499	\$19,107	\$24,440	\$42,727	\$51,731	\$92,500
Newport	18,324	18,376	42,537	41,111	33,571	97,321
Towns Of:						
Fairfield	15,603	23,944	\$33,828	45,069	56,016	93,750
Herkimer	17,211	18,478	34,450	42,296	44,681	91,478
Manheim	15,429	23,860	27,388	39,032	53,724	80,106
Newport	17,044	21,350	34,979	42,273	59,850	86,250
Norway	15,396	23,603	33,208	41,250	60,250	85,000
Schuyler	17,039	21,772	33,351	41,441	54,386	76,786
Deerfield	20,676	26,507	44,448	53,631	68,302	103,182
Counties Of:						
Herkimer	16,141	21,908	34,394	40,570	53,288	87,801
Oneida	18,516	23,458	35,284	45,341	58,017	84,410
State Of:						
New York	23,389	30,948	47,173	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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Current Maximum Capacity</u>	<u>Date of Last Addition or Alteration</u>
West Canada Valley Central School	PK-12	1963	1,223	2017

Source: District Officials.

## District Employees

The School District employs 138 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees. The number of members, the collective bargaining units which represent them, and their current contract expiration dates are as follows:

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Bargaining Unit</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
71	West Canada Valley Teachers Association	6/30/2026
69	West Canada Valley Unit CSEA	6/30/2027
3	West Canada Valley Administrators' Association	6/30/2025
5	Employees not in a bargaining unit	N/A

Source: District Officials.

## Historical and Projected Enrollment

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Projected</u>
2019-20	719	2024-25	646
2020-21	652	2025-26	646
2021-22	640	2026-27	646
2022-23	628	2027-28	646
2023-24	646	2028-29	646

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, the Governor signed into law the new Tier VI pension program, effective for new ERS and TRS employees hired after April 1, 2012. The Tier VI legislation provides for increased employee contribution rates of between 3% and 6% and contributions at such rates continue so long as such employee continues to accumulate pension credits, an increase in the retirement age from 62 years to 63 years, a readjustment of the pension multiplier, and a change in the time period for the final average salary calculation from 3 years to 5 years. Tier VI employees would vest in the system after ten years of employment; and employees will continue to make employee contribution throughout employment. As of April 9, 2022, vesting requirements were modified, resulting in employees becoming vested after five years.

The District is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The actual contribution for the last five years, the budgeted figures for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the proposed figures for the 2024-2025 fiscal year are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>ERS</u>	<u>TRS</u>
2018-2019	\$ 232,821	\$ 497,310
2019-2020	243,983	399,143
2020-2021	277,992	516,954
2021-2022	300,678	509,487
2022-2023	205,278	549,194
2023-2024 (Budgeted)	216,806	546,965
2024-2025 (Proposed Budget)	211,073	554,766

Source: Audited financial statements for the 2018-2019 fiscal year through the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the adopted budget of the District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and the proposed budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. 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 not currently have early retirement incentive programs for its employees.

**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 to 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 (2018-19 to 2023-24) 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	9.80
2022-2023	11.6	10.29
2023-2024	13.1	9.76

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 2013-14 State 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. As of June 30, 2019, the District set up the TRS Reserve in the amount of \$35,000.

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** - 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 July 1, 2022, and financial data as of June 30, 2023, the School District's beginning year total OPEB liability was \$56,521,215, the net change for the year was (\$7,185,019) resulting in a total OPEB liability of \$49,336,196 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>
West Canada Valley Central School District	Public Education	145
First Light (formerly Todd Cable)*	Utility	20
Newport Telephone Company	Utility	20
Renee Shevat	Campground/Restaurant	15
Left Over Express	Refuse Removal	12
E.J. Willis	Manufacturing	8

\*It has been publicly reported that First Light may be closing. The District has no information about the timing of the closure.  
Source: District Officials.

### Unemployment Rate Statistics

Unemployment statistics are not available for the School District as such. The smallest area for which such statistics are available (which includes the School District) is the County of Herkimer. 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 Official Statement that the School District is necessarily representative of the County or vice versa.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Herkimer County Unemployment Rate</u>	<u>New York State Unemployment Rate</u>	<u>U.S. Unemployment Rate</u>
2019	4.7%	3.8%	3.7%
2020	8.2%	10.0%	8.3%
2021	5.8%	6.9%	5.4%
2022	3.9%	4.3%	3.6%
2023	4.1%	3.7%	3.7%

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

	<u>2023-2024 Monthly Figures</u>											
	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>
Herkimer County	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%	3.8%	3.5%	3.7%	4.0%	4.90%	5.60%	N/A	N/A
Oneida County	3.0%	3.3%	3.5%	3.6%	3.8%	3.6%	3.8%	3.8%	4.20%	4.40%	N/A	N/A
New York State	3.6%	3.9%	4.1%	4.2%	4.5%	4.2%	4.4%	4.2%	4.40%	4.40%	N/A	N/A

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

## **Investment Policy**

Pursuant to the statutes of the State of New York, the School District is permitted to invest only in the following investments: (1) special time deposit accounts in, certificates of deposit issued by or a deposit placement program (as provided by statute) with a bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State of New York; (2) obligations of the United States of America; (3) obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America where the payment of principal and interest is guaranteed by the United States of America; (4) obligations of the State of New York; (5) obligations issued pursuant to Local Finance Law Sections 24.00 (tax anticipation notes) or 25.00 (revenue anticipation notes) with approval of the State Comptroller, by any municipality, school district or district corporation other than the School District; and (6) in the case of the School District moneys held in certain reserve funds established pursuant to law, obligations issued by the School District. These statutes further require that all bank deposits, in excess of the amount insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, be secured by a pledge of eligible securities, an eligible letter of credit or an eligible surety bond, as each such term is defined in the law, or satisfy the statutory requirements of the deposit placement program.

## **Form of School Government**

The legislative power of the School District is vested in the Board of Education (the "Board"). Each year an election is held within the School District to elect one or more members to the Board. The Board consists of seven members with overlapping three-year terms. Therefore, as nearly as practicable, an equal number of members is elected to the Board each year.

During the first 14 days in July of each year the Board meets for the purpose of reorganization. At that time, an election is held within the Board to elect a President and Vice President and to appoint other School District officials.

Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the President of the Board is the chief fiscal officer of the School District. However, certain of the financial management functions of the School District are the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and Business Manager.

## **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 2022-23 fiscal year was adopted by the qualified voters by a vote of 178 yes to 31 no. The School District's 2022-23 Budget remained within the School District Tax Cap imposed by Chapter 97.

The budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year was adopted by the qualified voters by a vote of 179 yes to 41 no. The School District's 2023-24 Budget remained within the School District Tax Cap imposed by Chapter 97.

The budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year will be presented to the qualified voters on May 21, 2024. If adopted, the School District's 2024-25 Budget will remain within the School District Tax Cap imposed by Chapter 97.

## **State Aid**

The District receives appropriations from the State. In its adopted budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year, approximately 69.05% of the revenues of the District are estimated to be received in the form of State aid. If the State should not adopt its budget in a timely manner, in any year, municipalities and school districts in the State, including the District, may be affected by a delay in the payment of State aid.

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.

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.

The amount of State aid to school districts is dependent in part upon the financial condition of 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. Since the 2010-11 State fiscal year, the State budget has been generally adopted on or before April 1, with the exception of the 2016-17 State budget which was not adopted until April 9, 2017, the 2023-24 State budget which was not adopted until May 3, 2023 and the 2024-25 State budget which was not adopted until April 20, 2024. 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 school districts in the State which could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State.

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.

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, 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.

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 \$2,139,311 in ARP funds and \$805,831 in CRRSA funds. As of June 30, 2023, the District has received \$270,805 in ARP funds and \$44,779 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 2017-2018 Budget increased State aid to education by \$1.1 billion, including a \$700 million increase in Foundation Aid, bringing the total amount of State aid to education to \$25.8 billion or an increase of 4.4%. Expense based aids to support school construction, pupil transportation, BOCES and special education were continued in full, as is the State's usual practice. Transportation aid increased by 5.5% and building aid increased by 4.8%. The State 2017-18 Budget continued to link school aid increases for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to teacher and principal evaluation plans approved by September 1 of the current year in compliance with Education Law Section 3012-d.

The State 2018-2019 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 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 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 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 2019-2020 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 million and \$409.65 million in reimbursements for expense-based aids. In addition, the 2019-2020 Budget increased the Community Schools set aside funding amount by \$49.99 million to a total of \$250 million. This increased funding is targeted to districts with failing schools and/or districts experiencing significant growth in English language learners. The 2019-2020 Budget increased the minimum community schools funding amount from \$75,000 to \$100,000. This ensured all high-need districts across the State applied the funds to a wide-range of activities.

The State's 2020- 2021 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 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 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. 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 Budget, an annual increase of approximately \$100 million or 0.4% from the 2019-2020 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 2021-22 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 included the use of \$13 billion of federal funds for emergency relief, along with the Governor's Emergency Education Relief, which included, 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 were allocated to expand full-day kindergarten programs. Under the budget, school districts were 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 received a full restoration of proposed cuts to Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding and a full restoration of \$10.3 million in proposed Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) aid cuts where applicable.

The State 2022-23 Budget provided \$31.5 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2022-23 school year. This represented an increase of \$2.1 billion or 7.2 percent compared to the 2021-22 school year and included a \$1.5 billion or 7.7 percent Foundation Aid increase. The State 2022-23 Budget also programmed \$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, was 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 Budget allocated \$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 2022-23 Budget increased 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.

The State's 2023-2024 Budget was enacted on May 3, 2023, and provided for a total of \$34 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2023-2024 school year. The State's 2023-2024 Budget represented a \$3.2 billion or 10.4% increase in State funding for education, and included a \$2.629, or 12.3% percent Foundation Aid.

The State's 2024-25 Enacted Budget provides \$35.9 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2024-25 school year, the highest level of State aid ever. This represents an increase of \$1.3 billion compared to the 2023-24 school year and includes a \$934 million or 3.89 percent Foundation Aid increase. The State's 2024-25 Enacted Budget maintains the "save harmless" provision, which currently ensures a school district receives at least the same amount of Foundation Aid as it received in the prior year. The State's 2024-25 Enacted Budget also authorizes a comprehensive study by the Rockefeller Institute and the State Department of Education to develop a modernized school funding formula.

**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 insofar 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 2022 Enacted State 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, cover 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 the 2023-24 fiscal years and proposed figures for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Fiscal Year	Total Revenues	Total State Aid	Percentage of Total Revenues Consisting of State Aid
2018-2019	\$ 16,837,941	\$ 11,041,051	65.57%
2019-2020	17,059,514	11,352,163	66.54
2020-2021	17,696,394	11,350,219	64.14
2021-2022	17,611,385	11,748,888	66.71
2022-2023	18,104,440	12,258,833	67.71
2023-2024 (Budgeted)	19,086,649	13,178,976	69.05
2024-2025 (Proposed Budget)	19,063,786	12,039,976	63.16

Source: Audited financial statements for the 2018-2019 fiscal year through the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the adopted budget of the District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and the proposed Budget for the 2024-25 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 OSC 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 them 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>
2023	No Designation	6.7
2022	No Designation	0.0
2021	No Designation	0.0
2020	No Designation	0.0
2019	No Designation	0.0

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.

### **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 West Canada Valley Central School District on June 11, 2021. The purpose of this audit was to determine whether West Canada Valley Central School District officials implemented adequate internal controls to ensure that non-payroll disbursement were authorized and proper.

### **Key Findings**

District officials did not implement adequate internal controls to ensure that non-payroll disbursements were authorized and proper.

- The Business Manager/Treasurer (Treasurer) did not control when her electronic signature was used by another employee to sign checks.
- The claims auditor did not approve medical, vision, and dental insurance claims totaling \$3.9 million.
- The Board did not develop an online banking policy or procedures to verify that transactions are proper.

### **Key Recommendations**

- The Treasurer should control when her electronic signature is applied to checks.
- The Board should ensure that all insurance claims are presented to the claims auditor for audit and approval prior to payment.
- The Board should develop an online banking policy.

A copy of the complete report and the District's response can be found by visiting the Audits of Local Governments section of the Office of the State Comptroller website:

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/local-government/audits/school-district/2021/06/11/west-canada-valley-central-school-district-non-payroll-disbursements>

There are no State Comptroller's audits of the District that are currently in progress or pending release.

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 Bonds 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>
Assessed Valuations:					
Fairfield	\$ 74,853,444	\$ 75,989,474	\$ 76,581,929	\$ 76,446,214	\$ 76,176,207
Herkimer	14,459,994	14,486,640	14,564,738	14,569,491	14,761,987
Manheim	578,429	568,984	572,046	567,965	588,149
Newport	106,854,210	107,649,080	108,583,724	108,608,734	110,087,843
Norway	26,303,733	26,760,060	27,302,682	27,495,925	27,568,127
Schuyler	28,775,221	28,796,002	28,814,610	29,120,481	30,239,581
Deerfield	<u>413,240</u>	<u>414,875</u>	<u>443,016</u>	<u>447,056</u>	<u>448,738</u>
Total	<u>\$ 252,238,271</u>	<u>\$ 254,665,115</u>	<u>\$ 256,862,745</u>	<u>\$ 257,255,866</u>	<u>\$ 259,870,632</u>

Equalization Rates:

Fairfield	76.00%	75.00%	74.00%	67.00%	56.00%
Herkimer	90.50%	90.50%	86.50%	79.00%	68.00%
Manheim	67.00%	66.00%	64.50%	61.00%	56.00%
Newport	100.50%	99.50%	94.20%	80.00%	67.00%
Norway	68.20%	67.90%	63.00%	55.75%	49.00%
Schuyler	83.00%	81.30%	78.90%	73.75%	58.75%
Deerfield	14.00%	13.10%	12.50%	10.85%	9.45%

Full Valuations:

Fairfield	\$ 98,491,374	\$ 101,319,299	\$ 103,489,093	\$ 114,098,827	\$ 136,028,941
Herkimer	15,977,894	16,007,337	16,837,847	18,442,394	21,708,804
Manheim	863,327	862,097	886,893	931,090	1,050,266
Newport	106,322,597	108,190,030	115,269,346	135,760,918	164,310,213
Norway	38,568,523	39,410,987	43,337,590	49,320,045	56,261,484
Schuyler	34,668,941	35,419,437	36,520,418	39,485,398	51,471,627
Deerfield	<u>2,951,714</u>	<u>3,166,985</u>	<u>3,544,128</u>	<u>4,120,332</u>	<u>4,748,550</u>
Total	<u>\$ 297,844,370</u>	<u>\$ 304,376,171</u>	<u>\$ 319,885,316</u>	<u>\$ 362,159,003</u>	<u>\$ 435,579,886</u>

Valuations Based on Regular Equalizations Ratios

### 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>
Fairfield	\$	22.48	\$ 22.51	\$ 21.71	\$ 21.18	\$ 21.49
Herkimer		18.88	18.66	18.57	17.96	17.70
Manheim		25.50	25.58	24.91	23.26	21.49
Newport		17.00	16.97	17.06	17.74	17.96
Norway		25.05	24.87	25.50	25.45	24.56
Schuyler		20.58	20.77	20.36	19.24	20.48
Deerfield		122.03	128.89	128.53	130.79	127.35

### Tax Collection Procedure

School taxes are due September 1. If paid by September 30, no penalty is imposed. There is a 2% penalty if paid by the end of October. On November 15, a list of all unpaid taxes is given to the Counties to be re-levied on County/Town tax rolls. The School District is reimbursed by the Counties for all unpaid taxes the first week of April in 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	\$5,182,472	\$5,233,357	\$5,233,357	\$5,233,357	\$5,356,143
Less STAR Reimbursement	791,687	778,136	743,480	702,924	671,323
Adjustments	-316	-2,050	0	0	0
Total Taxes to be Collected	4,390,469	4,453,171	4,489,877	4,550,433	4,684,820
Taxes Collected Prior to Return to County	3,886,687	3,968,714	4,050,541	4,135,715	4,237,137
Returned to County	\$503,782	\$484,457	\$439,336	\$414,718	\$447,683
% Collected Prior to Return	88.53%	89.12%	90.21%	90.89%	90.44%

Note: \* Collection information is as of 12/11/2023.



## Real Property Tax Revenues

The following table illustrates the percentage of total revenues of the District for each of the below fiscal years, budgeted figures for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and proposed figures for the 2024-2025 fiscal year 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	\$ 16,837,941	\$ 4,162,233	24.72%
2019-2020	17,059,514	4,296,785	25.19
2020-2021	17,696,394	4,359,171	24.63
2021-2022	17,611,385	4,395,877	24.96
2022-2023	18,104,440	4,436,432	24.50
2023-2024 (Budgeted)	19,086,649	5,242,144	27.46
2024-2025 (Proposed Budget)	19,063,786	5,346,987	28.05

Source: Audited financial statements for the 2018-2019 fiscal year through 2022-2023 fiscal year, the adopted budget of the District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and the proposed Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. This table is not audited.

## Major Taxpayers 2023

### For 2023-24 Tax Roll

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Full Value</u>
Iroquois Gas Co	Utility	\$10,136,998
National Grid	Utility	6,058,305
Newport Telephone	Utility	2,575,602
Herkimer Diamond Mines	Campground	1,982,800
City of Little Falls	Watershed	1,367,600
WKTU	Television station	1,200,000
Thomas DeVries	Residence	799,650
Stephen Sloan	Residence	745,800
Agree Shelf PA, LLC	Retail	800,000
Newport Housing	Apartments	744,130
Total		<u>\$26,410,885</u>

1. The above taxpayers represent 6.06% of the School District's 2023-24 full value of \$435,579,886.

## 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 and \$98,700 or less in 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 and the first \$84,000 for the 2024-25 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 2019-20 State 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 State Budget included a provision that provides 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 2022-23 State 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 modifies 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.

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 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."

On February 20, 2013, the New York State United Teachers ("NYSUT") and several individuals filed a lawsuit in State Supreme Court seeking a declaratory judgment and a preliminary injunction that the Tax Levy Limitation Law is unconstitutional as it applies to public school districts. On September 23, 2014, a Justice of the State Supreme Court dismissed each of NYSUT's causes of action but granted NYSUT's motion to amend the complaint. After the ruling, NYSUT amended its complaint to include a challenge to the Real Property Tax Rebate, also on Federal and State constitutional grounds. On March 16, 2015, all causes of action contained in the amended complaint were dismissed. On May 5, 2016, the dismissal was upheld by the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department to dismiss the complaint. An additional appeal by NYSUT was dismissed on October 20, 2016 by the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court, on the grounds that no substantial constitutional question was directly involved, and thereafter, leave to appeal was denied on January 14, 2017 by the Court of Appeals.

## **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 Bonds.

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) Such obligations are authorized for a purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or
- (2) There has not been substantial compliance with the provisions of law which should have been complied within the authorization of such obligations and an action contesting such validity, is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication or,
- (3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

The Board of Education, 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 2 years from the date of the first issuance of such notes and provided that such renewal issues do not exceed 5 years beyond the original date of borrowing.

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.

### Status of Indebtedness

#### Debt Outstanding End of Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Serial Bonds	\$ 11,760,000	\$ 10,630,000	\$ 9,459,339	\$ 8,273,505	\$ 7,075,992
Bond Anticipation Notes	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,811,458</u>
Total Debt Outstanding	\$ 11,760,000	\$ 10,630,000	\$ 9,459,339	\$ 8,273,505	\$ 11,887,450

#### Status of Outstanding Bond Issues

Year of Issue	2018		2018	
Amount Issued:	\$280,000		\$7,039,381	
Purpose:	Buses		Building	
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2024	\$ 60,000*	\$ 825	\$ 430,000	\$ 151,175
2025	-	-	445,000	138,275
2026	-	-	460,000	124,925
2027	-	-	475,000	111,125
2028	-	-	490,000	96,875
2029	-	-	510,000	82,175
2030	-	-	525,000	66,875
2031	-	-	540,000	51,125
2032	-	-	560,000	34,925
2033	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>580,000</u>	<u>18,125</u>
	\$ 60,000	\$ 825	\$ 5,015,000	\$ 875,600

\*Principal Reduction Payment has already been made.

Year of Issue:	2019		2020	
Amount Issued:	\$285,000		\$314,339	
Purpose:	Buses		Buses	
Fiscal Year				
Ending June	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
30:				
2024	\$ 60,000*	\$ 1,575	\$ 65,000*	\$ 1,859
2025	60,000	525	65,000	1,242
2026	-	-	65,000	458
Totals:	\$ 120,000	\$ 2,100	\$ 195,000	\$ 3,559

Year of Issue:	2020		2021	
Amount Issued:	\$3,520,000		\$298,505	
Purpose/Instrument:	Refunding		Buses	
Fiscal Year				
Ending June	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
30:				
2024	\$ 450,000	\$ 30,688	\$ 60,000*	\$ 2,050
2025	450,000	25,063	60,000	1,450
2026	235,000	9,400	60,000	850
2027	-	-	55,000	275
Totals:	\$ 1,135,000	\$ 65,151	\$ 235,000	\$ 4,625

Year of Issue:	2022		2023	
Amount Issued:	\$315,992		\$435,491	
Purpose/Instrument:	Buses		Buses	
Fiscal Year				
Ending June	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
30:				
2024	\$ 60,992*	14,590	\$ -	\$ -
2025	60,000	7,519	85,491	25,908
2026	65,000	5,525	85,000	13,181
2027	65,000	3,372	85,000	9,569
2028	65,000	1,138	90,000	5,850
2029	-	-	90,000	1,969
Totals:	\$ 315,992	\$ 32,144	\$ 435,491	\$ 56,476

\*Principal Reduction Payment has already been made.

### 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	\$ 1,185,992	\$ 202,762	\$ 1,388,754	16.24%
2025	1,225,491	199,981	1,425,472	32.91%
2026	970,000	154,340	1,124,340	46.05%
2027	680,000	124,341	804,341	55.46%
2028	645,000	103,863	748,863	64.22%
2029	600,000	84,144	684,144	72.22%
2030	525,000	66,875	591,875	79.14%
2031	540,000	51,125	591,125	86.05%
2032	560,000	34,925	594,925	93.01%
2033	<u>580,000</u>	<u>18,125</u>	<u>598,125</u>	100.00%
Totals:	\$ 7,511,483	\$1,040,480	\$ 8,551,963	

### Schedule of Principal Payments Outstanding & Proposed Bonds

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	<u>Prior Issues</u>	<u>This issue</u>	<u>Total Maturing Principal</u>	<u>Year-End Outstanding Principal</u>
2024	\$ 1,185,992	\$ -	\$ 1,185,992	\$ 11,241,949
2025	1,225,491	246,458	1,471,949	9,770,000
2026	970,000	255,000	1,225,000	8,545,000
2027	680,000	280,000	960,000	7,585,000
2028	645,000	285,000	930,000	6,655,000
2029	600,000	290,000	890,000	5,765,000
2030	525,000	300,000	825,000	4,940,000
2031	540,000	310,000	850,000	4,090,000
2032	560,000	320,000	880,000	3,210,000
2033	580,000	330,000	910,000	2,300,000
2034	-	350,000	350,000	1,950,000
2035	-	365,000	365,000	1,585,000
2036	-	380,000	380,000	1,205,000
2037	-	390,000	390,000	815,000
2038	-	405,000	405,000	410,000
2039	-	410,000	410,000	-
Totals:	\$ 7,511,483	\$ 4,916,458	\$ 12,427,941	

### Status of Short-Term Indebtedness

<u>Type</u>	<u>Dated Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>
BAN*	6/21/2023	6/21/2024	3.85%	\$4,811,458

\*To be paid using proceeds of this bond issuance.

## **Cash Flow Borrowings**

The School District does not expect to issue Revenue Anticipation Notes or Tax Anticipation Notes in the current fiscal year.

## **Capital Project Plans**

The District voters approved a \$4,916,458 Capital Project on November 9, 2021. The project will consist of improvements to security and safety, repairs and improvements to critical infrastructure. Areas of focus will be the Auditorium, Gymnasium, Pool, Domestic Water System, PA/Phone system and Mechanical upgrades and Air Quality. Construction began in the Spring of 2023 and was completed by February 2024. The District issued a \$4,811,458 Bond Anticipation Note on June 21, 2023 to finance the project.

The District voters approved a \$4,000,000 capital project on May 16, 2023. The project will consist of athletic field improvements including such items as a multipurpose synthetic turf field, sports field lighting, elevated bleachers, stormwater improvements and minor building work. The District received a donation of \$500,000 towards the cost of the project. The first issuance of debt to finance the project is anticipated in July 2024.

## **School Bus Borrowings**

The voters of the District will be presented with a proposition on May 21, 2024 to approve the issuance of not to exceed \$473,285 of the obligations to finance the acquisition of three (3) large school buses and one (1) wheelchair bus, at a cost not to exceed \$602,285. The District typically borrows annually in September for the purchase of buses. The District issues 5-year bonds to finance the bus purchases.

## **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 91.4%

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 May 15, 2024

<u>Town</u>	<u>Taxable Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>State Equalization</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Taxable Full Valuation</u>
Fairfield	\$ 76,176,207	56.00%	\$ 136,028,941
Herkimer	14,761,987	68.00%	21,708,804
Manheim	588,149	56.00%	1,050,266
Newport	110,087,843	67.00%	164,310,213
Norway	27,568,127	49.00%	56,261,484
Schuyler	30,239,581	58.75%	51,471,627
Deerfield	448,738	9.45%	4,748,550
Total			<u>\$ 435,579,886</u>
Debt Limit: 10% of Full Valuation			\$ 43,557,989
Inclusions:			
Serial Bonds			\$ 7,205,491
Bond Anticipation Notes			4,811,458
Total Inclusions:			<u>\$ 12,016,949</u>
Exclusions:			
Building Aid Estimate <sup>1</sup>			<u>\$0</u>
Total Exclusions:			<u>\$0</u>
Total Net Indebtedness Before Giving Effect to This Issue:			\$ 12,016,949
New Money This Issue:			<u>105,000</u>
Total Net Indebtedness After Giving Effect to This Issue:			<u>\$ 12,121,949</u>
Net Debt Contracting Margin			\$ 31,436,040
Percentage of Debt-Contracting Power Exhausted			27.83%

Notes:

1. The calculation of such indebtedness has not been taken into account any deductions therefrom of any apportionment of State Aid for debt service for the School District purposed for which the District may be entitled. Since the gross indebtedness of the District is within its constitutional debt limit, the District is not required to apply for a Building Aid Estimate from the State Department of Education. The District anticipates the receipt of 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>
Herkimer County	<u>\$ 430,831,336</u> \$5,417,023,619	7.95%	\$16,651,343	N/A	\$16,651,343	\$ 1,324,329
Oneida County	<u>\$ 4,748,550</u> \$12,891,950,691	0.04%	469,982,727	N/A	469,982,727	173,111
Town of Fairfield	<u>\$ 136,028,941</u> \$ 136,028,941	100.00%	-	N/A	-	-
Town of Herkimer	<u>\$ 21,708,804</u> \$ 410,155,751	5.29%	733,379	N/A	733,379	38,816
Town of Manheim	<u>\$ 1,050,266</u> \$ 188,111,343	0.56%	155,000	N/A	155,000	865
Town of Newport	<u>\$ 164,310,213</u> \$ 164,310,213	100.00%	270,000	N/A	270,000	270,000
Town of Norway	<u>\$ 56,261,484</u> \$ 60,005,917	93.76%	-	N/A	-	-
Town of Schuyler	<u>\$ 51,471,627</u> \$ 199,589,010	25.79%	149,806	N/A	149,806	38,633
Town of Deerfield	<u>\$ 4,748,550</u> \$ 344,486,040	1.38%	3,589,500	N/A	3,589,500	49,479
Village of Middleville	<u>\$ 20,876,676</u> \$ 20,876,676	100.00%	-	N/A	-	-
Village of Newport	<u>\$ 25,564,098</u> \$ 25,564,098	100.00%	605,668	N/A	605,668	<u>605,668</u>
<b>Total</b>						<u><u>\$ 2,500,902</u></u>

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

Notes: <sup>1</sup> 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 May 15, 2024:

	Amount	Per Capita (a)	Percentage of Full Value (b)
Net Indebtedness	\$ 12,121,949	\$ 2,760.64	2.783%
Net Indebtedness Plus Net Overlapping Indebtedness	\$ 14,622,851	\$ 3,330.19	3.357%

(a) The District's estimated population is 4,391. (Source: 2022 U.S. Census Bureau estimate)

(b) The District's full valuation of taxable real estate for 2023-24 is \$435,579,886.

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

## SPECIAL PROVISIONS AFFECTING REMEDIES UPON DEFAULT

In the event of a default in the payment of the principal of and/or interest on the Bonds, the State Comptroller is required to withhold, under certain conditions prescribed by Section 99-b of the State Finance Law, state aid and assistance to the School District and to apply the amount thereof so withheld to the payment of such defaulted principal and/or interest, which requirement constitutes a covenant by the State with the holders from time to time of the Bonds. The covenant between the State of New York 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, or amend or modify the same so as to limit, impair or impede the rights and remedies granted thereby.

Said 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 said Section 99-b.

**General Municipal Law Contract Creditors' Provision.** Each Bond when duly issued and paid for will constitute a contract between the School District and the holder thereof. Under current law, provision is made for contract creditors of the School District to enforce payments upon such contracts, if necessary, through court action. Section 3-a of the General Municipal Law provides, subject to exceptions not pertinent, that the rate of interest to be paid by the School District upon any judgement or accrued claim against it on an amount adjudged due to a creditor shall not exceed nine per centum per annum from the date due to the date of payment. This provision might be construed to have application to the holders of the Bonds in the event of a default in the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds.

**Execution/Attachment of Municipal Property.** 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 certain funds or the District may not be enforced to levy and execution against property owned by the School District.

**Authority to File for Municipal Bankruptcy.** The Federal Bankruptcy Code allows public bodies, such as municipalities, 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.

**Constitutional Non-Appropriation Provision.** There is in the Constitution of the State, Article VII, Section 2, the following provision relating to the annual appropriation of monies for the payment of due principal of an interest on indebtedness of every county, city, town, village and school district in the State: "If at any time the respective appropriating authorities shall fail to make such appropriations, a sufficient sum shall be set apart from the first revenues thereafter received and shall be applied to such purposes. The Fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village or school district may be required to set aside and apply such revenues as aforesaid at the suit of any holder of obligations issued for any such indebtedness." This constitutes a specific non-exclusive constitutional remedy against a defaulting municipality or school district; however, it does not apply in a context in which monies have been appropriated for debt service, but the appropriating authorities decline to use such monies to pay debt service. However, Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State also provides that the fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village or school district may be required to set apart and apply such revenues at the suit of any holder of any obligations of indebtedness issued with the pledge of the faith of the credit of such political subdivision.

The Constitutional provision providing for first revenue set asides does not apply to tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes or bond anticipation notes.

**Default Litigation.** In prior years, certain events and legislation affecting a holder's remedies upon default have resulted in litigation. While courts of final jurisdiction have upheld and sustained the rights of bondholders, such courts might hold that future events including financial crises as they may occur in the State and in political subdivisions of the State require the exercise by the State or its political subdivisions of emergency and police powers to assure the continuations of essential public services prior to the payment of debt service.

**No Past Due Debt.** No principal of or interest on School District indebtedness is past due. The School has never defaulted in the payment of the principal of and interest on any indebtedness.

## **MARKET AND RISK FACTORS**

There are various forms of risk associated with investing in the Bonds. The following is a discussion of certain events that could affect the risk of investing in the Bonds. In addition to the events cited herein, there are other potential risk factors that an 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.

The financial and economic condition of the District as well as the market for the Bonds 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 and in other jurisdictions in the country, including for example, the seeking by a municipality or large taxable property owner of remedies pursuant to the Federal Bankruptcy Code or otherwise, will not occur which might affect the market price of and the market for the Bonds. 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 Bonds, could be adversely affected.

The District relies in part on State aid to fund its operations. There can be no assurance that the State appropriations for State aid to school districts will be continued in futures years, either pursuant to existing formulas or in any form whatsoever. State aid appropriated and apportioned to the District can be paid only if the State has such monies available, therefore. The availability of such monies and the timelines of such payments may also be affected by a delay in the adoption of the State budget and other circumstances, including state fiscal stress. In any event, State aid appropriated and apportioned to the District can be paid only if the State has such monies available, therefore.

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 reduction in State aid, the District is authorized by the Local Finance Law to provide operating funds by borrowing on account of the uncollected State aid.

The enactment of the Tax Levy Limitation Law, which imposes a tax levy limitation upon municipalities, school districts and fire districts in the State, including the School District, could have an impact upon the market price of the Bonds.

Current and future legislative proposals, if enacted into law, or clarification of the Code or court decisions may cause interest on the Bonds to be subject, directly or indirectly, to federal income taxation or to be subject to or exempted from state income taxation, or otherwise prevent the beneficial owners of the Bonds from realizing the full current benefit of the tax status of such interest. No assurance can be given that pending or future legislation or amendments to the Code, if enacted into law, or any proposed legislation or amendments to the Code, will not adversely affect the value of the Bonds, or tax status of interest on the Bonds.

### **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**

Since early calendar year 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a notable impact on the School District and the world. With the conclusion of public health emergency statutes by the United States government and the World

Health Organization in May 2023, it is expected that the pandemic's most notable impacts are in the past. However, a resurgence of COVID-19 or the emergence of a new pandemic or public health emergency could have a material adverse effect on the State, the municipalities and the school districts located in the State. To date, the School District has received significant funding from federal stimulus packages and reinstatement of State Foundation Aid, however the additional federal funding is anticipated to cease after the 2023-24 fiscal year. There can be no assurances that a resurgence of COVID-19 or the emergence of a new pandemic or public health emergency would not result in delays and/or reductions in State aid paid to school districts, including the School District, or that such delays and/or reductions would be sufficiently counterbalanced by federal aid. Any delay or reduction in State aid payments to the School District would have a negative impact on the School District's finances and operations. See "State Aid" herein.

## **TAX MATTERS**

In the opinion of Barclay Damon LLP, Bond Counsel to the School District, under existing law, and assuming compliance with the certain covenants described herein and the accuracy and completeness of certain representations, certifications of fact and statements of reasonable expectations made by the School District, interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Bond Counsel is further of the opinion that interest on the Bonds is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the alternative minimum tax imposed under the Code, however, interest on the Bonds that is included in the "adjusted financial statement income" of certain corporations is not excluded from the corporate alternative minimum tax under the Code. Bond Counsel also is of the opinion that, under existing law, interest on the Bonds is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof (including The City of New York).

In rendering the foregoing opinions, Bond Counsel noted that exclusion of the interest on the Bonds from gross income for federal income tax purposes is dependent, among other things, on compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code that must be met subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the Bonds for interest thereon to be and remain excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. Non-compliance with such requirements could cause the interest on the Bonds to be included in gross income retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. Those requirements include, but are not limited to, provisions that prescribe yield and other limits within which the proceeds of the Bonds are to be invested and require, under certain circumstances, that certain investment earnings on the foregoing to be rebated on a periodic basis to the Treasury Department of the United States of America. The District will covenant in the Tax Certificates as to Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds and Instructions as to Compliance with Provisions of Section 103(a) of the Code, that, to maintain the Code, and for no other purpose, the District shall comply with each applicable provision of the Code.

The Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005, enacted on May 17, 2006, contains a provision under which interest paid on tax-exempt obligations will be subject to information reporting in a manner similar to interest paid on taxable obligations. Although the new reporting requirement does not, in and of itself, affect the excludability of such interest from gross income for federal income tax purposes, the reporting requirement causes the payment of interest on the Bonds to be subject to backup withholding if such interest is paid to registered owners who either (a) fail to provide certain identifying information (such as the registered owner's taxpayer identification number) in the required manner or (b) have been identified by the IRS as having failed to report all interest and dividends required to be shown on their income tax returns. Amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to beneficial owner would be allowed as a refund or a credit against such beneficial owner's federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the IRS.

Bond Counsel also has advised that (1) with respect to certain insurance companies, the Code reduces the deduction for loss reserves for a portion of the sum of certain items, including interest on the Bonds; (2) interest on the Bonds earned by certain foreign corporations doing business in the United States could be subject to a branch profits tax imposed by the Code; (3) passive investment income, including interest on the Bonds, may be subject to federal income taxation under the Code for certain Subchapter S corporations that have certain earnings and profits; (4) the Code requires recipients of certain Social Security and certain Railroad Retirement benefits to take into account, in the determining the taxability of such benefits, receipts or accruals of interest on the Bonds; and (5) under the Code, receipt of investment income, including interest on the Bonds, may disqualify the recipient thereof from obtaining the earned income tax credit.

Certain maturities of the Bonds (the “Discount Bonds”) may be sold to the initial purchasers at prices less than the stated principal amounts thereof. The difference between the stated principal amount of the Discount Bonds and the initial offering price to the public (excluding bond houses, brokers, or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters or wholesalers) at which price a substantial amount of such Discount Bonds of the same maturity were sold constitutes original issue discount that is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes to the same extent as interest on the Bonds. Further, such original issue discount accrues actuarially on a constant yield basis over the term of each Discount Bond and the basis of such Discount Bond acquired at such initial offering price by an initial purchaser of each Discount Bond will be increased by the amount of such accrued discount.

Certain maturities of the Bonds (the “Premium Bonds”) may be sold to the initial purchasers at prices greater than the stated principal amount thereof. The Premium Bonds will be subject to requirements under the Code relating to tax cost reduction associated with the amortization of bond premium and, under certain circumstances, the initial owner of a Premium Bond may realize taxable gain upon disposition of Premium Bonds even though sold or redeemed for an amount less than or equal to such owner’s original cost of acquiring Premium Bonds. The amortization requirements may also result in the reduction of the amount of stated interest that an owner of Premium Bonds is treated as having received for federal tax purposes (and an adjustment to basis). Owners of Premium Bonds are advised to consult with their own tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences of owning such Premium Bonds.

A Bondholder’s federal, state and local tax liability may otherwise be affected by the ownership or disposition of the Bonds. The nature and extent of these other consequences will depend upon the Bondholder’s other item of income or deduction. Bond Counsel has expressed no opinion regarding any such tax consequences. Each purchaser of the Bonds should consult its tax advisor regarding the impact of the foregoing and other provisions of the Code on its individual tax position.

**The Bonds will be designated or deemed designated as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.**

The opinion of Bond Counsel set forth above with respect to the federal income tax treatment of interest paid on the Bonds is based upon the current provisions of the Code. Tax legislation, administrative actions taken by tax authorities and court decisions, whether at the federal or state level, may adversely affect the tax-exempt status of interest on the Bonds under federal or state law and could affect the market price for, or the marketability of, the Bonds. Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should consult their own tax advisers regarding the foregoing matters. Bond Counsel has not undertaken to advise.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The legality of the authorization and issuance of the Bonds will be covered by the unqualified legal opinions of Barclay Damon LLP, Albany, New York, Bond Counsel, each to the effect that the Bonds as the case may be, are valid and legally binding obligations of the District, that all the taxable real property therein will be subject to the levy of ad valorem taxes to pay the Bonds and the interest thereon without limitations as to rate or amount, the interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purpose of the federal alternative minimum tax and that interest on the Bonds is exempt from personal income taxes imposed on individuals, however, interest on the Bonds that is included in the “adjusted financial statement income” of certain corporations is not excluded from the corporate alternative minimum tax under the Code, and that interest on the Bonds is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by New York State or any political subdivision thereof, including The City of New York. The opinion set forth in the preceding sentence is subject to the condition that the District comply with all requirements of the Code that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order that interest thereon be, or continue to be, excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The District will covenant to comply with all such requirements. Failure to comply with all such requirements may cause interest of the Bonds to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. Such opinion will state that (a) the rights of the owners of the Bonds and the enforceability of the Bonds may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors’ rights generally and by equitable principles, whether considered at law or in equity; (b) Bond Counsel expresses no opinion as to the accuracy,

adequacy, or completeness of the Official Statement relating to the Bonds; and (c) such opinion is given as of its dated date and that Bond Counsel assumes no obligation to update or supplement their opinion to reflect any facts or circumstance that may thereafter come to their attention or any changes in law that may occur thereafter.

The proposed form of such opinion is attached hereto as Appendix C.

## **CONTINUING DISCLOSURE COMPLIANCE**

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 15c2-12, as the same may be amended or officially interpreted from time to time (the "Rule"), promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the School District will enter into an Undertaking to provide Continuing Disclosure, the description of which is attached hereto as "Appendix D".

The District is in compliance, in all material respects, within the last five years with all previous undertakings made pursuant to the Rule 15c2-12.

## **LITIGATION**

The School District is subject to a number of lawsuits in the ordinary conduct of its affairs. The School District does not believe, however, that such suits, individually or in the aggregate, are likely to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the School District.

## **BOND RATING**

S&P Global Ratings, a business unit of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC (S&P) has assigned its bond rating of "AA" to the Bonds, based upon the issuance by Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp. ("AGM") of its standard form of Municipal Bond Insurance Policy at the time of delivery.

The significance of the AGM policy as well as its terms and conditions can be obtained from AGM. See "Appendix E – Bond Insurance and Specimen Municipal Bond Insurance Policy" herein.

S&P has assigned an underlying rating of "A+" to the district in connection to this issuance.

No application will be made to any other rating agency for the purpose of obtaining an additional rating on the Bonds. A rating reflects only the view of the rating agency assigning such rating. Any desired explanation of the significance of such rating should be obtained from S&P, Public Finance Ratings, 55 Water Street, 38<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10041, Phone: (212) 438-2118.

Generally, ratings 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 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 Bonds. The advice on the plan of financing and the structuring of the Bonds 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. The fees to be paid by the District to the Municipal Advisor are partially contingent on the successful closing of the Bonds.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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 Bonds.

Statements in the Official Statement and the documents included by specific reference, that are not historical facts are “forward-looking statements”, within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which involve a number of risks and uncertainties, and which are based on the District management’s beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, the District’s management and staff. Because the statements are based on expectations about future events and economic performance and are not statements of fact, actual results may differ materially from those projected. Important factors that could cause future results to differ include legislative and regulatory changes, changes in the economy, and other factors discussed in this and other documents that the District’s files with the repositories. When used in District document or oral presentation, the words “anticipate”, “believe”, “intend”, “plan”, “foresee”, “likely”, “estimate”, “expect”, “objective”, “projection”, “forecast”, “goal”, “will”, or “should”, or similar words or phrases are intended to identify forward looking statements.

To the extent 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 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 holder of the Bonds.

Barclay Damon LLP, Bond Counsel to the District expresses no opinion as to the accuracy or completeness of information in any document prepared by or on behalf of the District for use in connection with the offer and sale of the Bonds, including but not limited to, the financial or statistical information in this Official Statement.

### **Underwriter**

The Bonds have been sold at public sale by the Issuer to TD Securities (USA) LLC, New York, New York (the “Underwriter”) on the basis of lowest true interest cost. Three bids were received by the Issuer. The Underwriter has agreed, subject to certain conditions, to purchase the Bonds at a price equal to the principal amount of the Bonds, plus a net premium of \$141,158.15, less an underwriting discount of \$47,377.74.

Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp. (“AGM”) makes no representation regarding the Bonds or the advisability of investing in the Bonds. In addition, AGM has not independently verified, makes no representation regarding, and does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this Official Statement or any information or disclosure contained herein, or omitted herefrom, other than with respect to the accuracy of the information regarding AGM supplied by AGM and presented in “Appendix E – Bond Insurance and Specimen Municipal Bond Insurance Policy”.

References herein to the Constitution of the State and various State and federal laws are only brief outlines of certain provisions thereof and do purport to summarize or describe all of such provisions.

Concurrently with the delivery of the Bonds, 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 herein, in the light of the circumstance under which they were made, not misleading, subject to limitation as to information in the Official Statement obtained from sources other than the District, as to which no representation can be made.

The Official Statement is submitted only in connection with the sale of the Bonds by the District and may not be reproduced or used in whole or in part for any other purpose.

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 damage caused by viruses in the electronic files on the website.

The School District's contact information is as follows: Kelley Crossett, Business Manager/Treasurer, Phone (315) 845-6800 ext. 3384, email: [kcrossett@westcanada.org](mailto:kcrossett@westcanada.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 or at [www.RGTimbsInc.net](http://www.RGTimbsInc.net).

**West Canada Valley Central School District**

**Dated: May 29, 2024**  
**Newport, New York**

**/s/ Jessica Bartlett**  
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	\$3,038,919	\$3,638,467	\$4,088,555	\$4,722,545	\$4,940,349	\$4,407,324
<u>Revenues:</u>						
Real Property Taxes	\$4,162,233	\$4,296,785	\$4,359,171	\$4,395,877	\$4,436,432	\$5,242,144
Other Tax Items	1,159,425	1,107,135	1,090,177	1,060,892	1,033,534	338,681
Charges for Services	5,403	4,310	13	2,655	3,140	69,500
Use of Money & Property	16,443	14,958	4,508	3,721	41,813	10,348
Sale of Property/Comp. for Loss	741	18,141	261	750	10,318	4,000
Miscellaneous	303,006	117,010	632,800	317,506	252,040	150,000
State Aid	11,041,051	11,352,163	11,350,219	11,748,888	12,258,833	13,178,976
Federal Aid	82,098	144,465	257,657	78,901	62,513	48,000
Interfund Transfers	<u>67,541</u>	<u>4,547</u>	<u>1,588</u>	<u>2,195</u>	<u>5,817</u>	<u>45,000</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$16,837,941</u>	<u>\$17,059,514</u>	<u>\$17,696,394</u>	<u>\$17,611,385</u>	<u>\$18,104,440</u>	<u>\$19,086,649</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>						
General Support	\$2,101,386	\$1,989,009	\$2,043,342	\$2,259,713	\$2,502,708	\$3,778,611
Instruction	7,289,282	7,739,474	7,651,594	7,662,351	8,162,986	9,033,373
Transportation	867,181	830,757	839,417	976,019	1,120,830	1,258,585
Employee Benefits	4,178,511	4,245,439	4,731,421	4,658,374	4,882,700	5,517,903
Debt Service	1,767,868	1,765,767	1,734,505	1,800,117	1,766,323	1,538,755
Interfund Transfer	<u>55,651</u>	<u>39,346</u>	<u>62,125</u>	<u>37,007</u>	<u>97,029</u>	<u>85,204</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$16,259,879</u>	<u>\$16,609,792</u>	<u>\$17,062,404</u>	<u>\$17,393,581</u>	<u>\$18,532,576</u>	<u>\$21,212,431</u>
Adjustments	21,486	366	0	0	(104,889)	0
Year End Fund Balance	\$3,638,467	\$4,088,555	\$4,722,545	\$4,940,349	\$4,407,324	\$2,281,542 <sup>E</sup>
Excess (Deficit) Revenues Over Expenditures	\$578,062	\$449,722	\$633,990	\$217,804	(\$428,136) <sup>E</sup>	(\$2,125,782) <sup>E</sup>

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

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

2. Other Change to Fund Balance

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:					
Unrestricted Cash	\$2,241,907	\$2,475,044	\$3,298,584	\$3,512,362	\$2,815,183
Restricted	935,003	935,190	935,378	935,565	935,753
Other Receivables	668	927	927	715	0
Due from Other Funds	372,132	514,575	660,729	522,238	565,495
Due from State & Federal	714,816	695,972	766,004	693,575	858,018
Due from Fiduciary Funds	<u>56</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$4,264,582</u>	<u>\$4,621,770</u>	<u>\$5,661,622</u>	<u>\$5,664,455</u>	<u>\$5,174,449</u>
Liabilities:					
Accounts Payable	\$14,218	\$6,650	\$287,650	\$22,782	\$21,278
Accrued Liabilities	5,976	347	19,696	22,680	21,571
Notes Payable:					
Revenue Anticipation Notes	0	0	0	0	0
Due to Other Funds	30,736	37,749	52,066	41,326	52,529
Due to Retirement Systems	575,185	487,085	578,281	637,318	671,747
Deferred Revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>1,384</u>	<u>1,384</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities:	<u>\$626,115</u>	<u>\$533,215</u>	<u>\$939,077</u>	<u>\$724,106</u>	<u>\$767,125</u>
Fund Balances:					
Restricted	935,003	935,190	935,378	935,565	935,753
Assigned:					
Encumbrances	0	0	0	0	0
Appropriated Fund Balance	1,038,654	1,448,206	1,201,614	1,860,185	2,133,618
Unassigned:					
Unappropriated Fund Balance	<u>1,664,810</u>	<u>1,705,159</u>	<u>2,585,553</u>	<u>2,144,599</u>	<u>1,337,953</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$3,638,467</u>	<u>\$4,088,555</u>	<u>\$4,722,545</u>	<u>\$4,940,349</u>	<u>\$4,407,324</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$4,264,582</u>	<u>\$4,621,770</u>	<u>\$5,661,622</u>	<u>\$5,664,455</u>	<u>\$5,174,449</u>

Source: Audited 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.*

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AND  
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES**

**JUNE 30, 2023**

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the President and the Other Members  
of the Board of Education of the  
West Canada Valley Central School District  
Newport, New York

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the West Canada Valley 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 present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***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***

The District's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, 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 twelve months 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 for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

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

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information, schedule of funding progress – changes in total other post-employment benefits liability and related ratios, and schedule of local government's proportionate share of the net pension liability and contributions on pages 4 through 12 and 47 through 51 be presented to supplement the basic 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 basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, 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 basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic 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 introductory section, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, and statistical section, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The supplementary information on pages 52 through 54 is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory section has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

### ***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 11, 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, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of 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.

*WEST & COMPANY CPAs PC*

Gloversville, New York  
September 11, 2023

# WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

### FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

The following is a discussion and analysis of the School District's financial performance for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. This section is a summary of the School District's financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions or conditions. It is also based on both the government-wide and fund-based financial statements. The results of the current year are discussed in comparison with the prior year, with an emphasis placed on the current year. This section is only an introduction and should be read in conjunction with the School District's financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
Net position (deficiency) of the District at year end	<u>\$ (31,272,542)</u>	<u>\$ (29,990,232)</u>	<u>\$ (1,282,310)</u>
General Fund fund balance	<u>\$ 4,407,324</u>	<u>\$ 4,940,349</u>	<u>\$ (533,025)</u>
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Resources available for appropriation	<u>\$ 17,829,990</u>	<u>\$ 18,104,440</u>	<u>\$ 274,450</u>

#### OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of three parts: MD&A (this section), the basic financial statements and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the School District:

The first two statements are *District-wide* financial statements that provide both short-term and long-term information about the School District's overall financial status.

The remaining statements are *fund financial statements* that focus on individual parts of the School District, reporting the School District's operations in more detail than the District-wide statements.

The *governmental funds statements* tell how basic services such as general and special education were financed in the short-term, as well as what remains for future spending.

*Fiduciary funds* statements provide information about the financial relationships in which the School District acts solely as a custodian for the benefit of others.

The financial statements also include notes that provide additional information about the financial statements and the balances reported. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements with a comparison of the School District's budget for the year.

**Table A-1** summarizes the major features of the School District's financial statements, including the portion of the School District's activities that they cover and the types of information that they contain. The remainder of this overview section highlights the structure and contents of each statement.

**Table A-1** Major Features of the District-wide and Fund Financial Statements

	<b>Fund Financial Statements</b>		
	<b>District-Wide</b>	<b>Governmental Funds</b>	<b>Fiduciary Funds</b>
Scope	Entire District (except fiduciary funds)	The activities of the School District that are not proprietary or fiduciary, such as instruction, special education and building maintenance	Instances in which the School District administers resources on behalf of someone else, such as student activities monies
Required financial statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of net position</li> <li>• Statement of activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance sheet</li> <li>• Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of fiduciary net position</li> <li>• Statement of changes in fiduciary net position</li> </ul>
Accounting basis and measurement focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Modified accrual accounting and current financial focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus
Type of asset/deferred outflows of resources/liability/deferred inflows of resources information	All assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, both financial and capital, short-term and long-term	Generally, assets and deferred outflows of resources expected to be used up and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources that come due or available during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets or long-term liabilities included	All assets, deferred outflows of resources (if any), liabilities and deferred inflows of resources (if any), both short-term and long-term; funds do not currently contain capital assets, although they can
Type of inflow/outflow information	All revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when cash is received or paid	Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures when goods or services have been received and the related liability is due and payable	All additions and deductions during the year, regardless of when cash is received or paid

### District-Wide Statements

The District-wide statements report information about the School District as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of net position includes all of the School District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two District-wide statements report the School District's *net position* and how they have changed. Net position – the difference between the School District's assets and liabilities – is one way to measure the School District's financial health or position.

- Over time, increases or decreases in the School District's net position is an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating, respectively.
- For assessment of the overall health of the School District, additional nonfinancial factors such as changes in the property tax bases and the condition of buildings and other facilities should be considered.

Net position of the governmental activities differ from the governmental fund balance because governmental fund level statements only report transactions using or providing current financial resources. Also, capital assets are reported as expenditures when financial resources (dollars) are expended to purchase or build such assets. Likewise, the financial resources that may have been borrowed are considered revenue when they are received. Principal and interest payments are considered expenditures when paid. Depreciation is not calculated. Capital assets and long-term debt are accounted for in account groups and do not affect the fund balance.

District-wide statements use an economic resources measurement focus and full accrual basis of accounting that involves the following steps to prepare the statement of net position.

- Capitalize current outlays for capital assets.
- Report long-term debt as a liability.
- Calculate revenue and expenditures using the economic resources measurement focus and the full accrual basis of accounting.
- Allocate net position balances as follows:
  - Net position invested in capital assets, net of debt.
  - Restricted net positions are those with constraints placed on use by external sources or imposed by law.
  - Unrestricted net positions are net positions that do not meet any of the above restrictions.

### **Fund Financial Statements**

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the School District's funds, focusing on its most significant or "major" funds - not the School District as a whole. Funds are accounting devices the School District uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending on particular programs:

- Some funds are required by state law and by bond covenants.
- The District establishes other funds to control and to manage money for particular purposes (such as repaying its long-term debts) or to show that it is properly using certain revenues (such as federal grants).

The District has two kinds of funds:

- **Governmental Funds:** Most of the School District's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on (1) how cash and other financial assets can be readily converted to cash flow in and out and (2) the balances left at year end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the School District's programs.

Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the District-wide statements, additional information at the bottom of the governmental funds statements explains the relationship (or differences) between them. The governmental fund statements focus primarily on current financial resources and often have a budgetary orientation. Governmental funds include the general fund, special aid fund, school lunch fund, miscellaneous special revenue fund and the capital project fund. Required financial statements are the balance sheet and the statement of revenue, expenditures and changes in fund balances.

- **Fiduciary Fund:** The School District is the custodian of assets that belong to others, such as the student activities funds. The School District is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes and by those to whom the assets belong. The School District excludes these activities from the District-wide financial statements because it cannot use these assets to finance its operations. Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net positions and changes in net positions.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

**Table A-2**

### Condensed Statement of Net Position

	<b>Fiscal Year 2023</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2022</b>	<b>Percentage Change (Incr.;-Decr.)</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Current and other assets	\$ 9,801,173	\$ 11,703,796	-16.3%
Capital assets	<u>22,086,529</u>	<u>21,986,810</u>	0.5%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>31,887,702</u>	<u>33,690,606</u>	-5.4%
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Other post-employment benefits	7,552,976	10,036,449	-24.7%
Pensions	<u>3,790,784</u>	<u>3,768,961</u>	0.6%
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>11,343,760</u>	<u>13,805,410</u>	-17.8%
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Long-term debt outstanding	57,815,312	65,532,719	-11.8%
Other liabilities	<u>7,155,538</u>	<u>1,098,605</u>	551.3%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>64,970,850</u>	<u>66,631,324</u>	-2.5%
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Other post-employment benefits	9,181,145	3,830,355	139.7%
Pensions	<u>352,009</u>	<u>7,024,569</u>	-95.0%
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>9,533,154</u>	<u>10,854,924</u>	-12.2%
<b>Net Position</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	15,226,407	13,651,557	11.5%
Restricted	986,676	986,426	0.0%
Unrestricted	<u>(47,485,625)</u>	<u>(44,628,215)</u>	-6.4%
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u><u>\$ (31,272,542)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (29,990,232)</u></u>	-4.3%

## Changes in Net Position

The School District's 2023 revenue was \$19,507,104 (see Table A-3). Property taxes and New York State aid accounted for the majority of revenue by contributing 28.0% and 62.9%, respectively, of the total revenue raised (see Table A-4). The remainder of revenue came from fees for services, use of money and property, operating grants and other miscellaneous sources.

The total cost of all programs and services totaled \$20,684,356 for 2023. Of these expenses (76.7%) are predominantly for the education, supervision and transportation of students (see Table A-5). The School District's administrative, occupancy and business activities accounted for 19.0% of total costs.

Net position decreased during the year by \$1,282,310 after an other change in net position of \$(105,058).

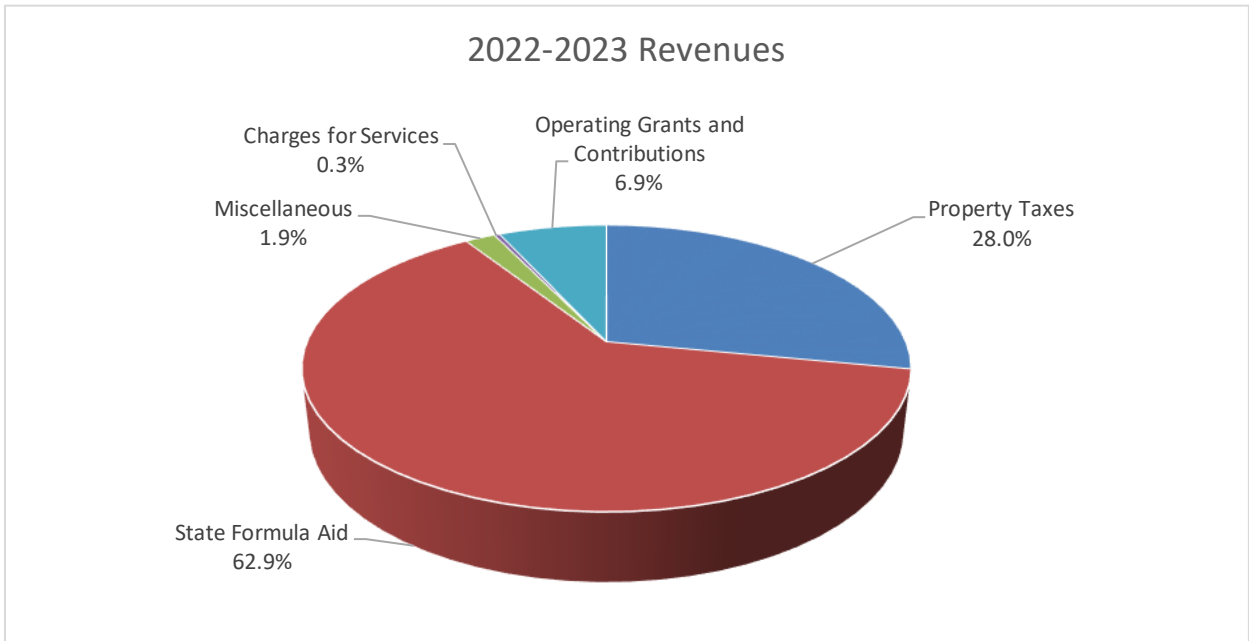
**Table A-3**

### Changes in Net Position from Operating Results

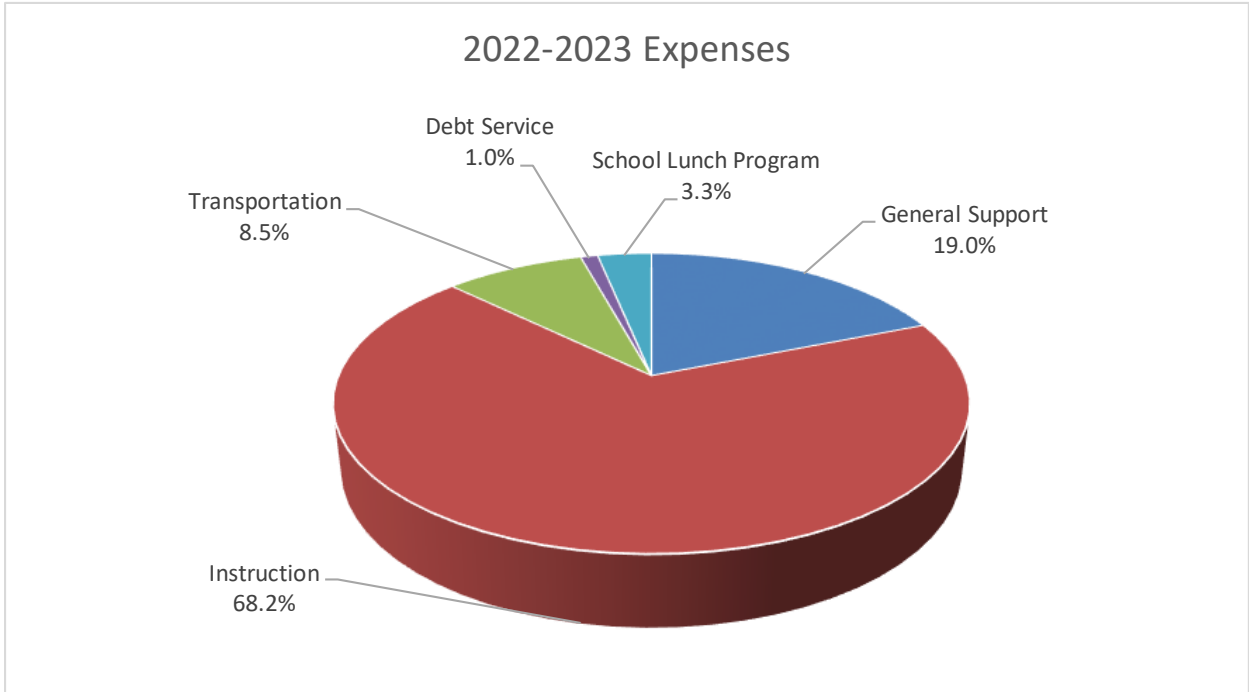
	<b>Fiscal Year 2023</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2022</b>	<b>Percentage Change (Incr.;-Decr.)</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Program revenues			
Charges for services	\$ 64,434	\$ 31,888	102.1%
Operating grants and contributions	1,339,050	1,256,113	6.6%
General revenues			
Property taxes	5,469,966	5,456,769	0.2%
State formula aid	12,258,833	11,748,888	4.3%
Other	374,821	409,048	-8.4%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>19,507,104</b>	<b>18,902,706</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
General support	3,921,010	3,276,742	19.7%
Instruction	14,120,488	12,103,938	16.7%
Transportation	1,752,685	1,411,611	24.2%
Other	890,173	805,443	10.5%
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>20,684,356</b>	<b>17,597,734</b>	<b>17.5%</b>
<b>OTHER CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>(105,058)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$ (1,282,310)</b>	<b>\$ 1,304,972</b>	<b>-198.3%</b>



**REVENUES – TABLE A-4**



**EXPENDITURES – TABLE A-5**



## Governmental Activities

Revenue for the School District's governmental activities totaled \$19,507,104 while total expenses were \$20,684,356. Accordingly, net position decreased by \$1,282,310 after an other change in net position of \$(105,058).

**Table A-6** presents the cost of several of the School District's major activities. The table also shows each activity's net cost (total cost less fees generated by the activity and intergovernmental aid provided for specific programs). The net cost shows the financial burden placed on the School District's taxpayers by each of these functions.

**Table A-6**

### Net Cost of Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services		Percentage Change (Incr.;-Decr.)	Net Cost of Services		Percentage Change (Incr.;-Decr.)
	2023	2022		2023	2022	
General support	\$ 3,921,010	\$ 3,276,742	19.7%	\$ 3,921,010	\$ 3,276,742	19.7%
Instruction	14,120,488	12,103,938	16.7%	13,115,292	11,257,949	16.5%
Pupil	1,752,685	1,411,611	24.2%	1,752,685	1,411,611	24.2%
Other	890,173	805,443	10.5%	491,885	363,431	35.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 20,684,356</b>	<b>\$ 17,597,734</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>\$ 19,280,872</b>	<b>\$ 16,309,733</b>	<b>18.2%</b>

- The cost of all governmental activities for the year was \$20,684,356.
- The users of the School District's programs financed \$64,434 of the costs.
- The federal and state government grants financed \$1,339,050.
- The majority of costs were financed by the School District's taxpayers and state aid.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FUNDS

### General Fund Budgetary Highlights

	Final Budget	Actual	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percentage Variance
Revenues:				
Local sources	\$ 5,709,534	\$ 5,777,277	\$ 67,743	1.2%
State and federal sources	12,120,456	12,321,346	200,890	1.6%
Transfers	0	5,817	5,817	100.0%
Total	17,829,990	18,104,440	274,450	1.5%
Expenses:				
General support	2,615,448	2,502,708	(112,740)	-4.5%
Instruction	8,754,555	8,162,986	(591,569)	-7.2%
Pupil transportation	1,120,907	1,120,830	(77)	0.0%
Employee benefits	5,309,237	4,882,700	(426,537)	-8.7%
Debt service	1,766,324	1,766,323	(1)	0.0%
Total	19,566,471	18,435,547	(1,130,924)	-6.1%
Other financing uses	123,704	97,029	(26,675)	-27.5%
Net change in fund balances	<b>\$ (1,860,185)</b>	<b>\$ (428,136)</b>	<b>\$ 1,432,049</b>	<b>334.5%</b>

This section presents an analysis of significant variances between original and final budget amounts and between final budget amounts and actual results for the General Fund.

The District saw reduced revenues as it was affected by a reduced state aid. In the area of employee benefits, the District's health insurance did not increase to the level that they had expected.

The General Fund is the only fund for which a budget is legally adopted.

## **CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

As of June 30, 2023, the School District had \$22,326,884 (net of depreciation and amortization) invested in a broad range of capital assets including land, buildings, buses, athletic facilities, computers and other educational equipment.

### **Capital Assets**

**Table A-7**

#### **Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation and Amortization)**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2023</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2022</b>	<b>Percentage Change (Incr.; -Decr.)</b>
Land and construction in progress	\$ 7,770,428	\$ 7,120,039	9.1%
Right to use assets	240,355	390,433	-38.4%
Buildings and equipment	14,316,101	14,866,771	-3.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 22,326,884</b>	<b>\$ 22,377,243</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>

### **Long-Term Debt**

As of June 30, 2023, the School District had \$57,372,440 in general obligation and other long-term debt outstanding. More detailed information about the School District's long-term debt is included in the notes to the basic financial statements.

**Table A-8**

#### **Outstanding Long-Term Debt**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2023</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2022</b>	<b>Percentage Change (Incr.; -Decr.)</b>
General obligation bonds	\$ 7,075,992	\$ 8,273,505	-14%
Leases payable	24,485	61,748	-60%
Other debt	50,271,963	57,197,466	-12.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 57,372,440</b>	<b>\$ 65,532,719</b>	<b>-12.5%</b>

During 2023, the School District issued \$315,992 in new bonds and paid down its debt by retiring \$1,513,505 of outstanding bonds. Other debt represented compensated absences and other post-employment benefits.

## **FACTORS BEARING ON THE DISTRICT'S FUTURE**

The District continues to re-establish stability and a long-term vision with respect to financial constraints and academic programs.

## **CONTACTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide the School District's citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the School District's finances and to demonstrate the School District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, please contact:

West Canada Valley Central School District  
DJ Shepardson, Superintendent  
5447 State Route 28  
PO Box 360  
Newport, NY 13416-0360

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

**JUNE 30, 2023**

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	
Unrestricted	\$ 7,348,361
Restricted	935,753
Receivables	
State and federal aid	1,270,260
Inventories	6,444
Right to use assets, net of amortization	240,355
Capital assets, net of depreciation	<u>22,086,529</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>31,887,702</b></u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Other post-employment benefits	7,552,976
Pensions	<u>3,790,784</u>
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u><b>11,343,760</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Payables	
Accounts payable	241,108
Accrued liabilities	25,673
Bond anticipation note payable	4,811,458
Unearned grant revenues	152,919
Due to other governments	350
Due to Teachers' Retirement System	625,592
Due to Employees' Retirement System	87,961
Long-term liabilities	
Due and payable within one year	
Bonds payable	1,185,992
Leases payable	24,485
Due and payable after one year	
Bonds payable	5,890,000
Other post-employment benefits payable	49,336,196
Net pension liability - proportionate share	1,653,349
Compensated absences payable	<u>935,767</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><b>64,970,850</b></u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Other post-employment benefits	9,181,145
Pensions	<u>352,009</u>
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u><b>9,533,154</b></u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	15,226,407
Restricted for:	
Debt service	50,923
Workers' compensation reserve	100,083
Retirement contribution reserve - ERS	800,643
Retirement contribution reserve - TRS	35,027
Unrestricted	<u>(47,485,625)</u>
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<u><u><b>\$ (31,272,542)</b></u></u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET POSITION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenues</u>		<u>Net (Expense)</u>
		<u>Charges for</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Revenues and</u>
		<u>Services</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Changes in</u>
				<u>Net Position</u>
<b>FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS</b>				
General support	\$ 3,921,010	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (3,921,010)
Instruction	14,120,488	3,140	1,002,056	(13,115,292)
Pupil transportation	1,752,685	0	0	(1,752,685)
Debt service	215,555	0	0	(215,555)
School lunch program	674,618	61,294	336,994	(276,330)
<b>Total Functions and Programs</b>	<u>\$ 20,684,356</u>	<u>\$ 64,434</u>	<u>\$ 1,339,050</u>	<u>(19,280,872)</u>
<b>GENERAL REVENUES</b>				
Real property taxes				4,436,432
Other tax items				1,033,534
Use of money and property				41,892
Sale of property and compensation for loss				10,318
Miscellaneous				260,098
State sources				12,258,833
Medicaid reimbursement				62,513
<b>Total General Revenues</b>				<u>18,103,620</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>				(1,177,252)
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>				(29,990,232)
<b>OTHER CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>				<u>(105,058)</u>
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION - END OF YEAR</b>				<u>\$ (31,272,542)</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

**JUNE 30, 2023**

	<b>General</b>	<b>Special Aid</b>	<b>School Lunch</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>CM Misc. Special Revenue</b>	<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>							
Cash							
Unrestricted	\$ 2,815,183	\$ 130,444	\$ 84,405	\$ 0	\$ 4,262,712	\$ 55,617	\$ 7,348,361
Restricted	935,753	0	0	0	0	0	935,753
Due from other funds	565,495	52,529	0	50,923	0	0	668,947
State and Federal aid	858,018	410,898	1,344	0	0	0	1,270,260
Inventories	0	0	6,444	0	0	0	6,444
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 5,174,449</b>	<b>\$ 593,871</b>	<b>\$ 92,193</b>	<b>\$ 50,923</b>	<b>\$ 4,262,712</b>	<b>\$ 55,617</b>	<b>\$ 10,229,765</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
Accounts payable	\$ 21,278	\$ 40,212	\$ 68	\$ 0	\$ 179,550	\$ 0	\$ 241,108
Accrued liabilities	21,571	3,060	1,042	0	0	0	25,673
Due to other funds	52,529	355,874	209,621	0	50,923	0	668,947
Bond anticipation note payable	0	0	0	0	4,811,458	0	4,811,458
Due to other governments	0	0	350	0	0	0	350
Due to Employees' Retirement System	84,394	3,567	0	0	0	0	87,961
Due to Teachers' Retirement System	587,353	38,239	0	0	0	0	625,592
Collections in advance	0	152,919	0	0	0	0	152,919
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>767,125</b>	<b>593,871</b>	<b>211,081</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,041,931</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,614,008</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>							
Nonspendable - Inventory	0	0	6,444	0	0	0	6,444
Restricted							
Reserve for debt service	0	0	0	50,923	0	0	50,923
Workers' compensation reserve	100,083	0	0	0	0	0	100,083
Retirement contribution reserve - ERS	800,643	0	0	0	0	0	800,643
Retirement contribution reserve - TRS	35,027	0	0	0	0	0	35,027
Assigned	2,133,618	1,870	0	0	0	55,617	2,191,105
Unassigned	1,337,953	(1,870)	(125,332)	0	(779,219)	0	431,532
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>4,407,324</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(118,888)</b>	<b>50,923</b>	<b>(779,219)</b>	<b>55,617</b>	<b>3,615,757</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 5,174,449</b>	<b>\$ 593,871</b>	<b>\$ 92,193</b>	<b>\$ 50,923</b>	<b>\$ 4,262,712</b>	<b>\$ 55,617</b>	<b>\$ 10,229,765</b>

See notes to basic financial statements.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET**  
**TO STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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Total fund balance - governmental funds balance sheet (page 15)	\$ 3,615,757
Add:	
Pensions	1,785,426
Right to use assets, net of accumulated amortization	240,355
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>22,086,529</u>
Totals	24,112,310
Deduct:	
Other post-employment benefits	50,964,365
Compensated absences	935,767
Leases payable	24,485
Bonds payable	<u>7,075,992</u>
Totals	<u>59,000,609</u>
<b>NET POSITION, GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<u><u>\$ (31,272,542)</u></u>

See notes to basic financial statements.



**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Aid</u>	<u>School Lunch</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>CM Misc. Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>							
Real property taxes	\$ 4,436,432	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,436,432
Other tax items	1,033,534	0	0	0	0	0	1,033,534
Charges for services	3,140	0	0	0	0	0	3,140
Use of money and property	41,813	0	17	62	0	0	41,892
Sale of property and compensation for loss	10,318	0	0	0	0	0	10,318
Miscellaneous	252,040	0	628	0	0	7,430	260,098
State sources	12,258,833	138,732	6,142	0	0	0	12,403,707
Federal sources	62,513	863,324	313,088	0	0	0	1,238,925
Surplus food	0	0	17,764	0	0	0	17,764
Sales - school lunch	0	0	61,294	0	0	0	61,294
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>18,098,623</u>	<u>1,002,056</u>	<u>398,933</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,430</u>	<u>19,507,104</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
General support	2,502,708	0	0	0	0	7,430	2,510,138
Instruction	8,162,986	866,971	0	0	0	0	9,029,957
Pupil transportation	1,120,830	0	0	0	0	0	1,120,830
Employee benefits	4,882,700	181,797	54,637	0	0	0	5,119,134
Debt service							
Principal	1,550,768	0	0	0	0	0	1,550,768
Interest	215,555	0	0	0	0	0	215,555
Cost of sales	0	0	395,087	0	0	0	395,087
Capital outlay	0	0	0	0	966,785	0	966,785
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>18,435,547</u>	<u>1,048,768</u>	<u>449,724</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>966,785</u>	<u>7,430</u>	<u>20,908,254</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>(336,924)</u>	<u>(46,712)</u>	<u>(50,791)</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>(966,785)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,401,150)</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND USES</b>							
Proceeds from debt	0	0	0	0	315,992	0	315,992
Operating transfers in	5,817	52,529	0	0	44,500	0	102,846
Operating transfers (out)	(97,029)	(5,817)	0	0	0	0	(102,846)
<b>Total Other Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>(91,212)</u>	<u>46,712</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>360,492</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>315,992</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES AND USES</b>	<u>(428,136)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(50,791)</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>(606,293)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,085,158)</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	4,940,349	0	(68,097)	50,861	(172,926)	55,786	4,805,973
<b>OTHER CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	(104,889)	0	0	0	0	(169)	(105,058)
<b>FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 4,407,324</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ (118,888)</u>	<u>\$ 50,923</u>	<u>\$ (779,219)</u>	<u>\$ 55,617</u>	<u>\$ 3,615,757</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES TO STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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<b>REVENUES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS AND STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES</b>		\$ 19,507,104
<b>EXPENDITURES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS</b>	20,908,254	
Add:		
Depreciation expense	537,994	
Amortization expense	215,213	
Change in compensated absences	259,516	
Pensions	367,751	
Other post-employment benefits	649,244	
Total	2,029,718	
Deduct:		
Principal payments on long-term debt	1,550,768	
Change in fixed assets	702,848	
Total	2,253,616	
<b>EXPENDITURES - STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES</b>		<u>20,684,356</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>		<u><u>\$ (1,177,252)</u></u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023

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	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	
Restricted	\$ 69,156
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 69,156</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Reserved for extraclassroom activity funds	<u>\$ 69,156</u>

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
<b>ADDITIONS</b>	
Extraclassroom receipts	\$ 117,138
<b>Total Additions</b>	117,138
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>	
Extraclassroom disbursements	<u>116,546</u>
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<u>116,546</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>	592
<b>NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>68,564</u>
<b>NET POSITION - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 69,156</u>

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See notes to basic financial statements.

# WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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### **NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the West Canada Valley Central School District (the “District”) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to government units. Those principles are prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), which is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

Significant accounting principles and policies utilized by the District are described below:

#### **A. Reporting Entity**

The West Canada Valley Central School District is governed by the laws of New York State. The District is an independent entity governed by an elected Board of Education consisting of 7 members. The President of the Board serves as the chief fiscal officer and the Superintendent is the chief executive officer. The Board is responsible for, and controls, all activities related to public school education within the District. Board members have authority to make decisions, power to appoint management and primary accountability for all fiscal matters.

The reporting entity of the District is based upon criteria set forth by GASB Statement 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*, as amended by GASB Statement 39, *Component Units*. The financial reporting entity consists of the primary government, organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity’s financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

The accompanying financial statements present the activities of the District and other organizational entities determined to be includable in the District's financial reporting entity. The District is not a component unit of another reporting entity. The decision to include a potential component unit in the District’s reporting entity is based on several criteria including legal standing, fiscal dependency and financial accountability. Based on the application of these criteria, the following is a brief description of an entity included in the District’s reporting entity.

##### **i) Extraclassroom Activity Funds**

The Extraclassroom Activity Funds of the District represent funds of the students of the District. The Board of Education exercises general oversight of these funds. The Extraclassroom Activity Funds are independent of the District with respect to its financial transactions and the designation of student management. Separate audited financial statements (cash basis) of the Extraclassroom Activity Funds can be found with these financial statements. The District accounts for these funds in the custodial fund.

#### **B. Joint Venture**

The District is a component district in the Herkimer County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). A BOCES is a voluntary, cooperative association of school districts in a geographic area that shares planning, services and programs that provide educational and support activities. There is no authority or process by which a school district can terminate its status as a BOCES component.

BOCES are organized under Section 1950 of the New York State Education Law. A BOCES Board is considered a corporate body. Members of a BOCES Board are nominated and elected by their component member boards in accordance with provisions of Section 1950 of the New York State Education Law. All BOCES property is held by the BOCES Board as a corporation (Section 1950(6)). In addition, BOCES Boards also are considered municipal corporations to permit them to contract with other municipalities on a cooperative basis under Section 119-n(a) of the New York State General Municipal Law.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**B. Joint Venture – (Continued)**

A BOCES' budget is comprised of separate budgets for administrative, program and capital costs. Each component district's share of administrative and capital cost is determined by resident public school district enrollment, as defined in the New York State Education Law, Section 1950(4)(b)(7). In addition, component districts pay tuition or a service fee for programs in which its students participate.

During the year, the District was billed \$3,144,593 for BOCES administrative and program costs.

Participating school districts issue debt on behalf of BOCES. During the year, the District issued \$-0- of serial bonds on behalf of BOCES. As of year-end, the District had outstanding BOCES debt of \$-0-.

The District's share of BOCES aid amounted to \$1,424,596.

Financial statements for the BOCES are available from the BOCES administrative office.

**C. Basis of Presentation**

**1. District-Wide Statements**

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities present financial information about the District's governmental activities. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government in its entirety, except those that are fiduciary.

Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal transactions. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, state aid, intergovernmental revenues and other exchange and nonexchange transactions. Operating grants include operating-specific and discretionary (either operating or capital) grants, while the capital grants column reflects capital-specific grants.

The Statement of Net Position presents the financial position of the District at fiscal year-end. The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between program expenses and revenues for each function of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with and are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Indirect expenses, principally employee benefits, are allocated to functional areas in proportion to the payroll expended for those areas. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs, and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

**2. Funds Statements**

The fund 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 fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**C. Basis of Presentation – (Continued)**

**2. Funds Statements – (Continued)**

The District reports the following major governmental funds:

**General Fund** – This is the District’s primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial transactions that are not required to be accounted for in another fund.

**Special Aid Funds** – These funds account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources, such as federal and state grants, that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes, child nutrition or other activities whose funds are restricted as to use. These legal restrictions may be imposed either by governments that provide the funds or by outside parties.

**Capital Projects Fund** – These funds are used to account for the financial resources used for acquisition, construction or major repair of capital facilities.

**Debt Service Fund** – This fund accounts for the accumulation of resources and the payment of principal and interest on long-term general obligation debt of governmental activities. When a capital asset is sold and all or a portion of the bonds used to finance the capital asset are outstanding, this fund must be used to account for the proceeds from the sale of capital assets up to the balance of the related bonds outstanding.

**Miscellaneous Special Revenue Fund** – Miscellaneous Special Revenue Fund is used to account for those revenues that are legally restricted to expenditures for a specific purpose.

The District reports the following fiduciary fund:

**Custodial Fund** – Fiduciary activities are those in which the District acts as custodian for resources that belong to others. These activities are not included in the District-wide financial statements, because their resources do not belong to the District and are not available to be used.

**D. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

Accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by the applicable measurement focus and basis of accounting. Measurement focus indicates the type of resources being measured such as current financial resources or economic resources. The basis of accounting indicates the timing of transactions or events for recognition in the financial statements.

The District-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 transaction takes place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the District gives or receives value without directly receiving or giving equal value in exchange, include property taxes, state aid, grants and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from state aid is recognized in the fiscal year it is appropriated by the state. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**D. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting – (Continued)**

The governmental fund statements 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 the revenues are collected within 65 days after the end of the fiscal year, except for real property taxes, which are considered to be available if they are collected within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year as it matches the liquidation of related obligations.

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, pensions and other post-employment benefits, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

**E. Property Taxes**

Real property taxes are levied annually by the Board of Education no later than September 1 and become a lien on September 1. Taxes are collected during the period September 1 to October 31.

Uncollected real property taxes are subsequently enforced by the Counties of Herkimer and Oneida in which the District is located. The Counties pay an amount representing uncollected real property taxes transmitted to the Counties for enforcement to the District no later than the following April 1.

**F. Restricted Resources**

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net positions are available, the District's policy concerning which to apply first varies with the intended use, and with associated legal requirements, many of which are described elsewhere in these Notes.

**G. Interfund Transactions**

The operations of the District include transactions between funds. These transactions may be temporary in nature, such as with interfund borrowings. The District typically loans resources between funds for the purpose of providing cash flow. These interfund receivables and payables are expected to be repaid within one year. Permanent transfers of funds include the transfer of expenditure and revenues to provide financing or other services.

In the District-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 the fiduciary funds.

The governmental funds report all interfund transactions as originally recorded. Interfund receivables and payables may be netted on the accompanying governmental funds balance sheet when it is the District's practice to settle these amounts at a net balance based upon the right of legal offset.

Refer to Note 8 for a detailed disclosure by individual fund for interfund receivables, payables, expenditures and revenues activity.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**H. Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Estimates and assumptions are made in a variety of areas, including computation of encumbrances, compensated absences, potential contingent liabilities and useful lives of long-lived assets.

**I. Cash (and Cash Equivalents)/Investments**

The District's cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from date of acquisition.

New York State law governs the District's investment policies. Resources must be deposited in FDIC-insured commercial banks or trust companies located within the State. Permissible investments include obligations of the United States Treasury, United States Agencies, repurchase agreements and obligations of New York State or its localities.

Collateral is required for demand and time deposits and certificates of deposit not covered by FDIC 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 Districts.

Investments are stated at fair value.

**J. Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable are shown gross, with uncollectible amounts recognized under the direct write-off method. No allowance for uncollectible accounts has been provided since it is believed that such allowance would not be material.

**K. Inventories and Prepaid Items**

Inventories of food in the School Lunch Fund are recorded at cost on a first-in, first-out basis, or in the case of surplus food, at stated value which approximates market. Purchases of inventoriable items in other funds are recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase and are considered immaterial in amount.

Prepaid items represent payments made by the District for which benefits extend beyond year end. These payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the District-wide and fund financial statements. These items are reported as assets on the statement of net position or balance sheet using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of receipt and/or purchase and an expense/expenditure is reported in the year the goods or services are consumed.

A reserve for these nonliquid assets (inventories and prepaid items) has been recognized to signify that a portion of fund balance is not available for other subsequent expenditures.



WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**L. Capital Assets**

Capital assets are reported at actual cost when such data was available. For assets in which there was no data available, estimated historical costs, based on direct costing, standard costing or normal costing methods, were used. Donated assets are reported at estimated fair market value at the time received.

Land and construction in process are not depreciated. Capitalization thresholds (the dollar value above which asset acquisitions are added to the capital asset accounts), depreciation methods and estimated useful lives of capital assets reported in the District-wide statements are as follows:

	<b><u>Capitalization Threshold</u></b>	<b><u>Depreciation Method</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated Useful Life</u></b>
Buildings	\$ 10,000	Straight-line	50
Building improvements	10,000	Straight-line	50
Site improvements	10,000	Straight-line	50
Furniture and equipment	10,000	Straight-line	8-15

**M) Right to Use Assets**

Right to use assets are reported at actual cost or estimated historical cost. Right to use assets are amortized using the straight line method over the estimated useful life of the asset. All right to use assets are furniture and equipment which are amortized over a 3-5 year period.

**N. Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources**

In addition to assets, the Statement of Net Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. The separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District has three items that qualify for reporting in this category. The first item is related to pensions reported in the District-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in the District's proportion of the collective net pension asset or liability and difference during the measurement period between the District's contributions and its proportionate share of total contributions to the pension systems not included in pension expense. The second is the District contributions to the pension systems (TRS and ERS Systems) and OPEB subsequent to the measurement date. The third item relates to OPEB reporting in the District-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in the actual and expected experience.

In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Net Position or Balance Sheet will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position or fund balance that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has four items that qualify for reporting in this category. First arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting and is reported as unavailable revenue – property taxes. The second item is related to pensions reported in the District-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in the District's proportion of the collective net pension liability (ERS System) and net pension asset (TRS System) and difference during the measurement periods between the District's contributions and its proportion share of total contributions to the pension systems not included in pension expense. The third item is revenues from grants received that have met all other eligibility requirements except those related to time restrictions. The fourth item is related to OPEB reporting in the District-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net changes of assumptions or other inputs.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**N. Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources – (Continued)**

**Pension Assets, Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

At June 30, 2023, the District reported the following asset (liability) for its proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability) for each of the Systems. The net pension asset (liability) was measured as of March 31, 2023 for ERS and June 30, 2022 for TRS. The total pension asset (liability) used to calculate the net pension asset (liability) was determined by an actuarial valuation. The District's proportion of the net pension asset (liability) was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the Systems relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. This information was provided by the ERS and TRS Systems in reports provided to the District.

	<b><u>ERS</u></b>	<b><u>TRS</u></b>
Measurement date	March 31, 2023	June 30, 2022
District's proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability)	\$ (1,095,446)	\$ (557,903)
District's portion of the Plan's total net pension asset (liability)	0.0051084%	0.029074%
Change in proportion since the prior measurement date	0.0001431%	0.000204%

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the District recognized its proportionate share of pension expense of \$382,918 for ERS and \$707,850 for TRS. At June 30, 2023, the District's reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources were:

	<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	
	<b>ERS</b>	<b>TRS</b>	<b>ERS</b>	<b>TRS</b>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 116,674	\$ 584,612	\$ 30,764	\$ 11,179
Changes of assumptions	532,019	1,082,238	5,880	224,739
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	0	720,864	6,436	0
Changes in proportion and differences between the District's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	113,723	3,499	38,087	34,924
District's contributions subsequent to the measurement date	87,961	549,194	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 850,377</b>	<b>\$ 2,940,407</b>	<b>\$ 81,167</b>	<b>\$ 270,842</b>

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**N. Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources – (Continued)**

**Pension Assets, Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions – (Continued)**

District contributions subsequent to the measurement date which will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension asset (liability) in the year ended March 31, 2024 for ERS and June 30, 2024 for TRS. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred (inflows) of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

		<b>ERS</b>		<b>TRS</b>
Year ended:				
	2024	\$ 173,844	\$	209,742
	2025	(40,813)		(97,887)
	2026	239,934		1,412,077
	2027	308,284		179,232
	2028	0		7,354
	Thereafter	0		0

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension asset (liability) as of the measurement date was determined by using an actuarial valuation as noted in the table below, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension asset (liability) to the measurement date. The actuarial valuations used the following actuarial assumptions:

	<b>ERS</b>	<b>TRS</b>
Measurement date	March 31, 2023	June 30, 2022
Actuarial valuation date	April 1, 2022	June 30, 2021
Interest rate	5.9%	6.95%
Salary scale	4.4%	1.95% - 5.18%
Decrement tables	April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2020	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2020
	Systems experience	Systems experience
Inflation rate	2.9%	2.4%
Projected cost of living adjustments	1.5%	1.3%

For ERS, annuitant mortality rates are based on April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2020 System's experience with adjustments for mortality improvements based on MP-2021. For TRS, annuitant mortality rates are based on July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020 System's experience with adjustments for mortality improvements based on Society of Actuaries Scale MP-2021.

For ERS, the actuarial assumptions used in the April 1, 2022 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2020. For TRS, the actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2021 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**N. Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources – (Continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions – (Continued)**

The long-term rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building block method in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns net of investment expense 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 each target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of the arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation are summarized below:

Measurement date	<u>ERS</u> March 31, 2023	<u>TRS</u> June 30, 2022
<b><u>Asset type</u></b>		
Domestic equity	4.30%	6.50%
International equity	6.85	7.20
Global equities	0	6.90
Real estate	4.60	6.20
Domestic fixed income securities	1.50	1.10
Global bonds	0	0.60
High-yield fixed income securities	0	3.30
Real estate debt	0	2.40
Private debt	0	5.30
Credit	5.43	0
Private equity/alternative investments	7.50	9.90
Opportunistic/ARS portfolio	5.38	0
Cash	0	(0.3)
Real assets	5.84	0

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to calculate the total pension asset (liability) was 5.9% for ERS and 6.95% for TRS. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially. Based upon the 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 asset (liability).

**Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability) to the Discount Rate Assumption**

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability) calculated using the discount rate of 5.9% for ERS and 6.95% for TRS, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (4.9% for ERS and 5.95% for TRS) or 1 percentage point higher (6.9% for ERS and 7.95% for TRS) than the current rate:

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**N. Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources – (Continued)**

**Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability) to the Discount Rate Assumption – (Continued)**

	<b>1% Decrease <u>(4.9%)</u></b>	<b>Current Assumption <u>(5.9%)</u></b>	<b>1% Increase <u>(6.9%)</u></b>
<b><u>ERS</u></b>			
District's proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability)	\$(2,647,224)	\$(1,095,446)	\$ 201,244
	<b>1% Decrease <u>(5.95%)</u></b>	<b>Current Assumption <u>(6.95%)</u></b>	<b>1% Increase <u>(7.95%)</u></b>
<b><u>TRS</u></b>			
District's proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability)	\$(5,144,128)	\$ (557,903)	\$ 3,299,082

**Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

The components of the current-year net pension asset (liability) of the employers as of the respective valuation dates were as follows:

	<b>(Dollars in thousands)</b>		
	<b><u>ERS</u></b>	<b><u>TRS</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Measurement date	March 31, 2023	June 30, 2022	
Employers' total pension asset (liability)	\$(232,627,259)	\$(133,883,474)	\$(366,510,733)
Plan fiduciary net position asset (liability)	211,183,223	131,964,582	343,147,805
Employers' net pension asset (liability)	(21,444,036)	(1,918,892)	(23,362,928)
Ratio of plan fiduciary net position to the employers' total pension asset (liability)	90.78%	98.6%	93.6%

**Payables to the Pension Plans**

For ERS, employer contributions are paid annually based on the System's fiscal year which ends on March 31. Accrued retirement contributions as of June 30, 2023 represent the projected employer contribution for the period of April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 based on paid ERS wages multiplied by the employer's contribution rate, by tier. Accrued retirement contributions as of June 30, 2023 amounted to \$87,961.

For TRS, employer and employee contributions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 are paid to the System in September, October and November 2023 through a state aid intercept. Accrued retirement contributions as of June 30, 2023 represent employee and employer contributions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 based on paid TRS wages multiplied by the employer's contribution rate, by tier and employee contributions for the fiscal year as reported to the TRS System. Accrued retirement contributions as of June 30, 2023 amount to \$625,592.

Additional pension information can be found in Note 9.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**O. Unearned Revenue**

The District reports unearned revenues on its Statement of Net Position and its Balance Sheet. On the Statement of Net Position, unearned revenue arises when resources are received by the District before it has legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to incurrence of qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, when the District has legal claim to resources, the liability for unearned revenue is removed and revenue is recognized. The District had \$152,919 in unearned revenue at June 30, 2023.

**P. Vested Employee Benefits**

**Compensated Absences**

Compensated absences consist of unpaid accumulated annual sick leave and vacation.

Sick leave eligibility and accumulation is specified in negotiated labor contracts and in individual employment contracts. Upon retirement, resignation or death, employees may contractually receive a payment based on unused accumulated sick leave.

District employees are granted vacation in varying amounts, based primarily on length of service and service position. Some earned benefits may be forfeited if not taken within varying time periods.

Consistent with GASB Statement 16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*, the liability has been calculated using the vesting/termination method and an accrual for that liability is included in the District-wide financial statements. The compensated absences liability is calculated based on the pay rates in effect at year end.

In the fund statements, only the amount of matured liabilities is accrued within the General Fund based upon expendable and available financial resources. These amounts are expensed on a pay-as-you go basis.

**Q. Other Benefits**

District employees participate in the New York State Employees' Retirement System and the New York State Teachers' Retirement System.

In addition to providing pension benefits, the District provides post-employment health insurance coverage and survivor benefits to retired employees and their survivors in accordance with the provision of various employment contracts in effect at the time of retirement.

Substantially all of the District's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the District. Health care benefits are provided through plans whose premiums are based on the benefits paid during the year. The cost of providing post-retirement benefits is shared between the District and the retired employee. The District recognizes the cost of providing health insurance by recording its share of insurance premiums as an expenditure.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**R. Short-Term Debt**

The District may issue Revenue Anticipation Notes (RANs) and Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs), in anticipation of the receipt of revenues. These notes are recorded as a liability of the fund that will actually receive the proceeds from the issuance of the notes. The RANs and TANs represent a liability that will be extinguished by the use of expendable, available resources of the fund.

The District may issue budget notes up to an amount not to exceed 5% of the amount of the annual budget during any fiscal year for expenditures for which there is an insufficient or no provision made in the annual budget. The budget note must be repaid no later than the close of the second fiscal year succeeding the year in which the note was issued.

The District may issue deficiency notes up to an amount not to exceed 5% of the amount of that same year's annual budget in any fund or funds arising from revenues being less than the amount estimated in the budget for that fiscal year. The deficiency notes may mature no later than the close of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which they were issued. However, they may mature no later than the close of the second fiscal year after the fiscal year in which they were issued, if the notes were authorized and issued after the adoption of the budget for the fiscal year following the year in which they were issued.

The District may issue Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs), in anticipation of proceeds from the subsequent sale of bonds. These notes are recorded as current liabilities of the funds that will actually receive the proceeds from the issuance of bonds. State law requires that BANs issued for capital purposes be converted to long-term financing within five years after the original issue date.

**S. Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations**

Payables, accrued liabilities and long-term obligations are reported in the District-wide financial statements. In the governmental funds, payables and accrued liabilities are paid in a timely manner and in full from current financial resources. Claims and judgments, other post-employment benefits payable and compensated absences that will be paid from governmental funds, are reported as a liability in the fund's financial statements only to the extent that they are due for payment in the current year. Bonds and other long-term obligations that will be paid from governmental funds are recognized as a liability in the fund financial statements when due.

Long-term obligations represent the District's future obligations or future economic outflows. The liabilities are reported as due in one year or due within more than one year in the Statement of Net Position.

**T. Equity Classifications**

**District-Wide Statements**

In the District-wide statements, there are three classes of net position:

**i) Net Investment in Capital Assets**

Consists of net capital assets (cost less accumulated depreciation) reduced by outstanding balances of related debt obligations from the acquisition, construction or improvements of those assets.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**T. Equity Classifications – (Continued)**

**District-Wide Statements – (Continued)**

**ii) Restricted Net Position**

Reports net position when constraints placed on the assets or deferred outflows of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

**iii) Unrestricted Net Position**

Reports the balance of net position that does not meet the definition of the above two classifications and is deemed to be available for general use by the District.

**Funds Statements**

In the fund basis statements, there are five classifications of fund balance:

**1. Nonspendable**

Includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Nonspendable fund balance includes the inventory recorded in the School Lunch Fund of \$6,444.

**2. Restricted**

Includes amounts with constraints placed on the use of resources either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. All encumbrances of funds other than the General Fund are classified as restricted fund balance.

The District has established the following restricted fund balances:

**Currently Utilized by the District:**

**Debt Service**

According to General Municipal Law §6-1, the Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service, must be established for the purpose of retiring the outstanding obligations upon the sale of District property or capital improvement that was financed by obligations that remain outstanding at the time of sale. The funding of the reserve is from the proceeds of the sale of School District property or capital improvement. This reserve is accounted for in the Debt Service Fund under Restricted Fund Balance.



WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**T. Equity Classifications – (Continued)**

**Funds Statements – (Continued)**

**2. Restricted – (Continued)**

**Currently Utilized by the District: – (Continued)**

**Retirement Contributions**

According to General Municipal Law §6-r, must be used for financing retirement contributions to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System. This reserve is established by Board resolution and is funded by budgetary appropriation and such other reserves and funds that may be legally appropriated. The reserve must be accounted for separate and apart from all other funds and a detailed report of the operation and condition of the fund must be provided to the Board. Effective April 1, 2019, a Board may adopt a resolution establishing a sub-fund for contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System. During the fiscal year, the Board may authorize payment into the sub-fund of up to 2% of the total covered salaries paid during the preceding fiscal year, with the total amount funded not to exceed 10% of the total covered salaries during the preceding fiscal year. The sub-fund is separately administered, but must comply with all the existing provisions of General Municipal Law §6-r. This reserve is accounted for in the General Fund under Restricted Fund Balance.

**Workers' Compensation**

According to General Municipal Law §6-j, must be used to pay for compensation benefits and other expenses authorized by Article 2 of the Workers' Compensation Law, and for payment of expenses of administering this self-insurance program. The reserve may be established by Board action and is funded by budgetary appropriations and such other funds as may be legally appropriated. Within sixty days after the end of any fiscal year, excess amounts may either be transferred to another reserve or the excess applied to the appropriations of the next succeeding fiscal year's budget. This reserve is accounted for in the General Fund under Restricted Fund Balance.

**3. Committed**

Includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the School District's highest level of decision making authority, i.e., the Board of Education. The School District has no committed fund balances as of June 30, 2023.

**4. Assigned**

Includes amounts that are constrained by the District's intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed. The purpose of the constraint must be narrower than the purpose of the General Fund, and in funds other than the General Fund. Assigned fund balance represents the residual amount of fund balance. Assigned fund balance also includes an amount appropriated to partially fund the subsequent year's budget, as well as encumbrances not classified as restricted at the end of the fiscal year.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**T. Equity Classifications – (Continued)**

**Funds Statements – (Continued)**

**5. Unassigned**

Includes all other General Fund amounts that do not meet the definitions of the above four classifications and are deemed to be available for general use by the District. In funds other than the General Fund, the unassigned classification is used to report a deficit fund balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted or assigned.

NYS Real Property Tax Law §1318 limits the amount of unexpended surplus funds, excluding the reserve for tax reduction, a school district can retain to no more than 4% of the School District's budget for the General Fund for the ensuing fiscal year. Nonspendable and restricted fund balance of the General Fund are excluded from the 4% limitation. Amounts appropriated for the subsequent year and encumbrances are also excluded from the 4% limitation.

**Order of Use of Fund Balance**

The Board has adopted Policy #5571 allowing establishment or removal of assignments of fund balance through Board resolution based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools. Policy #5571 further denotes the order of use of fund balance to be recommended to the Board of Education by the Superintendent of Schools on an annual basis.

**U. New Accounting Standards**

The District has adopted all current Statements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) that are applicable. At June 30, 2023, the District implemented the following new standards issued by GASB:

GASB has issued Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*, effective for the year ending June 30, 2023. This statement provides a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers.

GASB has issued Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, effective for the year ending June 30, 2023. This statement improves the financial reporting related to Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships to provide services.

GASB has issued Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, effective for the year ending June 30, 2023. This statement requires the recognition of a right-to-use subscription asset – an intangible asset – and a corresponding subscription liability for subscription-based information technology arrangements for government end users.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)**

**V. Future Changes in Accounting Standards**

GASB has issued Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*, effective for the year ending June 30, 2024. This Statement amends GASB Statement No. 62 in order to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections.

GASB has issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the year ending June 30, 2025. This Statement amends the existing requirements related to Compensated Absences by updating the recognition and measurement guidance.

The District will evaluate the impact each of these pronouncements may have on its financial statements and will implement them as applicable and when material.

**NOTE 2 – EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL FUND STATEMENTS AND DISTRICT-WIDE STATEMENTS**

Due to the differences in the measurement focus and basis of accounting used in the funds statements and the District-wide statements, certain financial transactions are treated differently. The basic financial statements contain a full reconciliation of these items. The differences result primarily from the economic focus of the District-wide statements, compared with the current financial resources focus of the governmental funds.

**A. Total Fund Balance of Governmental Funds vs. Net Position of Governmental Activities**

Total fund balances of the District’s governmental funds differ from “net position” of governmental activities reported in the Statement of Net Position. This difference primarily results from the long-term economic focus of the Statement of Net Position versus the solely current financial resources focus of the governmental fund balance sheets, as applied to the reporting of capital assets and long-term liabilities, including pensions and other post-employment benefits.

**B. Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance vs. Statement of Activities**

Differences between the funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance and the Statement of Activities fall into one of five broad categories, as described below:

**i) Long-Term Revenue and Expense Differences**

Long-term revenue differences arise because governmental funds report revenues only when they are considered “available”, whereas the Statement of Activities reports revenues when earned. Differences in long-term expenses arise because governmental funds report on a modified accrual basis, whereas the accrual basis of accounting is used on the Statement of Activities.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 2 – EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL FUND STATEMENTS AND DISTRICT-WIDE STATEMENTS – (CONTINUED)**

**B. Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance vs. Statement of Activities – (Continued)**

**ii) Capital Related Differences**

Capital related differences include the difference between proceeds for the sale of capital assets reported on fund statements and the gain or loss on the sale of assets as reported on the Statement of Activities, and the difference between recording an expenditure for the purchase of capital items in the fund statements and depreciation expense on those items as recorded in the Statement of Activities.

**iii) Long-Term Debt Transaction Differences**

Long-term debt transaction differences occur because both interest and principal payments are recorded as expenditures in the governmental fund statements, whereas interest payments are recorded in the Statement of Activities as incurred, and principal payments are recorded as a reduction of liabilities in the Statement of Net Position.

**iv) Pension Differences**

Pension differences occur as a result of changes in the District's proportion of the collective net pension asset (liability) and differences between the District's contributions and its proportionate share of the total contributions to the pension systems.

**v) OPEB Differences**

OPEB differences occur as a result of changes in the District's total OPEB liability and differences between the District's contributions and OPEB expense.

**NOTE 3 – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Budgets**

The District administration prepares a proposed budget for approval by the Board of Education for the following governmental funds for which legal (appropriated) budgets are adopted.

The voters of the District defeated the proposed appropriation budget; consequently, the Board of Education adopted a contingency budget, which includes appropriations for teachers' salaries and other ordinary contingent expenses. Under a contingency budget, the District's tax levy may not be greater than the tax levied for the prior school year. However, the administrative component of a contingency budget, exclusive of the capital component, may not comprise a greater percentage of the budget than the lesser of that percentage of the prior year's budget, or the percentage in the last defeated budget.

Appropriations are adopted at the program line item level.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 3 – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY – (CONTINUED)**

**Budgets – (Continued)**

Appropriations established by the adoption of the budget constitute a limitation on expenditures (and encumbrances) that may be incurred. Appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year unless expended or encumbered. Encumbrances will lapse if not expended in the subsequent year. Appropriations authorized for the current year are increased by the planned use of specific reserves, and budget amendments approved by the Board of Education as a result of selected new revenue sources not included in the original budget (when permitted by law). These supplemental appropriations may occur subject to legal restrictions, if the Board approves them because of a need that exists which was not determined at the time the budget was adopted. No supplemental appropriations occurred during the year.

Budgets are adopted annually on a basis consistent with GAAP. Appropriations authorized for the year are increased by the amount of encumbrances carried forward from the prior year.

Budgets are established and used for individual capital project fund expenditures as approved by a special referendum of the District's voters. The maximum project amount authorized is based primarily upon the cost of the project, plus any requirements for external borrowings, not annual appropriations. These budgets do not lapse and are carried over to subsequent fiscal years until the completion of the projects.

**Encumbrances**

Encumbrance accounting is used for budget control and monitoring purposes and is reported as a part of the governmental funds. Under this method, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded to reserve applicable appropriations. Outstanding encumbrances as of year-end are presented as restrictions or assignments of fund balance and do not represent expenditures or liabilities. These commitments will be honored in the subsequent period. Related expenditures are recognized at that time, as the liability is incurred, or the commitment is paid.

**New York State Real Property Tax Law Limit**

The portion of the District's fund balance subject to the New York State Real Property Tax Law §1318 limit exceeded the amount allowable, which is 4% of the District's budget for the upcoming school year.

**Deficit Fund Balance**

The School Lunch Fund had a deficit fund balance of \$118,888 at June 30, 2023. This deficit will be eliminated in future years.

The Capital Fund had a deficit fund balance of \$779,219 at June 30, 2023. This deficit will be eliminated in future years funding of the capital project.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 4 – CASH (AND CASH EQUIVALENTS) – CUSTODIAL CREDIT, CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT, INTEREST RATE AND FOREIGN CURRENCY RISKS**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District’s deposits may not be returned to it. While the District does not have a specific policy for custodial credit risk, New York State statutes govern the District’s investment policies, as discussed previously in these Notes.

The District’s aggregate bank balances (disclosed in the financial statements), included balances not covered by depository insurance at year-end, collateralized as follows:

Uncollateralized	\$	0
Collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or its trust department or agent, but not in the District’s name		7,614,100

Restricted cash represents cash and cash equivalents where use is limited by legal requirements. These assets represent amounts required by statute to be reserved for various purposes. Restricted cash as of year-end includes \$935,753 in governmental funds and \$69,156 in fiduciary funds.

**NOTE 5 – CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset balances and activity for the year ended June 30, 2023, were as follows:

	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Additions</b>	<b>Retirements/ Reclassifications</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Governmental activities:				
Capital assets that are not depreciated:				
Land	\$ 54,970	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 54,970
Construction in progress	7,065,069	650,389	0	7,715,458
<b>Total nondepreciable historical cost</b>	<b>7,120,039</b>	<b>650,389</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,770,428</b>
Capital assets that are depreciated:				
Buildings	21,072,058	0	0	21,072,058
Furniture and equipment	3,040,013	124,832	380,171	2,784,674
<b>Total depreciable historical cost</b>	<b>24,112,071</b>	<b>124,832</b>	<b>380,171</b>	<b>23,856,732</b>
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings	7,941,402	255,014	0	8,196,416
Furniture and equipment	1,303,898	282,980	242,663	1,344,215
<b>Total accumulated depreciation</b>	<b>9,245,300</b>	<b>537,994</b>	<b>242,663</b>	<b>9,540,631</b>
<b>Total depreciable historical cost – net</b>	<b>14,866,771</b>	<b>(413,162)</b>	<b>137,508</b>	<b>14,316,101</b>
Right to use assets that are amortized:				
Equipment	603,114	65,135	0	668,249
Less accumulated amortization				
Equipment	212,681	215,213	0	427,894
<b>Total right to use assets, net</b>	<b>390,433</b>	<b>(150,078)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>240,355</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL – NET</b>	<b>\$ 22,377,243</b>	<b>\$ 87,149</b>	<b>\$ 137,508</b>	<b>\$ 22,326,884</b>

Depreciation and amortization were allocated to the following programs as follows:

General support	\$	144,422
Instruction		521,085
Pupil transportation		64,679
School lunch program		23,021
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>753,207</b>

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 6 – SHORT-TERM DEBT**

Transactions in short-term debt for the year are summarized below:

	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Redeemed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
BAN	6/21/2024	3.85%	\$ 0	\$ 4,811,458	\$ 0	\$ 4,811,458

Interest paid on short-term debt for the year was \$-0-.

**NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM DEBT**

Interest paid on long-term debt for the year was \$215,555.

Long-term liability balances and activity for the year are summarized below:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Redeemed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Amounts Due Within One Year</u>
Government activities:					
Bonds and notes payable	\$ 8,273,505	\$ 315,992	\$ 1,513,505	\$ 7,075,992	\$ 1,185,992
Leases payable	61,748	0	37,263	24,485	24,485
Other liabilities:					
Other post-employment benefits	56,521,215	0	7,185,019	49,336,196	0
Compensated absences	676,251	259,516	0	935,767	0
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 65,532,719</b>	<b>\$ 575,508</b>	<b>\$ 8,735,787</b>	<b>\$ 57,372,440</b>	<b>\$ 1,210,477</b>

The following is a summary of the maturity of long-term indebtedness:

<u>Description of Issue</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Outstanding at June 30, 2023</u>
Serial Bonds	9/15/2021	9/15/2026	1.000%	\$ 235,000
Serial Bonds	9/15/2018	9/15/2023	2.625-2.75%	60,000
Serial Bonds	6/15/2018	6/15/2033	2.75%-3.125%	5,015,000
Serial Bonds	9/15/2022	9/15/2027	3.125-3.375%	315,992
Serial Bonds	9/17/2019	9/15/2024	1.625%-1.75%	120,000
Serial Bonds	9/16/2020	9/15/2025	0.50% -0.141%	195,000
Serial Bonds	10/7/2020	6/15/2026	1.00% - 4.00%	1,135,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 7,075,992</b>

The following is a summary of maturing debt service requirements:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal year ending June 30:			
2024	\$ 1,185,992	\$ 202,762	\$ 1,388,754
2025	1,140,000	174,073	1,314,073
2026	885,000	141,158	1,026,158
2027	595,000	114,772	709,772
2028	555,000	98,013	653,013
2029 - 2033	2,715,000	253,225	2,968,225
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 7,075,992</b>	<b>\$ 984,003</b>	<b>\$ 8,059,995</b>

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM DEBT – (CONTINUED)**

The following is a summary of the maturity of leases payable:

<u>Description of Issue</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Outstanding at June 30, 2023</u>
2022 Lease	6/26/2020	12/1/2023	0.553%	\$ 24,485
<b>TOTAL</b>				<u>\$ 24,485</u>

The following is a summary of maturing leases payable:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal year ending June 30:			
2024	\$ 24,485	\$ 210	\$ 24,695
<b>TOTALS</b>	<u>\$ 24,485</u>	<u>\$ 210</u>	<u>\$ 24,695</u>

**NOTE 8 – INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

	<u>Interfund</u>		<u>Interfund</u>	
	<u>Receivables</u>	<u>Payables</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
General Fund	\$ 565,495	\$ 52,529	\$ 5,817	\$ 97,029
Special Aid Funds	52,529	355,874	52,529	5,817
School Lunch Fund	0	209,621	0	0
Capital Fund	0	50,923	44,500	0
Debt Service Fund	50,923	0	0	0
Total government activities	668,947	668,947	102,846	102,846
Custodial Fund	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<u>\$ 668,947</u>	<u>\$ 668,947</u>	<u>\$ 102,846</u>	<u>\$ 102,846</u>

Interfund receivables and payables, other than between governmental activities and fiduciary funds, are eliminated on the Statement of Net Position.

The District typically loans resources between funds for the purpose of mitigating the effects of transient cash flow issues.



WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 9 – PENSION PLANS**

**General Information**

The District participates in the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) and the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS). These are cost-sharing multiple employer public employee retirement systems. The Systems offer a wide range of plans and benefits, which are related to years of service and final average salary, vesting of retirement benefits, death and disability.

**Plan Descriptions and Benefits Provided:**

**Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)**

The District participates in the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). This is a cost-sharing multiple-employer retirement system. The System provides retirement benefits, as well as, death and disability 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. The System is governed by a 10 member Board of Trustees. System benefits are established under New York State Law. Membership is mandatory and automatic for all full-time teachers, teaching assistants, guidance counselors and administrators employed in New York Public Schools and BOCES who elected to participate in TRS. Once a public employer elects to participate in the System, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a State statute. The System issues a publicly available financial report that contains financial statements and required supplementary information. The report may be obtained by writing to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, 10 Corporate Woods Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2395 or by referring to the TRS Comprehensive Annual Financial report, which can be found on the System's website at [www.nystrs.org](http://www.nystrs.org).

**Employees' Retirement System (ERS)**

The District participates in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (ERS). This is a cost-sharing multiple-employer retirement system. The System provides retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits. The net position of the System is held in the New York State Common Retirement Fund (the Fund), which was established to hold all net assets and record changes in plan net position allocated to the System. The Comptroller of the State of New York serves as the trustee of the Fund and is the administrative head of the System. The New York State Retirement and Social Security Law (NYSRSSL) govern obligations of employers and employees to contribute, and benefits to employees. Once a public employer elects to participate in the System, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a State statute. The District also participates in the Public Employees' Group Life Insurance Plan (GLIP), which provides death benefits in the form of life insurance. The System is included in the State's financial report as a pension trust fund. The System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System, Office of the State Comptroller, 110 State Street, Albany, NY 12244 or by referring to the ERS Comprehensive Annual Report, which can be found at [www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php).

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**NOTE 9 – PENSION PLANS – (CONTINUED)**

The Systems are noncontributory except for employees who joined after July 27, 1976, who contribute 3% of their salary for the first ten years of membership, and employees who joined on or after January 1, 2010, who generally contribute 3.0% to 3.5% of their salary for their entire length of service. In addition, employee contribution rates under ERS tier VI vary based on a sliding salary scale. For ERS, the Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions based on salaries paid during the Systems' fiscal year ending March 31. For TRS, contribution rates are established annually by the New York State Teachers' Retirement Board pursuant to Article 11 of the Education Law.

The District is required to contribute at a rate determined actuarially by the Systems. The District contributions made to the Systems were equal to 100% of the contributions required for each year. Required contributions for the current and two preceding years were:

	<u>NYSTRS</u>	<u>NYSERS</u>
2022-2023	\$ 549,194	\$ 205,278
2021-2022	509,487	300,678
2020-2021	516,954	277,992

ERS has provided additional disclosures through entities that elected to participate in Chapter 260, 57 and 105.

Additional pension information can be found in Note 1 N.

**NOTE 10 – POST-EMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE) BENEFITS**

**General Information About the OPEB Plan:**

**Plan Description**

The District administers a defined benefit OPEB plan that provides OPEB for all permanent full-time general employees of the District. The plan is a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan (the Plan) administered by Article 11 of the State Compiled Statutes, which grants the authority to establish and amend the benefit terms and financing requirements to the District's Board, subject to applicable collective bargaining and employment agreements, and Board of Education policy. The Plan does not issue a separate financial report since there are no assets legally segregated for the sole purpose of paying benefits under the Plan. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of GASB Statement No. 75.

**Funding Policy**

The obligations of the Plan members and employers are established by action of the District pursuant to applicable collected bargaining and other employment agreements. Employees contribute varying percentages of the premiums, depending on when retired and their applicable agreement. The District currently funds the Plan to satisfy current obligations on a pay-as-you-go basis.

**Benefits Provided**

The District provides healthcare and life insurance benefits for retirees and their dependents. The benefit terms are dependent on which contract each employee falls under. The specifics of each contract are on file at the District offices and are available upon request.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**NOTE 10 – POST-EMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE) BENEFITS – (CONTINUED)**

**Employees Covered by Benefit Terms**

At June 30, 2023, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	94
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	0
Active employees	<u>127</u>
Total	<u>221</u>

**Net OPEB Liability:**

The District's total OPEB liability of \$49,336,196 was measured as of July 1, 2022 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022.

**Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs**

The total OPEB liability in the July 1, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.7%
Salary Increases	4%, average, including inflation
Discount Rate	3.54%
Healthcare Cost Trend Rates	7.80% for 2024, decreasing to an ultimate rate of 4.14% for 2093 and later years.

The discount rate was based on the Bond Buyer Weekly 20-Bond GO Index.

Mortality rates were based on the RPH-2014 Mortality Table for employees, sex distinct, with generational mortality adjusted to 2006 using scale MP-2014, and projected forward with scale MP-2021.

**Changes in the Total OPEB Liability:**

Balance at June 30, 2022	\$ 56,521,215
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	2,189,704
Interest	1,241,885
Changes in benefit terms	0
Differences between expected and actual experience	(4,151,015)
Changes in assumptions or other inputs	(5,107,699)
Benefit payments	<u>(1,357,894)</u>
Net changes	<u>(7,185,019)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2023	<u>\$ 49,336,196</u>

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 10 – POST-EMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE) BENEFITS – (CONTINUED)**

**Changes in the Total OPEB Liability: - (Continued)**

The most recent actuarial valuation had the following changes in assumptions and other inputs:

- Raised the discount rate from 2.14% to 3.54%.
- Updated the mortality tables to the sex-distinct and job category-specific headcount weighted Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Tables for employees and healthy retirees, adjusted for mortality improvements with scale MP-2021 mortality improvement scale on a generational basis.
- Updated the TRS turnover/retirement rates with the tables from the NYSTRS Office of the Actuary dated October 19, 2021 and the ERS turnover/retirement rates with the NYSERS Office of Actuary rates from their report dated August 2020.
- The Getzen trend table was updated for 2022 using model v2024\_1F.

**Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (2.54%) or 1 percentage point higher (4.54%) than the current discount rate:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 58,061,079	\$ 49,336,196	\$ 42,331,079

**Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates**

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rate:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Healthcare Cost Trend Rates</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 41,545,590	\$ 49,336,196	\$ 59,383,153

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 10 – POST-EMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE) BENEFITS – (CONTINUED)**

**OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the District recognized OPEB expense of \$649,244. At June 30, 2023, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<b><u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u></b>	<b><u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u></b>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 0	\$ 4,587,597
Changes of assumptions or other inputs	6,355,508	4,593,548
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>1,197,468</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<b><u>\$ 7,552,976</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 9,181,145</u></b>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in the OPEB expense as follows:

<b><u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30:</u></b>	
2024	\$ 976,895
2025	524,748
2026	(25,911)
2027	(1,434,297)
2028	(1,517,822)
2029 and thereafter	<u>(151,782)</u>
Total	<b><u>\$ (1,628,169)</u></b>

**NOTE 11 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft, damage, injuries, errors and omissions, natural disasters, and other risks. The risks are covered by commercial insurance purchased from independent third parties. Settled claims from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage.

**Consortiums and Self-Insured Plans**

The District participates in Oneida Herkimer Madison Consortium Workers' Compensation Plan, a risk-sharing pool to insure Workers' Compensation claims. This is a public entity risk pool created under Article 5 of the Workers' Compensation Law to finance liability and risks related to Workers' Compensation claims. The District's share of the liability for unbilled and open claims has not been provided by the Pool at the time these financial statements were prepared but is thought to be no greater than prior contribution which the District has made to the Pool. The liability would be reported as a long-term debt.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 12 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

The District has received grants which are subject to audit by agencies of the federal and state governments. Such audits may result in disallowances and a request for a return of funds to the federal and state governments. The District's administration believes that disallowances, if any, would be immaterial.

**NOTE 13 – TAX ABATEMENTS**

The County of Herkimer enters into various property tax and sales tax (if applicable) abatement programs for the purpose of economic development. The School District's property tax revenue was reduced \$1,954,953. The District received Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) payment totaling \$314,328.

**NOTE 14 – OTHER CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION**

Fund balance in the General Fund decreased by \$104,889 and fund balance in the CM Misc. Special Revenue Fund decreased \$169 due to the write-off of prior year receivable balances. Accordingly, overall net position decreased \$105,058.

**NOTE 15 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the issuance date of the of the audit report. There were no issues to report that would have a material effect on the financial statements.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET (NON-GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual Revenues</u>	<u>Final Budget Variance with Budgetary Actual Over (Under)</u>
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
<b>Local Sources</b>				
Real property taxes	\$ 5,139,357	\$ 4,436,432	\$ 4,436,432	\$ 0
Real property tax items	340,230	1,043,154	1,033,534	(9,620)
Charges for services	68,900	68,900	3,140	(65,760)
Use of money and property	7,048	7,048	41,813	34,765
Sale of property and compensation for loss	4,000	4,000	10,318	6,318
Miscellaneous	150,000	150,000	252,040	102,040
<b>Total Local Sources</b>	<u>5,709,535</u>	<u>5,709,534</u>	<u>5,777,277</u>	<u>67,743</u>
<b>State Sources</b>	12,075,456	12,075,456	12,258,833	183,377
<b>Federal Sources</b>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>62,513</u>	<u>17,513</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	17,829,991	17,829,990	18,098,623	268,633
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>				
Transfers from other funds	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,817</u>	<u>5,817</u>
<b>Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources</b>	<u>17,829,991</u>	<u>17,829,990</u>	<u>18,104,440</u>	<u>\$ 274,450</u>

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditors' report.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET (NON-GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Year End Encumbrances</u>	<u>Final Budget Variance With Budgetary Actual and Encumbrances (Over) Under</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>General Support</b>					
Board of Education	18,169	18,169	11,130	\$ 0	\$ 7,039
Central administration	214,962	218,964	213,429	0	5,535
Finance	556,373	575,501	547,713	0	27,788
Staff	57,213	57,213	24,319	0	32,894
Central services	1,413,802	1,321,940	1,291,394	0	30,546
Special items	426,203	423,661	414,723	0	8,938
<b>Instructional</b>					
Instruction, administration and improvements	466,662	466,662	411,741	0	54,921
Teaching – regular school	4,591,815	4,517,268	4,353,410	0	163,858
Programs for children with handicapping conditions	1,819,890	1,819,515	1,667,317	0	152,198
Occupational education	501,880	499,938	489,333	0	10,605
Teaching - special school	13,218	19,418	19,418	0	0
Instructional media	574,886	578,968	484,348	100	94,520
Pupil services	843,482	852,786	737,419	7,659	107,708
<b>Pupil Transportation</b>	1,050,543	1,120,907	1,120,830	77	0
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	5,309,237	5,309,237	4,882,700	0	426,537
<b>Debt Service</b>	1,728,447	1,766,324	1,766,323	0	1
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	19,586,782	19,566,471	18,435,547	7,836	1,123,088
<b>Other Financing Uses</b>					
Transfers to other funds	85,204	123,704	97,029	0	26,675
<b>Total Expenditures and Other Uses</b>	19,671,986	19,690,175	18,532,576	\$ 7,836	\$ 1,149,763
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	(1,841,995)	(1,860,185)	(428,136)		
<b>FUND BALANCE – BEGINNING</b>	4,940,349	4,940,349	4,940,349		
<b>OTHER CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	0	0	(104,889)		
<b>FUND BALANCE – ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 3,098,354</u>	<u>\$ 3,080,164</u>	<u>\$ 4,407,324</u>		

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditors' report.



**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS – CHANGES IN TOTAL OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT  
BENEFITS LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 AND 2018**

<b>Measurement Date</b>	<b>July 1, 2022</b>	<b>July 1, 2021</b>	<b>July 1, 2020</b>	<b>July 1, 2019</b>	<b>July 1, 2018</b>	<b>July 1, 2017</b>
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>						
Service cost	\$ 2,189,704	\$ 2,236,263	\$ 1,278,750	\$ 1,276,153	\$ 1,532,616	\$ 1,948,258
Interest	1,241,885	1,220,998	1,470,809	1,537,236	1,622,167	1,404,992
Change of benefit terms	0	0	0	0	0	0
Differences between expected and actual experience	(4,151,015)	0	(1,367,223)	0	(4,271,214)	0
Change of assumptions or other inputs	(5,107,699)	647,900	12,064,079	608,211	(2,972,172)	(6,308,579)
Benefit payments	(1,357,894)	(1,192,938)	(1,163,555)	(1,082,351)	(904,193)	(829,451)
<b>Net change in total OPEB liability</b>	<b>(7,185,019)</b>	<b>2,912,223</b>	<b>12,282,860</b>	<b>2,339,249</b>	<b>(4,992,796)</b>	<b>(3,784,780)</b>
<b>Total OPEB Liability - beginning</b>	<b>56,521,215</b>	<b>53,608,992</b>	<b>41,326,132</b>	<b>38,986,883</b>	<b>43,979,679</b>	<b>47,764,459</b>
<b>Total OPEB Liability - ending</b>	<b>\$ 49,336,196</b>	<b>\$ 56,521,215</b>	<b>\$ 53,608,992</b>	<b>\$ 41,326,132</b>	<b>\$ 38,986,883</b>	<b>\$ 43,979,679</b>
<b>Covered-employee payroll</b>	<b>\$ 7,389,370</b>	<b>\$ 7,098,317</b>	<b>\$ 7,040,889</b>	<b>\$ 6,881,870</b>	<b>\$ 6,648,613</b>	<b>\$ 6,648,613</b>
<b>Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll</b>	<b>667.66%</b>	<b>796.26%</b>	<b>761.40%</b>	<b>600.51%</b>	<b>586.39%</b>	<b>661.49%</b>
<b>Plan's fiduciary net position</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Net OPEB Liability</b>	<b>\$ 49,336,196</b>	<b>\$ 56,521,215</b>	<b>\$ 53,608,992</b>	<b>\$ 41,326,132</b>	<b>\$ 38,986,883</b>	<b>\$ 43,979,679</b>

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditors' report.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE  
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 AND 2015**

**NYS Employees' Retirement System**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
District's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.0051084%	0.0049653%	0.0052426%	0.0057358%	0.0052347%	0.0055218%	0.0050638%	0.0051216%	0.0051012%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 1,095,446	\$ (405,892)	\$ 5,220	\$ 1,518,886	\$ 370,897	\$ 178,213	\$ 475,807	\$ 822,027	\$ 172,331
District's covered-employee payroll	2,162,424	1,828,401	1,866,579	1,771,781	1,617,598	1,574,196	1,401,025	1,394,126	1,484,259
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	50.7%	22.2%	0.3%	85.7%	22.9%	11.3%	34.0%	59.0%	11.6%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability (asset)	90.78%	103.65%	99.95%	86.4%	96.3%	98.2%	94.7%	90.7%	97.9%

**NYS Teachers' Retirement System**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
District's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.029074%	0.028870%	0.028766%	0.028249%	0.028155%	0.028118%	0.028177%	0.027883%	0.028427%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 557,903	\$ (5,002,893)	\$ 794,891	\$ (733,922)	\$ (509,111)	\$ (213,726)	\$ 301,792	\$ (2,896,191)	\$ (3,166,568)
District's covered-employee payroll	5,539,362	5,301,859	5,125,252	4,882,555	5,042,484	4,555,199	4,621,368	4,491,961	4,235,645
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	10.1%	94.4%	15.5%	15.0%	10.1%	4.7%	6.5%	64.5%	74.8%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability (asset)	98.60%	113.20%	97.80%	102.20%	101.53%	100.70%	99.00%	110.50%	111.48%

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditors' report.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 AND 2015**

**NYS Employees' Retirement System**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 205,278	\$ 300,678	\$ 277,992	\$ 257,256	\$ 232,821	\$ 300,678	\$ 277,992	\$ 206,397	\$ 289,475
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	205,278	300,678	277,992	257,256	232,821	300,678	277,992	206,397	289,475
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 2,162,424	\$ 1,828,401	\$ 1,866,579	\$ 1,771,781	\$ 1,617,598	\$ 1,574,196	\$ 1,401,025	\$ 1,394,126	\$ 1,484,259
Contribution as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	9.49%	16.44%	14.89%	14.52%	14.39%	19.10%	19.84%	14.80%	19.50%

**NYS Teachers' Retirement System**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 570,000	\$ 519,582	\$ 488,437	\$ 432,594	\$ 535,512	\$ 446,410	\$ 541,624	\$ 595,634	\$ 734,237
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	570,000	519,582	488,437	432,594	535,512	446,410	541,624	595,634	734,237
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
District's covered-employee payroll	\$ 5,539,362	\$ 5,301,859	\$ 5,125,252	\$ 4,882,555	\$ 5,042,484	\$ 4,555,199	\$ 4,621,368	\$ 4,491,961	\$ 4,235,645
Contribution as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	10.29%	9.80%	9.53%	8.86%	10.62%	9.80%	11.72%	13.26%	17.33%

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditors' report.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF CHANGE FROM ADOPTED BUDGET TO FINAL BUDGET –  
GENERAL FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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<b>ADOPTED BUDGET</b>	\$ 19,671,986
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>	
Prior year's encumbrances	<u>18,189</u>
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<u><u>\$ 19,690,175</u></u>

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SECTION 1318 OF REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW LIMIT CALCULATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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2023-2024 voter-approved expenditure budget	\$ 21,212,431
Maximum allowed (4% of 2023-2024 budget)	848,497
General Fund Fund Balance Subject to Section 1318 of Real Property Tax Law:	
Unrestricted fund balance:	
Assigned fund balance	2,133,618
Unassigned fund balance	<u>1,337,953</u>
Total unrestricted fund balance	3,471,571
Less:	
Appropriated fund balance and encumbrances	<u>2,133,618</u>
General Fund Fund Balance Subject to Section 1318 of Real Property Tax Law	<u><u>\$ 1,337,953</u></u>
Actual percentage	6.3%

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditors' report.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND – PROJECT EXPENDITURES AND FINANCING RESOURCES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Project Title	Original Appropriation	Revised Appropriation	Expenditures to Date			Unexpended Balance	Methods of Financing			Fund Balance
			Prior Year	Current Year	Total		Proceeds of Obligations	State Aid	Local Sources	
Bus	\$ 280,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 279,109	\$ 0	\$ 279,109	\$ 891	\$ 280,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 891
Bus	314,339	314,339	314,946	0	314,946	(607)	314,339	0	0	(607)
Bus	315,992	315,992	0	316,396	316,396	(404)	315,992	0	0	(404)
Leases	39,605	39,605	39,605	0	39,605	0	0	0	39,605	0
Emergency Project	44,500	44,500	0	44,500	44,500	0	0	0	44,500	0
Football turf and bleachers	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	564	564	3,999,436	0	0	0	(564)
School building and bus garage renovations	4,916,458	6,410,498	210,499	605,325	815,824	5,594,674	0	0	0	(815,824)
School renovations/alterations	6,157,000	6,157,000	6,854,588	0	6,854,588	(697,588)	6,431,258	460,619	0	37,289
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 16,067,894</b>	<b>\$ 17,561,934</b>	<b>\$ 7,698,747</b>	<b>\$ 966,785</b>	<b>\$ 8,665,532</b>	<b>\$ 8,896,402</b>	<b>\$ 7,341,589</b>	<b>\$ 460,619</b>	<b>\$ 84,105</b>	<b>\$ (779,219)</b>

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditors' report.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**NET INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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<b>CAPITAL ASSETS, NET</b>	\$ 22,326,884
<b>DEDUCT:</b>	
Short-term portion of bonds payable	1,185,992
Short-term portion of leases payable	24,485
Long-term portion of bonds payable	<u>5,890,000</u>
<b>NET INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$ 15,226,407</u></u>

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in auditors' report.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAM INFORMATION  
(SINGLE AUDIT)**

**(UNIFORM GUIDANCE)**

**JUNE 30, 2023**



**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**

To the President and the Other Members  
of the Board of Education of the  
West Canada Valley Central School District  
Newport, New York

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 aggregate remaining fund information of West Canada Valley Central School 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 11, 2023.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered West Canada Valley Central School 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 West Canada Valley Central School District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of West Canada Valley Central School 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 West Canada Valley Central School 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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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 entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*WEST & COMPANY CPA PC*

Gloversville, New York  
September 11, 2023



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR  
FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

To the President and the Other Members  
of the Board of Education of the  
West Canada Valley Central School District  
Newport, New York

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

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

We have audited West Canada Valley 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 auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

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

***Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the 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 of the District 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 in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

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

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

*WEST & COMPANY CPAs PC*

Gloversville, New York  
September 11, 2023

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

<b>Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program</b>	<b>Assistance Listing</b>	<b>Pass-through Grantor's Number</b>	<b>Federal Expenditures</b>
<b><u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u></b>			
Passed Through NYS Education Department:			
Special Education Cluster:			
Special Education Grants to States	84.027	0032230301	\$ 184,790
Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173	0033230301	3,611
Total Special Education Cluster			<u>188,401</u>
Covid-19 Education Stabilization Funds			
CRRSA, ESSER	84.425D	5891211100	37,026
ARP, ESSER	84.425U	5880211100	58,979
ARP, ESSER, Summer Enrichment	84.425U	5882211100	56,415
ARP, ESSER, Comprehensive	84.425U	5883211100	4,923
ARP, ESSER, Learning Loss	84.425U	5884211100	102,482
Total Covid-19 Education Stabilization Funds			<u>259,825</u>
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0011212304	232,178
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0011212204	18,887
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	0011222304	123,581
Total Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies			<u>374,646</u>
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	0147231100	28,351
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	0204231100	12,101
Total U.S. Department of Education			<u>863,324</u>
<b><u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</u></b>			
Passed Through NYS Education Department:			
Child Nutrition Cluster:			
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)			
National School Lunch Program	10.555	Not Applicable	17,764
Cash Assistance:			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	Not Applicable	62,659
National School Lunch Program	10.555	Not Applicable	212,236
Covid-19 National School Lunch Program, Supply Chain Assistance	10.555	Not Applicable	27,521
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program	10.582	Not Applicable	10,672
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			<u>330,852</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			<u>330,852</u>
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL AWARDS EXPENDED</b>			<u><u>\$ 1,194,176</u></u>

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditors' report.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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**NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards presents the activity of federal award programs administered by the District, which is described in Note 1 to the District's accompanying financial statements, using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Federal awards that are included in the schedule may be received directly from federal agencies, as well as federal awards that are passed through from other government agencies. The information is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*. Therefore, some amounts presented in this schedule may differ from amounts presented in, or used in the preparation of, the financial statements.

Matching costs (the District's share of certain program costs) are not included in the reported expenditures.

The basis of accounting varies by federal program consistent with the underlying regulations pertaining to each program.

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

**NOTE 2 – FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

Nonmonetary assistance is reported in the schedule at the fair market value of the commodities received and disbursed. At June 30, 2023, the District had food commodities totaling \$1,194 in inventory.

**NOTE 3 – SUBRECIPIENTS**

No amounts were provided to subrecipients.

**NOTE 4 – INDIRECT COST RATE**

Indirect costs may be included in the reported expenditures, to the extent that they are included in the federal financial reports used as the source for the data presented. Certain of the District's federal award programs have been charged with indirect costs, based upon the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance. There is no other indirect cost allocation plan in effect.

**NOTE 5 – CLUSTERS**

The Special Education Cluster consists of Special Education – Grants to States and Special Education – Preschool Grants.

The Child Nutrition Cluster consists of Food Distribution, School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program and Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program.

WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**A. SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' RESULTS**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Type of auditors' opinion issued: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:  
Material weakness identified?  yes  no  
Significant deficiency identified that is not considered to be material weakness?  yes  none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?  yes  no

**FEDERAL AWARDS**

Internal control over major programs:  
Material weaknesses identified?  yes  no  
Significant deficiency identified that is not considered to be material weakness?  yes  none reported

Type of auditors' opinion(s) issued on compliance for major programs: Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516?  yes  no

Identification of major programs:

**Name of Federal Program**

**Assistance Listing**

Child Nutrition Cluster

10.553, 10.555, 10.582

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B Programs

\$ 750,000

Auditee qualified as low risk?

yes  no

**B. FINDINGS – BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT**

None.

**C. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS – MAJOR FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAMS AUDIT**

None.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**EXTRACLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**





## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the President and the Other Members  
of the Board of Education of the  
West Canada Valley Central School District  
Newport, New York

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the Extraclassroom Activity Funds of West Canada Valley Central School District (the District) as of June 30, 2023, and the related statement of revenues collected and expenses paid for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### ***Qualified Opinion***

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and fund balances of the Extraclassroom Activity Funds of the District as of June 30, 2023, and the revenues collected and expenses paid for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

#### ***Basis for Qualified Opinion***

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 Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. Insufficient accounting controls are exercised over cash receipts at the point of collections to the time of submission to the Central Treasurer. Accordingly, it was impracticable to extend our audit of such receipts beyond the amounts recorded.

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

The District's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, 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 twelve months 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 will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, 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.

### ***Basis of Accounting***

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

*WEST & COMPANY CPAs PC*

Gloversville, New York  
September 11, 2023

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**EXTRACLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS**

**JUNE 30, 2023**

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<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	\$ 69,156
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 69,156</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND CLUB BALANCES</b>	
Club balances	\$ 69,156
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CLUB BALANCES</b>	<u>\$ 69,156</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**EXTRACLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES COLLECTED AND EXPENSES PAID**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

<u>Activity Names</u>	<u>Beginning Balance July 1, 2022</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance June 30, 2023</u>
BAA	\$ 3,567	\$ 7,862	\$ 4,957	\$ 6,472
Band Club	1,430	2,629	1,119	2,940
Class of 2023	5,501	21,657	27,158	0
Class of 2024	4,371	11,341	8,195	7,517
Class of 2025	2,546	1,410	67	3,889
Class of 2026	4,062	5,477	3,910	5,629
Class of 2027	1,118	4,488	3,281	2,325
Class of 2028	0	4,586	2,886	1,700
Dramatics Club	1,039	10,670	9,449	2,260
FCCLA	388	426	447	367
FFA	1,015	3,979	4,981	13
GAA	11,582	8,128	10,362	9,348
Garden Club	638	513	412	739
International Club	515	42	0	557
NYS Sales Tax	81	5,182	4,932	331
PALS	4,261	1,312	2,221	3,352
Senior Honor Society	300	0	0	300
Sisters	487	4,173	4,018	642
Ski Club	0	1,659	1,601	58
Student Council Checking	3,601	7,430	6,141	4,890
Student Council Mun. Savings	3,057	28	0	3,085
West Canadians	13,894	9,732	11,598	12,028
Yearbook	5,111	4,414	8,811	714
<b>TOTALS</b>	<u>\$ 68,564</u>	<u>\$ 117,138</u>	<u>\$ 116,546</u>	<u>\$ 69,156</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**WEST CANADA VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**EXTRACLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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**NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The transactions of the Extraclassroom Activity Funds are considered part of the reporting entity of the West Canada Valley Central School District. The related year end cash balances are shown as part of the Custodial Fund. The Extraclassroom Activity Funds of West Canada Valley Central School District represent funds of the students of the District. The District's Board exercises general oversight on these funds. The Extraclassroom Activity Funds are independent of the District with respect to the financial transactions and the designation of student management.

The books and records of the West Canada Valley Central School District's Extraclassroom Activity Funds are maintained on the cash basis of accounting. Under this basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when cash is received, and expenditures recognized when cash is disbursed.

**NOTE 2 – MANAGEMENT LETTER**

Management letter items associated with the Extraclassroom Activity Funds are included in the management letter accompanying the District's financial statements.



September 11, 2023

To the President and the Other Members  
of the Board of Education of the  
West Canada Valley Central School District  
Newport, New York

Re: Management Letter  
June 30, 2023

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the West Canada Valley Central School District for the year ended June 30, 2023, we considered the District's internal control to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the basic financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the School District's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the basic financial statements.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily disclose all matters that might be reportable. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls.

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of these specific internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level risk that errors or fraud, in amounts that would be material in relation to the basic financial statements being audited, may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control and its operations to be material weaknesses as defined above.

However, during our audit we became aware of the following matters, and we would like to make the following comments and recommendations:

### **Prior-Year Findings**

#### **1. School Lunch Fund Deficit**

**Prior Condition:** The School Lunch Fund had a deficit fund balance of \$68,097.

**Status:** In the current year, the School Lunch Fund increased the deficit by \$50,791 to a total deficit of \$118,888.

**Recommendation:** As food requirements are changing and costs continue to increase that are beyond the control of the school lunch manager, management and the Board of Education should review the School Lunch Fund pricing to determine if changes need to be made in order to restore fund balance.

**2. General Fund – Unassigned Fund Balance**

**Prior Condition:** The District currently has unassigned fund balance that has exceeded 4% of the subsequent year’s General Fund appropriation budget. Real property tax law states that the unassigned fund balance should not exceed 4% of the subsequent year’s General Fund appropriation budget.

**Status:** This condition remains unchanged as of June 30, 2023.

**Recommendation:** We recommend that the Board of Education take the necessary actions to reduce the District’s General Fund unassigned fund balance to statutory limits.

**3. Payroll Testing**

**Prior Condition:** During our testing of payroll, we noted two instances where the time sheet was not signed by the supervisor and one instance where the annual salary letter was not signed by the employee.

**Status:** In the current year we noted one instance where the time sheet was not signed by the supervisor.

**Recommendation:** We recommend that management ensure all signatures are present for all timesheets and annual salary notices.

**Current-Year Findings**

**1. Book and Records**

**Condition:** At the time of audit, the District’s books and records were not reconciled and several funds had to be revised prior to finalizing the audit.

**Recommendation:** We recommend that the District business office develop a close out process which will ensure that all funds and groups of accounts are reconciled and reviewed timely to provide accurate records.

**2. General Fixed Asset**

**Condition:** During our review of fixed assets, it was noted that the assets are not being capitalized timely.

**Recommendation:** We recommend that the District business office review its procedures for adding fixed assets and review the report timely in order to determine that all required assets have been included.

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We appreciate the assistance and courtesies extended to us by your staff during our fieldwork. The Business Office was well prepared for our audit.

Please let us know if you would like to discuss our comments and recommendations.

Very truly yours,

*WEST & COMPANY CPAs PC*

WEST & COMPANY CPAs PC

**APPENDIX C**

**Form of Legal Opinions**



FORM OF BOND COUNSEL OPINION

June 13, 2024

Board of Education of the  
West Canada Valley Central School District  
Counties of Herkimer and Oneida, New York

Re: West Canada Valley Central School District  
\$4,916,458 School District (Serial) Bonds, 2024

Dear Board Members:

We have acted as bond counsel to the West Canada Valley Central School District, a school district of the State of New York, situated in Herkimer and Oneida Counties (the “Issuer”), in connection with the issuance of \$4,916,458 School District (Serial) Bonds, 2024, dated June 13, 2024 (the “Bonds”). In such capacity, we have examined such law and such proceedings and other documents as we have deemed necessary to render this opinion.

As to questions of fact material to our opinion, we have relied upon the certified proceedings and other certifications of public officials and others furnished to us without undertaking to verify the same by independent investigation.

Based upon the foregoing, we are of the opinion that under existing law:

1. The Bonds are valid and binding general obligations of the Issuer.
2. All taxable property in the territory of the Issuer is subject to ad valorem taxation, without limitation as to rate or amount to pay the Bonds. The Issuer is required by law to include in its annual tax levy the principal and interest coming due on the Bonds to the extent the necessary funds are not provided from other sources.
3. Interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the alternative minimum tax imposed by the Code; however, interest on the Bonds that is included in the adjusted financial income statement of certain corporations is not excluded from the corporate alternative minimum income tax imposed by the Code. The opinion set forth in the preceding sentence is subject to the condition that the Issuer comply with all requirements of the Code, that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order that interest thereon be, or continue to be, excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The Issuer has covenanted to comply with all such requirements. Failure to comply with all such requirements may cause interest on the Bonds to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. We express no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Bonds.
4. Interest on the Bonds is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by New York State or any political subdivision thereof, including The City of New York.

Except as expressly stated above, we express no opinion as to any other federal or state income tax consequences of acquiring, carrying, owning or disposing of the Bonds. Owners of the Bonds should consult their tax advisors as to the applicability of any collateral tax consequences of ownership of the Bonds, which may include original issuance discount, purchase at a market discount or at a premium, taxation upon sale, redemption or other disposition, and various withholding requirements.

It is to be understood that the rights of the owners of the Bonds and the enforceability of the Bonds may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally and by equitable principles, whether considered at law or in equity.

We express no opinion herein as to the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of the Official Statement relating to the Bonds.

This opinion is given as of the date hereof and we assume no obligation to update or supplement this opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may hereafter come to our attention or any changes in law that may hereafter occur.

Very truly yours,

**APPENDIX D**

**FORM OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING FOR SERIAL BOND**

## FORM OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING FOR SERIAL BOND

In accordance with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12, as the same may be amended or officially interpreted from time to time (the "Rule"), promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), the School District has agreed to provide or cause to be provided,

- (i) to the Electronic Municipal Market Access ("EMMA") systems of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB") or any other entity designated or authorized by the Commission to receive reports pursuant to the Rule, during each fiscal year in which the Bonds are outstanding, (i) certain annual financial information and operating data for the preceding fiscal year in a form generally consistent with the information contained or cross referenced in the final Official Statement dated June 13, 2024 of the School District relating to the Bonds by December 31 following the end of each succeeding fiscal year, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and (ii) a copy of the audited financial statements if any, (prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America in effect at the time of the audit) for the preceding fiscal year, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; such audit, if any, will be so provided on or prior to the later of either December 31 of each such succeeding fiscal year or, if an audited financial statement at that time, within sixty days following receipt by the School District of its audited financial statement for the preceding fiscal year, but in any event not later than June 30 of each succeeding fiscal year; and provided further in the event that the audited financial statement for any fiscal year is not available by December 31 following the end of any such succeeding fiscal year, unaudited financial statements in the form provided to the State, if available, will be provided no later than said date; provided however, that provision of unaudited financial statements in any year shall be further conditioned upon the determination by the School District of whether such provision is compliant with the requires of federal Securities laws including Rule 10b-5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17(a) (2) of Securities Act of 1933
- (ii) in a timely manner not in excess of ten (10) business days after the occurrence of the event, notice of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds, to EMMA or any other entity designated or authorized by the Commission to receive reports pursuant to the Rule:
  - (a) principal and interest payment delinquencies
  - (b) non-payment related defaults, if material
  - (c) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties
  - (d) unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties
  - (e) substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform
  - (f) adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701 TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the Bond, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Bond
  - (g) modifications to rights of Bondholders, if material
  - (h) Bond calls, if material and tender offers
  - (i) defeasances
  - (j) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the bond
  - (k) rating changes
  - (l) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the School District
  - (m) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the School District or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the School District, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if mate

(n) appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material

(o) Incurrence of a financial obligation of the District, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation of the District, any of which affect security holders, if material: and

(p) Default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a financial obligation of the District, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

The School District may from time to time choose to provide notice of the occurrence of certain other events, in addition to those listed above, if the School District determines that any such other event is material with respect to the Bond; but the School District does not undertake to commit to provide any such notice of the occurrence of any material event except those events listed above.

The School District reserves the right to terminate its obligation to provide the afore described notices of material events, as set forth above, if and when the School District no longer remains an obligated person with respect to the Bond within the meaning of the Rule. The School District acknowledges that its undertaking pursuant to the Rule described under this heading is intended to be for the benefit of the holders of the Bond (including holders of beneficial interests in the Bond). The right of holders of the Bond to enforce the provisions of the undertaking will be limited to a right to obtain specific enforcement of the School District's obligations under its material event notices undertaking and any failure by the School District to comply with the provisions of the undertaking will neither be a default with respect to the Bond nor entitle any holder of the Bond to recover monetary damages.

The School District reserves the right to modify from time to time the specific types of information provided or the format of the presentation of such information, to the extent necessary or appropriate in the judgment of the School District; provided that the School District agrees that any such modification will be done in a manner consistent with the Rule

A Continuing Disclosure Undertaking Certificate to this effect shall be provided to the purchaser at Closing.

**APPENDIX E**

**BOND INSURANCE AND SPECIMEN MUNICIPAL BOND POLICY**

## BOND INSURANCE

### Bond Insurance Policy

Concurrently with the issuance of the Bonds, Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp. ("AGM") will issue its Municipal Bond Insurance Policy for the Bonds (the "Policy"). The Policy guarantees the scheduled payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds when due as set forth in the form of the Policy included as an exhibit to this Official Statement.

The Policy is not covered by any insurance security or guaranty fund established under New York, California, Connecticut or Florida insurance law.

### Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp.

AGM is a New York domiciled financial guaranty insurance company and an indirect subsidiary of Assured Guaranty Ltd. ("AGL"), a Bermuda-based holding company whose shares are publicly traded and are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AGO". AGL, through its subsidiaries, provides credit enhancement products to the U.S. and non-U.S. public finance (including infrastructure) and structured finance markets and participates in the asset management business through ownership interests in Sound Point Capital Management, LP and certain of its investment management affiliates. Neither AGL nor any of its shareholders or affiliates, other than AGM, is obligated to pay any debts of AGM or any claims under any insurance policy issued by AGM.

AGM's financial strength is rated "AA" (stable outlook) by S&P Global Ratings, a business unit of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P"), "AA+" (stable outlook) by Kroll Bond Rating Agency, Inc. ("KBRA") and "A1" (stable outlook) by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"). Each rating of AGM should be evaluated independently. An explanation of the significance of the above ratings may be obtained from the applicable rating agency. The above ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold any security, and such ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the rating agencies, including withdrawal initiated at the request of AGM in its sole discretion. In addition, the rating agencies may at any time change AGM's long-term rating outlooks or place such ratings on a watch list for possible downgrade in the near term. Any downward revision or withdrawal of any of the above ratings, the assignment of a negative outlook to such ratings or the placement of such ratings on a negative watch list may have an adverse effect on the market price of any security guaranteed by AGM. AGM only guarantees scheduled principal and scheduled interest payments payable by the issuer of bonds insured by AGM on the date(s) when such amounts were initially scheduled to become due and payable (subject to and in accordance with the terms of the relevant insurance policy), and does not guarantee the market price or liquidity of the securities it insures, nor does it guarantee that the ratings on such securities will not be revised or withdrawn.

### Current Financial Strength Ratings

On May 28, 2024, S&P announced it had affirmed AGM's financial strength rating of "AA" (stable outlook). AGM can give no assurance as to any further ratings action that S&P may take.

On April 30, 2024, Moody's announced it had affirmed AGM's insurance financial strength rating of "A1" (stable outlook). AGM can give no assurance as to any further ratings action that Moody's may take.

On October 20, 2023, KBRA announced it had affirmed AGM's insurance financial strength rating of "AA+" (stable outlook). AGM can give no assurance as to any further ratings action that KBRA may take.

For more information regarding AGM's financial strength ratings and the risks relating thereto, see AGL's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

#### Capitalization of AGM

At March 31, 2024:

- The policyholders' surplus of AGM was approximately \$2,665 million.
- The contingency reserve of AGM was approximately \$892 million.
- The net unearned premium reserves and net deferred ceding commission income of AGM and its subsidiaries (as described below) were approximately \$2,036 million. Such amount includes (i) 100% of the net unearned premium reserve and net deferred ceding commission income of AGM, and (ii) the net unearned premium reserves and net deferred ceding commissions of AGM's wholly owned subsidiary Assured Guaranty UK Limited ("AGUK") and its 99.9999% owned subsidiary Assured Guaranty (Europe) SA ("AGE").

The policyholders' surplus of AGM and the contingency reserves, net unearned premium reserves and net deferred ceding commission income of AGM were determined in accordance with statutory accounting principles. The net unearned premium reserves and net deferred ceding commissions of AGUK and AGE were determined in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference

Portions of the following documents filed by AGL with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") that relate to AGM are incorporated by reference into this Official Statement and shall be deemed to be a part hereof:

- (i) the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 (filed by AGL with the SEC on February 28, 2024); and
- (ii) the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2024 (filed by AGL with the SEC on May 8, 2024).

All information relating to AGM included in, or as exhibits to, documents filed by AGL with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, excluding Current Reports or portions thereof "furnished" under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K, after the filing of the last document referred to above and before the termination of the offering of the Bonds shall be deemed incorporated by reference into this Official Statement and to be a part hereof from the respective dates of filing such documents. Copies of materials incorporated by reference are available over the internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>, at AGL's website at <http://www.assuredguaranty.com>, or will be provided upon request to Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp.: 1633 Broadway, New York, New York 10019, Attention: Communications Department (telephone (212) 974-0100). Except for the information referred to above, no information available on or through AGL's website shall be deemed to be part of or incorporated in this Official Statement.

Any information regarding AGM included herein under the caption "APPENDIX E – BOND INSURANCE AND SPECIMEN MUNICIPAL BOND INSURANCE POLICY – Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp." or included in a document incorporated by reference herein (collectively, the "AGM Information") shall be modified or superseded to the extent that any subsequently included AGM Information (either directly or through incorporation by reference) modifies or supersedes such previously included AGM Information. Any AGM Information so modified or superseded shall not constitute a part of this Official statement, except as so modified or superseded.



#### Miscellaneous Matters

AGM makes no representation regarding the Bonds or the advisability of investing in the Bonds. In addition, AGM has not independently verified, makes no representation regarding, and does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this Official Statement or any information or disclosure contained herein, or omitted here from, other than with respect to the accuracy of the information regarding AGM supplied by AGM and presented under the heading "BOND INSURANCE".



## MUNICIPAL BOND INSURANCE POLICY

ISSUER:

Policy No: -N

BONDS: \$ in aggregate principal amount of

Effective Date:

Premium: \$

ASSURED GUARANTY MUNICIPAL CORP. ("AGM"), for consideration received, hereby UNCONDITIONALLY AND IRREVOCABLY agrees to pay to the trustee (the "Trustee") or paying agent (the "Paying Agent") (as set forth in the documentation providing for the issuance of and securing the Bonds) for the Bonds, for the benefit of the Owners or, at the election of AGM, directly to each Owner, subject only to the terms of this Policy (which includes each endorsement hereto), that portion of the principal of and interest on the Bonds that shall become Due for Payment but shall be unpaid by reason of Nonpayment by the Issuer.

On the later of the day on which such principal and interest becomes Due for Payment or the Business Day next following the Business Day on which AGM shall have received Notice of Nonpayment, AGM will disburse to or for the benefit of each Owner of a Bond the face amount of principal of and interest on the Bond that is then Due for Payment but is then unpaid by reason of Nonpayment by the Issuer, but only upon receipt by AGM, in a form reasonably satisfactory to it, of (a) evidence of the Owner's right to receive payment of the principal or interest then Due for Payment and (b) evidence, including any appropriate instruments of assignment, that all of the Owner's rights with respect to payment of such principal or interest that is Due for Payment shall thereupon vest in AGM. A Notice of Nonpayment will be deemed received on a given Business Day if it is received prior to 1:00 p.m. (New York time) on such Business Day; otherwise, it will be deemed received on the next Business Day. If any Notice of Nonpayment received by AGM is incomplete, it shall be deemed not to have been received by AGM for purposes of the preceding sentence and AGM shall promptly so advise the Trustee, Paying Agent or Owner, as appropriate, who may submit an amended Notice of Nonpayment. Upon disbursement in respect of a Bond, AGM shall become the owner of the Bond, any appurtenant coupon to the Bond or right to receipt of payment of principal of or interest on the Bond and shall be fully subrogated to the rights of the Owner, including the Owner's right to receive payments under the Bond, to the extent of any payment by AGM hereunder. Payment by AGM to the Trustee or Paying Agent for the benefit of the Owners shall, to the extent thereof, discharge the obligation of AGM under this Policy.

Except to the extent expressly modified by an endorsement hereto, the following terms shall have the meanings specified for all purposes of this Policy. "Business Day" means any day other than (a) a Saturday or Sunday or (b) a day on which banking institutions in the State of New York or the Insurer's Fiscal Agent are authorized or required by law or executive order to remain closed. "Due for Payment" means (a) when referring to the principal of a Bond, payable on the stated maturity date thereof or the date on which the same shall have been duly called for mandatory sinking fund redemption and does not refer to any earlier date on which payment is due by reason of call for redemption (other than by mandatory sinking fund redemption), acceleration or other advancement of maturity unless AGM shall elect, in its sole discretion, to pay such principal due upon such acceleration together with any accrued interest to the date of acceleration and (b) when referring to interest on a Bond, payable on the stated date for payment of interest. "Nonpayment" means, in respect of a Bond, the failure of the Issuer to have provided sufficient funds to the Trustee or, if there is no Trustee, to the Paying Agent for payment in full of all principal and interest that is Due for Payment on such Bond. "Nonpayment" shall also include, in respect of a Bond, any payment of principal or interest that is Due for Payment made to an Owner by or on behalf of the Issuer which has been recovered from such Owner pursuant to the

United States Bankruptcy Code by a trustee in bankruptcy in accordance with a final, nonappealable order of a court having competent jurisdiction. "Notice" means telephonic or telecopied notice, subsequently confirmed in a signed writing, or written notice by registered or certified mail, from an Owner, the Trustee or the Paying Agent to AGM which notice shall specify (a) the person or entity making the claim, (b) the Policy Number, (c) the claimed amount and (d) the date such claimed amount became Due for Payment. "Owner" means, in respect of a Bond, the person or entity who, at the time of Nonpayment, is entitled under the terms of such Bond to payment thereof, except that "Owner" shall not include the Issuer or any person or entity whose direct or indirect obligation constitutes the underlying security for the Bonds.

AGM may appoint a fiscal agent (the "Insurer's Fiscal Agent") for purposes of this Policy by giving written notice to the Trustee and the Paying Agent specifying the name and notice address of the Insurer's Fiscal Agent. From and after the date of receipt of such notice by the Trustee and the Paying Agent, (a) copies of all notices required to be delivered to AGM pursuant to this Policy shall be simultaneously delivered to the Insurer's Fiscal Agent and to AGM and shall not be deemed received until received by both and (b) all payments required to be made by AGM under this Policy may be made directly by AGM or by the Insurer's Fiscal Agent on behalf of AGM. The Insurer's Fiscal Agent is the agent of AGM only and the Insurer's Fiscal Agent shall in no event be liable to any Owner for any act of the Insurer's Fiscal Agent or any failure of AGM to deposit or cause to be deposited sufficient funds to make payments due under this Policy.

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, AGM agrees not to assert, and hereby waives, only for the benefit of each Owner, all rights (whether by counterclaim, setoff or otherwise) and defenses (including, without limitation, the defense of fraud), whether acquired by subrogation, assignment or otherwise, to the extent that such rights and defenses may be available to AGM to avoid payment of its obligations under this Policy in accordance with the express provisions of this Policy.

This Policy sets forth in full the undertaking of AGM, and shall not be modified, altered or affected by any other agreement or instrument, including any modification or amendment thereto. Except to the extent expressly modified by an endorsement hereto, (a) any premium paid in respect of this Policy is nonrefundable for any reason whatsoever, including payment, or provision being made for payment, of the Bonds prior to maturity and (b) this Policy may not be canceled or revoked. THIS POLICY IS NOT COVERED BY THE PROPERTY/CASUALTY INSURANCE SECURITY FUND SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 76 OF THE NEW YORK INSURANCE LAW.

In witness whereof, ASSURED GUARANTY MUNICIPAL CORP. has caused this Policy to be executed on its behalf by its Authorized Officer.

ASSURED GUARANTY MUNICIPAL CORP.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Officer

A subsidiary of Assured Guaranty Municipal Holdings Inc.  
1633 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019  
(212) 974-0100