



Proven Expertise and Integrity

October 25, 2017

School Board
Harwood Union High School
Waitsfield, Vermont

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Harwood Union High School for the year ended June 30, 2017. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated April 5, 2017. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Harwood Union High School are described in Note 1 of Notes to Financial Statements. We noted no transactions entered into by Harwood Union High School during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

As described in Note 1 of Notes to Financial Statements, the Harwood Union High School changed accounting policies related to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB Statement) No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not Within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68*, GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*, GASB Statement No. 77, *Tax Abatement Disclosures*, GASB Statement No. 80, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units*, GASB Statement No. 81, *Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements*, and GASB Statement No, 82, *Pension Issues*, in 2017. There was no impact in the financial statements based on the cumulative effect of these accounting changes.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate(s) affecting the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Harwood Union High School's financial statements was (were):

- Fair value of investments
- Allowance for uncollectible accounts
- Depreciation expense which is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets
- Pension related assets, liabilities and expenses which are based on actuarial valuations
- Accrued compensation

Management's process for determining the above estimates is based on firm concepts and reasonable assumptions of both historical and future events. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements are reflected in the deposits and investments, capital assets, long-term liabilities and fund balance footnotes.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. A schedule of any uncorrected misstatements has been presented to management with the management representation letter. We did not identify or propose any adjustments of misstatements as a result of audit procedures that were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 11, 2017.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Harwood Union High School’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as Harwood Union High School’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

However, we noted certain other matters that we reported to management of the Harwood Union High School in a separate letter dated October 25, 2017.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund, Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, Schedule of Contributions, and Notes to Required Supplementary Information, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund Revenues, Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and capital asset schedules, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the School Board and management of Harwood Union High School and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very Best,

RHR Smith & Company

RHR Smith & Company, CPAs