

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**JUNE 30, 2024**

**WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

# HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

School Board and Administration  
**Hope-Page Public School District**  
Hope, North Dakota

### 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 **Hope-Page Public School District** (School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the **Hope-Page Public School 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 **Hope-Page Public School District**, as of June 30, 2024, 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* (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of **Hope-Page Public School 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*

**Hope-Page Public School 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 **Hope-Page Public School District's** ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAS 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 GAS, 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 **Hope-Page Public School 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 **Hope-Page Public School 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 Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability, Schedule of Employer Contributions, Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund, and Notes to the Required Supplementary Information, as listed in the table of contents 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.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 27, 2024, on our consideration of the **Hope-Page Public School 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 the School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering **Hope-Page Public School District's** internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Rouse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a stylized "R".

Fargo, North Dakota  
November 27, 2024

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT****STATEMENT OF NET POSITION****JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,920,823
Investments	2,567,758
Intergovernmental receivable	126,961
Taxes receivable	47,793
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	
Buildings	274,173
Equipment	<u>58,740</u>
Total assets	<u>4,996,248</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Pension related deferred outflows of resources	<u>2,443,696</u>
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$ <u><u>7,439,944</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Salaries and benefits payable	\$ 27,131
Compensated absences	75,521
Net pension liability	<u>2,833,807</u>
Total liabilities	<u>2,936,459</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	
Pension related deferred inflows of resources	<u>378,620</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	332,913
Restricted for	
Building	2,410,437
Special reserve	363,875
Unrestricted	<u>1,017,640</u>
Total net position	<u>4,124,865</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	\$ <u><u>7,439,944</u></u>

# HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

		<u>Program Revenues</u>		<u>Net Revenue (Expense) and Change in Net Position Total</u>
	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	
<b>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</b>				
Regular instruction	\$ 2,248,653	\$ 38,827	\$ 2,434,357	\$ 224,531
Federal programs	154,682	-	-	(154,682)
Instructional staff services	231,771	-	-	(231,771)
Services provided	13,898	-	-	(13,898)
Administration services	525,542	-	-	(525,542)
Operations and maintenance	416,924	-	-	(416,924)
Student activities	436,744	125,546	-	(311,198)
Student transportation	274,088	-	-	(274,088)
Food service	278,540	48,312	8,588	(221,640)
Debt service - interest	1,447	-	-	(1,447)
Total governmental activities	\$ <u>4,582,289</u>	\$ <u>212,685</u>	\$ <u>2,442,945</u>	<u>(1,926,659)</u>
<b>GENERAL REVENUES</b>				
Property taxes				1,822,399
Interest income				92,781
Miscellaneous revenues				<u>121,039</u>
Total general revenues				<u>2,036,219</u>
Change in net position				<u>109,560</u>
Net position - July 1				<u>4,015,305</u>
Net position - June 30				\$ <u>4,124,865</u>

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 880,174	\$ 790,698	\$ 249,951	\$ 1,920,823
Investments	639,796	1,619,739	308,223	2,567,758
Intergovernmental receivable	126,961	-	-	126,961
Taxes receivable	<u>41,808</u>	<u>4,203</u>	<u>1,782</u>	<u>47,793</u>
Total assets	\$ <u><u>1,688,739</u></u>	\$ <u><u>2,414,640</u></u>	\$ <u><u>559,956</u></u>	\$ <u><u>4,663,335</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Salaries and benefits payable	\$ <u>27,131</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>27,131</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>				
Deferred tax revenue	<u>41,808</u>	<u>4,203</u>	<u>1,782</u>	<u>47,793</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>				
Restricted for				
Building	-	2,410,437	-	2,410,437
Special reserve	-	-	363,875	363,875
Assigned				
Food service	-	-	60,270	60,270
Committed				
Student activities	-	-	134,029	134,029
Unrestricted	<u>1,619,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,619,800</u>
Total fund balances	<u>1,619,800</u>	<u>2,410,437</u>	<u>558,174</u>	<u>4,588,411</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows, and fund balances	\$ <u><u>1,688,739</u></u>	\$ <u><u>2,414,640</u></u>	\$ <u><u>559,956</u></u>	\$ <u><u>4,663,335</u></u>



**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET**  
**TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**JUNE 30, 2024**

**Total fund balances for governmental funds** \$ 4,588,411

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

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and are not reported in the governmental funds.

Cost of capital assets	2,912,434	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,579,521)</u>	
		332,913

Property taxes will be collected after year-end, but are not available soon enough to pay for the current period's expenditures and therefore are reported as deferred inflows of resources in the funds.		47,793
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Certain liabilities, such as leases payable and compensated absences, are not due and payable in the current period, and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
Compensated absences		(75,521)

Net pension obligations are not due and payable in the current period, and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds.		(2,833,807)
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Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions are applicable to future periods, and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
Total deferred outflows of resources	2,443,696	
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>(378,620)</u>	
		<u>2,065,076</u>

**Total net position of governmental activities** \$ 4,124,865

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Property taxes	\$ 1,600,100	\$ 156,439	\$ 66,151	\$ 1,822,690
State sources	2,285,357	-	-	2,285,357
Federal sources	159,981	-	48,312	208,293
Other sources	90,842	53,704	231,254	375,800
	<u>4,136,280</u>	<u>210,143</u>	<u>345,717</u>	<u>4,692,140</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Current				
Regular instruction	1,850,896	-	1,862	1,852,758
Federal programs	153,383	-	-	153,383
Instructional staff services	225,906	-	-	225,906
Services provided	13,798	-	-	13,798
Administration services	522,915	-	-	522,915
Operations and maintenance	413,527	-	-	413,527
Student activities	315,956	-	117,305	433,261
Student transportation	279,164	-	-	279,164
Food service	171,594	-	104,627	276,221
Debt service				
Principal	38,609	-	-	38,609
Interest and fees	1,447	-	-	1,447
	<u>3,987,195</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>223,794</u>	<u>4,210,989</u>
Total expenditures				
	<u>3,987,195</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>223,794</u>	<u>4,210,989</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	149,085	210,143	121,923	481,151
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>				
Transfers in	49,700	-	-	49,700
Transfers out	-	-	(49,700)	(49,700)
	<u>49,700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(49,700)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)				
	<u>49,700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(49,700)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	198,785	210,143	72,223	481,151
<b>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</b>	<u>1,421,015</u>	<u>2,200,294</u>	<u>485,951</u>	<u>4,107,260</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30</b>	<u>\$ 1,619,800</u>	<u>\$ 2,410,437</u>	<u>\$ 558,174</u>	<u>\$ 4,588,411</u>

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES**  
**AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds** \$ 481,151

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

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. In the current period these amounts are:

Current year capital outlay	7,500	
Depreciation expense	<u>(30,545)</u>	(23,045)

Some revenues reported in the statement of activities are not reported as revenues in the governmental funds since they do not represent available resources to pay current expenditures. This consists of the change in taxes receivable along with tuition for local education agencies. (291)

Certain liabilities, such as leases payable and compensated absences, are not due and payable in the current period, and therefore are not reported in the funds.

Net change in leases payable		38,609
Net change in compensated absences payable		(6,225)

The net pension liability, and related deferred outflows and inflows of resources are reported in the government wide statements; however, activity related to the pension items do not involve financial resources, and are not reported in the funds.

Net change in net pension liability	95,926	
Net change in deferred outflows of resources	(442,405)	
Net change in deferred inflows of resources	<u>(34,160)</u>	
		<u>(380,639)</u>

**Change in net position of governmental activities** \$ 109,560

# HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

### NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### *Nature of Operations*

The Hope and Page Public School Districts consolidated on July 1, 2020, to form the Hope-Page Public School District. The financial statements of the Hope-Page Public School District ("School District"), Hope, North Dakota, have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") as applied to government units. The Government Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the government's accounting policies are described below.

#### *Reporting Entity*

The accompanying financial statements present the activities of the Hope-Page Public School District. The School District has considered all potential component units for which the School District is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationships with the School District are such that exclusion would cause the School District's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. Their criteria include appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing board and (1) the ability of the School District to impose its will on that organization or (2) the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or imposed financial burdens on the School District.

Based on these criteria, there are no component units to be included within the School District as a reporting entity.

#### *Basis of Presentation*

*Government-Wide Financial Statements:* The statement of net position and the statement of activities report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government of the School District. Government activities, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment is offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include (1) charges to customer or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

*Fund Financial Statements:* The fund financial statements provide information about the School District's funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category - governmental and fiduciary - are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental funds are aggregate and reported as non-major funds.

# HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

### *Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting*

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

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

All revenues are considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the government.

The School District reports the following major governmental funds:

*General Fund:* This is the School District's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

*Building Fund:* This fund accounts for financial resources dedicated to the construction of new school buildings, additions to old school buildings, the making of major repairs to existing buildings, or to make annual debt service payments on outstanding debt issues related to the building fund.

### *Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments*

Cash and cash equivalents include amounts in demand deposits and certificates of deposit, which have original maturity dates of six months or less. The School District's investment balances consist of certificates of deposit with maturities greater than six months and are carried at cost.

### *Capital Assets*

Capital assets include property, plant and equipment. Assets are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the School District as assets with an initial, individual cost of \$5,000 or more. Such assets are recorded at cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the assets life are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets is not capitalized.

## HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings	20 to 40 years
Equipment	5 to 20 years

#### ***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. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The School District has two items that qualify for reporting in this category. They are the contributions made to pension plans after the measurement date and prior to the fiscal year-end, and changes in the net pension liability not included in pension expense reported in the government-wide statement of net position.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position 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 that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The School District has two types of items that qualify for reporting in this category. The School District reports unavailable revenues from property taxes and unavailable revenues from local education agencies on the governmental funds balance sheet. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available. The other item is changes in the net pension liability not included in pension expense reported in the government-wide statement of net position.

#### ***Compensated Absences***

Employees are granted two days of personal leave each year and can accrue up to a maximum of six days of personal leave at year end. Upon termination of employment, employees will be paid for personal days that have accrued at the employee's rate of pay for hourly employees and \$90 per day for certified staff. Employees are granted 12 days of sick leave each year and can accrue up to a maximum of 100 days of sick leave at year end. Upon retirement of employees who have been with the School District for over 15 years, unused sick leave will be paid at the employee's rate of pay for hourly employees and \$120 per day for salaried employees for all unused days. Vested or accumulated leave is reported in the statement of net position.

#### ***Long-Term Obligations***

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the governmental activities statement of net position.

#### ***Fund Financial Statements***

Government fund equity is classified as fund balance and may distinguish between "Restricted" and "Unrestricted" components. Fiduciary fund equity (except for Agency Funds, which have no fund equity) is reported as net position held in trust for other purposes.

#### ***Restricted and Unrestricted Resources***

It is the School District's policy to first use restricted net position, prior to the use of unrestricted net position, when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

## HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### ***Fund Balance and Classification Policies and Procedures***

The School District classifies governmental fund balances as follows:

***Nonspendable*** – includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because it is not in spendable form or because of legal or contractual constraints.

***Restricted*** – includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by providers, such as creditors or amounts constrained due to constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

***Committed*** – includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the government through formal action of the school board, and does not lapse at year-end. A majority vote of the school board is regulated to commit fund balance to a specific purpose or to restrict such commitment.

***Assigned*** – includes fund balance amounts that are intended to be used for specific purposes that are neither considered restricted nor committed. Fund Balance may be assigned by the Business Manager.

***Unassigned*** – includes positive fund balance within the General Fund which has not been classified within the above-mentioned categories and negative fund balances in other governmental funds.

The School District uses *restricted/committed* amounts first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available unless there are legal documents/contracts that prohibit doing this, such as a grant agreement requiring dollar for dollar spending. Additionally, the School District would first use *committed*, then *assigned*, and lastly *unassigned* amounts of unrestricted fund balance when expenditures are made.

The School District does not have a formal minimum fund balance policy.

#### ***Interfund Transactions***

In the governmental fund statements, transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund, are recorded as expenditures in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures in the fund that is reimbursed.

All other interfund transactions, except reimbursements, are reported as transfers.

In the government-wide financial statements, interfund transactions have been eliminated.

#### ***Program Revenues***

In the government-wide statement of activities, reported program revenues derive from the program itself or from parties other than the School District's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole. Program revenues are classified into two categories, as follows:

***Charges for services*** – these arise from charges to customers, applicants, or other who purchase, use, or directly benefit from the goods, services, or privileges provided, or are otherwise directly affected by the services.

## HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

*Program-specific operating grants and contributions* – these arise from mandatory and voluntary non-exchange transactions with other governments, organizations, or individuals that are restricted for use in a particular program.

#### *Property Taxes*

Property taxes are levied as of January 1. The property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property on January 1 and may be paid in two installments. The first installment includes one-half of the real estate taxes and all the special assessments, and the second installment is the balance of the real estate taxes. The first installment is due by March 1 and the second installment is due by October 15. A 5.0% discount on property taxes is allowed if all taxes and special assessments are paid by February 15. After the due dates, the bill becomes delinquent, and penalties are assessed.

#### *Salaries and Benefits Payable*

Salaries and benefits payable consists of salaries earned by employees but not paid until after year-end. It also consists of benefits owed to federal, state, and private agencies for amounts withheld from teacher's salaries as of June 30.

#### *Pensions*

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the North Dakota Teachers' Fund for Retirement ("TFFR") and additions to/deductions from TFFR's fiduciary net positions have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by TFFR. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

#### **NOTE 2 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

In accordance with North Dakota Statutes, the School District maintains deposits at the depository banks designated by the governing board. All depositories are members of the Federal Reserve System.

Deposits must either be deposited with the Bank of North Dakota or in another financial institution situated and doing business within the state. Deposits, other than with the Bank of North Dakota, must be fully insured or bonded. In lieu of a bond, a financial institution may provide a pledge of securities of 110% of the deposits not covered by insurance or bonds.

Authorized collateral includes bills, notes, or bonds issued by the United States government, its agencies or instrumentalities, all bonds and notes guaranteed by the United States government, Federal Land Bank bonds, bonds, notes, warrants, certificates of indebtedness, insured certificates of deposit, shares of investment companies registered under the Investment Companies Act of 1940, and all other forms of securities issued by the State of North Dakota, its boards, agencies or instrumentalities, or by any county, city, township, school district, park district, or other political subdivision of the state of North Dakota, whether payable from special revenues or supported by the full faith and credit of the issuing entity and bonds issued by any other state of the United States or such other securities approved by the banking board.



## **HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

At year ended June 30, 2024, the School District's carrying amount of deposits was \$4,488,581 and the bank balances were \$4,568,581. Of the bank balance, \$1,000,000 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance. The remaining balance was collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's agent in the government's name.

#### ***Interest Rate Risk***

The School District does not have a formal investment policy that limits investments as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from changing interest rates. All investments are certificates of deposit that mature within one year.

#### ***Credit Risk***

The School District may invest idle funds as authorized in North Dakota Statutes, as follows:

- a. Bonds, treasury bills and notes, or other securities that are a direct obligation insured or guaranteed by the Treasury of the United States, or its agencies, instrumentalities, or organizations created by an Act of Congress.
- b. Securities sold under agreements to repurchase written by a financial institution in which the underlying securities for the agreement to repurchase are the type listed above.
- c. Certificates of Deposit fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
- d. Obligations of the state.

At June 30, 2024 the School District held certificates of deposit in the amount of \$2,567,758 which are all considered deposits and included in the above amount of total deposits.

#### ***Concentration of Credit Risk***

The School District does not have a policy limiting the amount the School District may invest in any one issuer.

### **NOTE 3 – TAXES RECEIVABLE**

Taxes receivable represents the past three years of uncollected current and delinquent taxes. No allowance has been established for uncollected taxes receivable.

The county treasurer acts as an agent to collect property taxes levied in the county for all taxing authorities. Any material tax collections are distributed after the end of each month.

Property taxes are levied as of January 1. The property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property on January 1 and may be paid in two installments. The first installment includes one-half of the real estate taxes and all the special assessments, and the second installment is the balance of the real estate taxes. The first installment is due by March 1 and the second installment is due by October 15. A 5.0% discount on property taxes is allowed if all taxes and special assessments are paid by February 15. After the due dates, the bill becomes delinquent, and penalties are assessed.

Property owners generally choose to pay property taxes and special assessments in a single payment on or before February 15 and receive the discount on the property taxes.

# HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

### NOTE 4 – INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLE

Intergovernmental receivables consist of reimbursements due for expenses in the operation of various school programs. These amounts consist of a mix of state and federal dollars.

### NOTE 5 – CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2024:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Dispositions</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Capital assets, being depreciated					
Buildings	\$ 2,564,031	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,564,031
Equipment	340,903	7,500	-	-	348,403
Total capital assets, being depreciated	<u>2,904,934</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,912,434</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for					
Buildings	2,272,377	17,481	-	-	2,289,858
Equipment	276,599	13,064	-	-	289,663
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>2,548,976</u>	<u>30,545</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,579,521</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	\$ <u>355,958</u>	\$ <u>(23,045)</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>332,913</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the School District as follows:

Regular Instruction (School/Student learning)	\$ 13,435
Federal Programs	1,112
Instructional Staff Services	1,954
Vocational Education	100
Administration (Business offices)	3,778
Operations and Maintenance	2,998
Food Services (Hot Lunch)	2,003
Student Transportation	2,024
Student Activities	3,141
	<u>\$ 30,545</u>

### NOTE 6 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

During the year ended June 30, 2024, the following changes occurred in liabilities reported in the long-term liabilities of the governmental activities:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Lease payable	\$ 38,609	\$ -	\$ 38,609	\$ -	\$ -
Compensated absences	69,296	6,225	-	75,521	-
Net pension liability	<u>2,929,733</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,926</u>	<u>2,833,807</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	\$ <u>3,037,638</u>	\$ <u>6,225</u>	\$ <u>134,535</u>	\$ <u>2,909,328</u>	\$ <u>-</u>

## **HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

#### **NOTE 7 – LEASES**

In May 2021, the School District purchased technology equipment under a three-year lease term. The School District paid off the lease in the current year.

#### **NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS**

##### **General Information about the TFFR Pension Plan**

##### ***North Dakota Teacher's Fund for Retirement ("TFFR")***

The following brief description of TFFR is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to North Dakota Century Code ("NDCC") Chapter 15-39.1 for more complete information.

TFFR is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan covering all North Dakota public teachers and certain other teachers who meet various membership requirements. TFFR provides for pension, death and disability benefits. The cost to administer the TFFR plan is financed by investment income and contributions.

Responsibility for administration of the TFFR benefits program is assigned to a seven-member Board of Trustees (Board). The Board consists of the State Treasurer, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and five members appointed by the Governor. The appointed members serve five-year terms which end on June 30 of alternate years. The appointed Board members must include two active teachers, one active school administrator, and two retired members. The TFFR Board submits any necessary or desirable changes in statutes relating to the administration of the fund, including benefit terms, to the Legislative Assembly for consideration. The Legislative Assembly has final authority for changes to benefit terms and contribution rates.

##### ***Pension Benefits***

For purposes of determining pension benefits, members are classified within one of three categories. Tier 1 grandfathered and Tier 1 non-grandfathered members are those with service credit on file as of July 1, 2008. Tier 2 members are those newly employed and returning refunded members on or after July 1, 2008.

##### ***Tier 1 Grandfathered***

A Tier 1 grandfathered member is entitled to receive unreduced benefits when three or more years of credited service as a teacher in North Dakota have accumulated, the member is no longer employed as a teacher and the member has reached age 65, or the sum of age and years of service credit equals or exceeds 85. TFFR permits early retirement from ages 55 to 64, with benefits actuarially reduced by 6.0% per year for every year the member's retirement age is less than 65 years or the date as of which age plus service equal 85. In either case, benefits may not exceed the maximum benefits specified in Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Pension benefits paid by TFFR are determined by NDCC Section 15-39.1-10. Monthly benefits under TFFR are equal to the three highest annual salaries earned divided by 36 months and multiplied by 2.0% times the number of service credits earned. Retirees may elect payment of benefits in the form of a single life annuity, 100% or 50% joint and survivor annuity, ten or twenty-year term certain annuity, partial lump-sum option or level income with Social Security benefits. Members may also qualify for benefits calculated under other formulas.

## HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### *Tier 1 Non-grandfathered*

A Tier 1 non-grandfathered member is entitled to receive unreduced benefits when three or more years of credited service as a teacher in North Dakota have accumulated, the member is no longer employed as a teacher and the member has reached age 65 or has reached age 60 and the sum of age and years of service credit equals or exceeds 90. TFFR permits early retirement from ages 55 to 64, with benefits actuarially reduced by 8.0% per year from the earlier of age 60/Rule of 90 or age 65. In either case, benefits may not exceed the maximum benefits specified in Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Pension benefits paid by TFFR are determined by NDCC Section 15-39.1-10. Monthly benefits under TFFR are equal to the three highest annual salaries earned divided by 36 months and multiplied by 2.0% times the number of service credits earned. Retirees may elect payment of benefits in the form of a single life annuity, 100% or 50% joint and survivor annuity, ten or twenty-year term certain annuity, partial lump-sum option or level income with Social Security benefits. Members may also qualify for benefits calculated under other formulas.

#### *Tier 2*

A Tier 2 member is entitled to receive unreduced benefits when five or more years of credited service as a teacher in North Dakota have accumulated, the member is no longer employed as a teacher and the member has reached age 65 or has reached age 60 and the sum of age and years of service credit equals or exceeds 90. TFFR permits early retirement from ages 55 to 64, with benefits actuarially reduced by 8.0% per year from the earlier of age 60/Rule of 90 or age 65. In either case, benefits may not exceed the maximum benefits specified in Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Pension benefits paid by TFFR are determined by NDCC Section 15-39.1-10. Monthly benefits under TFFR are equal to the five highest annual salaries earned divided by 60 months and multiplied by 2.0% times the number of service credits earned. Retirees may elect payment of benefits in the form of a single life annuity, 100% or 50% joint and survivor annuity, ten or twenty-year term certain annuity, partial lump-sum option or level income with Social Security benefits. Members may also qualify for benefits calculated under other formulas.

#### ***Death and Disability Benefits***

Death benefits may be paid to a member's designated beneficiary. If a member's death occurs before retirement, the benefit options available are determined by the member's vesting status prior to death. If a member's death occurs after retirement, the death benefit received by the beneficiary (if any) is based on the retirement plan the member selected at retirement.

An active member is eligible to receive disability benefits when: (a) a total disability lasting 12 months or more does not allow the continuation of teaching, (b) the member has accumulated five years of credited service in North Dakota, and (c) the Board of Trustees of TFFR has determined eligibility based upon medical evidence. The amount of the disability benefit is computed by the retirement formula in NDCC Section 15-39.1-10 without consideration of age and uses the member's actual years of credited service. There is no actuarial reduction for reason of disability retirement.

# HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

### *Member and Employer Contributions*

Member and employer contributions paid to TFFR are set by NDCC Section 15-39.1-09. Every eligible teacher in the State of North Dakota is required to be a member of TFFR and is assessed at a rate of 11.75% of salary as defined by NDCC Section 15-39.1-04. Every governmental body employing a teacher must also pay into TFFR a sum equal to 12.75% of the teacher's salary. Member and employer contributions will be reduced to 7.75% each when the fund reaches 100% funded ratio on an actuarial basis.

A vested member who terminates covered employment may elect a refund of contributions paid plus 6.0% interest or defer payment until eligible for pension benefits. A non-vested member who terminates covered employment must claim a refund of contributions paid before age 70½. Refunded members forfeit all service credits under TFFR. These service credits may be repurchased upon return to covered employment under certain circumstances, as defined by the NDCC.

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

At June 30, 2024, the School District reported a liability of \$2,833,807 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of July 1, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the School District's share of covered payroll in the pension plan relative to the covered payroll of all participating TFFR employers. At July 1, 2023, the School District's proportion was 0.20193700 percent, which was an increase of 0.00072638 from its proportion measured as of July 1, 2022.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the School District recognized pension expense of \$597,512. At June 30, 2024, the School District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 10,559	\$ 150,418
Changes of assumptions	44,841	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	172,958	-
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	1,998,465	228,202
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>216,873</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 2,443,696</u>	<u>\$ 378,620</u>

\$216,873 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2025.

(Continued)

## HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:

2024	\$	363,353
2025		325,154
2026		531,407
2027		346,879
2028		347,135
Thereafter		(65,725)

#### *Actuarial Assumptions*

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.30%
Salary increases	3.8% to 14.8%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.25%, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-living adjustments	None

For active and inactive members, mortality rates were based on the PubT-2010 Employee Table, projected with generational improvement using scale MP-2019. For healthy retirees, mortality rates were based on 104% of the PubT-2010 Retiree table for retirees and to 95% of the PubT-2010 Contingent Survivor table for beneficiaries, both projected with generational improvement using Scale MP-2019. For disability retirees, mortality rates were based on the PubNS-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Mortality table projected with generational improvement using Scale MP-2019.

The actuarial assumptions used were based on the results of an actuarial experience study dated March 19, 2020. They are the same as the assumptions used in the July 1, 2022, funding actuarial valuation for TFFR.

The TFFR Board is responsible for establishing investment policy for the fund assets under NDCC 15-39.1-05.2. Benefit payments are projected to occur over a long period of time. This allows TFFR to adopt a long-term investment horizon and asset allocation policy for the management of fund assets. Asset allocation policy is critical because it defines the basic risk and return characteristics of the investment portfolio. Asset allocation targets are established using an asset-liability analysis designed to assist the Board in determining an acceptable volatility target for the fund and an optimal asset allocation policy mix. This asset-liability analysis considers both sides of the plan balance sheet, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative inputs, in order to estimate the potential impact of various asset class mixes on key measures of total plan risk, including the resulting estimated impact of funded status and contribution rates.

## HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

The long-term expected 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 pension plan 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 the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023, are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Global equities	55%	6.61%
Global fixed income	26%	0.35%
Global real assets	18%	4.60%
Cash equivalents	1%	-1.05%

#### ***Discount Rate***

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.25 percent as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at rates equal to those based on the July 1, 2023, Actuarial Valuation Report. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries, as well as projected contributions from future plan members, are not included. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments for current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023.

#### ***Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate***

The following presents the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.25 percent, as well as what the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.25 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.25 percent) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (6.25%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.25%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.25%)</u>
District's proportionate share of net pension liability	\$ <u>3,945,456</u>	\$ <u>2,833,807</u>	\$ <u>1,911,320</u>

#### ***Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position***

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued TFFR financial report. TFFR's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is located at:

<https://www.rio.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/PDFs/RIO/Reports/annualreport2023.pdf>.

## HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 9 – INTERFUND TRANSFERS

The following is a reconciliation between transfers in and transfers out as reported in the basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Transfer In</u>	<u>Transfer Out</u>
General fund	\$ 49,700	\$ -
Special reserve fund	-	43,000
Food Service fund	-	6,700
Total	\$ <u>49,700</u>	\$ <u>49,700</u>

Transfers are used to move unrestricted general revenue to support the programs that the School District accounts for in other funds in accordance with budget authority.

#### NOTE 10 – RELATED PARTIES

The School District obtains its insurance coverage through a local insurance agency which is owned by a close relative of a school board member. Premiums paid in fiscal year 2024 were \$32,275.

#### NOTE 11 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The School District is exposed to various risks of loss relating to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

In 1986, the state agencies and political subdivisions of the state of North Dakota joined together to form the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF), a public entity risk pool currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for the state and over 2,000 political subdivisions. The School District pays an annual premium to NDIRF for its general liability, automobile, and inland marine insurance coverage. The coverage by NDIRF is limited to losses of \$3,000,000 per occurrence for general liability and automobile; and \$627,150 for public asset coverage.

The School District also participates in the North Dakota Fire and Tornado Fund and the State Bonding Fund. The School District pays an annual premium to the Fire and Tornado Fund to cover property damage to buildings and personal property. Replacement cost coverage is provided by estimating replacement cost in consultation with the Fire and Tornado Fund. The Fire and Tornado Fund is reinsured by a third-party insurance carrier for losses in excess of two million dollars per occurrence during a 12-month period. The State Bonding Fund currently provides the School District with blanket fidelity bond coverage in the amount of \$2,000,000 for its employees. The State Bonding Fund does not currently charge any premium for this coverage.

The School District has worker's compensation with the Department of Workforce Safety and Insurance. The School District pays part of the health insurance premiums for their employees.

Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.



**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
JUNE 30, 2024**

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER'S SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY**  
**LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS**

**Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability**

<u>Pension Plan</u>	<u>Balance Sheet Date*</u>	<u>Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability</u>	<u>Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability</u>	<u>Employer's Covered-Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability</u>
ND TFFR	6/30/2024	0.201937%	\$ 2,833,807	\$ 1,620,368	174.89%	69.3%
ND TFFR	6/30/2023	0.201211%	\$ 2,929,733	\$ 1,583,351	185.03%	67.5%
ND TFFR	6/30/2022	0.223542%	\$ 2,355,366	\$ 1,722,840	136.71%	75.7%
ND TFFR	6/30/2021	0.217701%	\$ 3,331,916	\$ 1,588,475	209.76%	63.0%

The Hope and Page School Districts consolidated on July 1, 2020. Information for the individual School Districts available for years prior to June 30, 2021, is presented in separate schedules below.

**Hope - Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability**

<u>Pension Plan</u>	<u>Balance Sheet Date*</u>	<u>Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability</u>	<u>Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability</u>	<u>Employer's Covered-Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability</u>
ND TFFR	6/30/2020	0.106995%	\$ 1,473,596	\$ 750,602	196.32%	65.5%
ND TFFR	6/30/2019	0.103052%	\$ 1,373,533	\$ 700,555	196.06%	65.5%
ND TFFR	6/30/2018	0.093037%	\$ 1,277,893	\$ 627,976	203.49%	63.2%
ND TFFR	6/30/2017	0.103361%	\$ 1,514,299	\$ 671,562	225.49%	59.2%
ND TFFR	6/30/2016	0.096912%	\$ 1,267,469	\$ 596,108	212.62%	62.1%
ND TFFR	6/30/2015	0.101581%	\$ 1,064,389	\$ 589,222	180.64%	66.6%

**Page - Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability**

<u>Pension Plan</u>	<u>Statement of Net Position Date</u>	<u>Employer's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability</u>	<u>Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability</u>	<u>Employer's Covered-Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability</u>
ND TFFR	6/30/2020	0.098013%	\$ 1,349,882	\$ 687,587	196.32%	65.5%
ND TFFR	6/30/2020	0.098013%	\$ 1,349,882	\$ 687,587	196.32%	65.5%
ND TFFR	6/30/2019	0.097254%	\$ 1,296,257	\$ 661,141	196.06%	65.5%
ND TFFR	6/30/2018	0.112455%	\$ 1,544,595	\$ 759,037	203.49%	63.2%
ND TFFR	6/30/2017	0.104419%	\$ 1,529,799	\$ 678,436	225.49%	59.2%
ND TFFR	6/30/2016	0.112903%	\$ 1,476,608	\$ 694,469	212.62%	62.1%
ND TFFR	6/30/2015	0.114957%	\$ 1,204,548	\$ 666,813	180.64%	66.6%

\* The measurement date of the actuarial report is one year prior to the balance sheet date.

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS**

**Schedule of Employer's Contributions**

<u>Pension Plan</u>	<u>Balance Sheet Date*</u>	<u>Statutorily Required Contribution</u>	<u>Contributions in Relation to the Statutorily Required Contribution</u>	<u>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</u>	<u>Employer's Covered-Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll</u>
ND TFFR	6/30/2024	\$ 206,597	\$ (206,597)	\$ -	\$ 1,620,368	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2023	\$ 201,877	\$ (201,877)	\$ -	\$ 1,583,351	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2022	\$ 219,662	\$ (219,662)	\$ -	\$ 1,722,840	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2021	\$ 219,662	\$ (219,662)	\$ -	\$ 1,588,475	13.83%

The Hope and Page School Districts consolidated on July 1, 2020. Information for the individual School Districts available for years prior to June 30, 2021, is presented in separate schedules below.

**Hope - Schedule of Employer's Contributions**

<u>Pension Plan</u>	<u>Balance Sheet Date*</u>	<u>Statutorily Required Contribution</u>	<u>Contributions in Relation to the Statutorily Required Contribution</u>	<u>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</u>	<u>Employer's Covered-Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll</u>
ND TFFR	6/30/2020	\$ 104,619	\$ (104,619)	\$ -	\$ 820,543	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2019	\$ 95,702	\$ (95,702)	\$ -	\$ 750,602	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2018	\$ 89,321	\$ (89,321)	\$ -	\$ 700,555	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2017	\$ 85,624	\$ (85,624)	\$ -	\$ 671,562	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2016	\$ 76,000	\$ (76,000)	\$ -	\$ 596,108	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2015	\$ 63,341	\$ (63,341)	\$ -	\$ 589,222	10.75%

**Page - Schedule of Employer's Contributions**

<u>Pension Plan</u>	<u>Statement of Net Position Date*</u>	<u>Statutorily Required Contribution</u>	<u>Contributions in Relation to the Statutorily Required Contribution</u>	<u>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</u>	<u>Employer's Covered-Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll</u>
ND TFFR	6/30/2020	\$ 97,911	\$ (97,911)	\$ -	\$ 767,930	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2019	\$ 87,667	\$ (87,667)	\$ -	\$ 687,587	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2018	\$ 84,296	\$ (84,296)	\$ -	\$ 661,141	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2017	\$ 86,501	\$ (86,501)	\$ -	\$ 678,436	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2016	\$ 88,541	\$ (88,541)	\$ -	\$ 694,469	12.75%
ND TFFR	6/30/2015	\$ 71,682	\$ (71,682)	\$ -	\$ 666,813	10.75%

\* The measurement date of the actuarial report is one year prior to the balance sheet date.

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE – GENERAL FUND**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over (Under) Final Budget</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Property taxes	\$ 1,619,145	\$ 1,746,697	\$ 1,600,100	\$ (146,597)
State sources	2,290,000	2,123,157	2,285,357	162,200
Federal sources	109,382	156,424	159,981	3,557
Other sources	<u>116,500</u>	<u>136,500</u>	<u>90,842</u>	<u>(45,658)</u>
Total revenues	<u>4,135,027</u>	<u>4,162,778</u>	<u>4,136,280</u>	<u>(26,498)</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Current				
Regular instruction	1,896,375	1,858,410	1,850,896	(7,514)
Federal programs	191,032	192,443	153,383	(39,060)
Instructional staff services	205,260	255,260	225,906	(29,354)
Services provided	12,538	12,538	13,798	1,260
Administration services	478,692	526,192	522,915	(3,277)
Operations and maintenance	475,524	431,524	413,527	(17,997)
Student activities	315,585	315,585	315,956	371
Student transportation	289,798	272,298	279,164	6,866
Food service	160,135	160,135	171,594	11,459
Debt service				
Principal	-	-	38,609	38,609
Interest and fees	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,447</u>	<u>1,447</u>
Total expenditures	<u>4,024,939</u>	<u>4,024,385</u>	<u>3,987,195</u>	<u>(37,190)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>110,088</u>	<u>138,393</u>	<u>149,085</u>	<u>10,692</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>				
Transfers in	<u>61,000</u>	<u>11,300</u>	<u>49,700</u>	<u>122,000</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>171,088</u>	<u>149,693</u>	<u>198,785</u>	<u>132,692</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE JULY 1</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,421,015</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,619,800</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

***Budgetary Information:***

The School Board adopts an annual budget on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for the general fund, special revenue funds, debt service funds, and capital project funds.

The following procedures are followed in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- a. The annual budget must be prepared, and School District taxes must be levied on or before the fifteenth day of August of each year.
- b. The taxes levied must be certified to the county auditor by twenty-fifth of August.
- c. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and means of financing them.
- d. Each budget is controlled by the business manager at the revenue and expenditure function/object level.
- e. The current budget, except for property taxes, may be amended during the year for any revenues and appropriations not anticipated at the time the budget was prepared.
- f. All appropriations lapse at year-end.

**NOTE 2 – CHANGES OF ASSUMPTIONS**

***North Dakota Teacher's Fund for Retirement:***

Amounts reported in 2021, and later reflect the following actuarial assumption changes based on the results of an actuarial experience study dated March 19, 2020.

- Investment return assumption lowered from 7.75% to 7.25%;
- Inflation assumption lowered from 2.75% to 2.30%;
- Individual salary increases were lowered;
- Rates of turnover, retirement and disability were changed to better reflect anticipated future experience;
- The post-retirement healthy mortality table was updated to 104% of the PubT-2010 Retiree table for retirees and to 95% of the PubT-2010 Contingent Survivor table for beneficiaries, both projected and generational improvement using Scale MP-2019;
- The disabled mortality was updated to the PubNS-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Mortality table projected with generational improvement using Scale MP-2019; and
- The pre-retirement mortality table was updated to the PubT-2010 Employee table projected with generational improvement using Scale MP-2019.

Amounts reported in 2016-2020, and later reflect the following actuarial assumption changes based on the results of an actuarial experience study dated April 30, 2015.

- Investment return assumption lowered from 8.0% to 7.75%.
- Inflation assumption lowered from 3.0% to 2.75%.
- Total salary scale rates lowered by 0.25% due to lower inflation.
- Added explicit administrative expense assumption, equal to prior year administrative expense plus inflation.
- Rates of turnover and retirement were changed to better reflect anticipated future experience.
- Updated mortality assumption to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement.

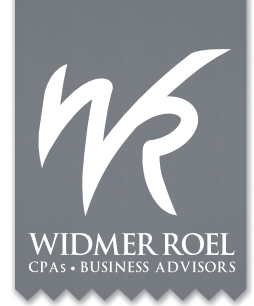
**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 3 – LEGAL COMPLIANCE – BUDGETS**

***Budget Amendments:***

The school board amended the School District budget for FY2024 as follows:

		<b>Revenue</b>		
		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>
General fund	\$	4,135,027	\$ 27,751	\$ 4,162,778
		<b>Expenditures</b>		
		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amendments</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>
General fund	\$	4,024,939	\$ (554)	\$ 4,024,385



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**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**

School Board and Administration  
**Hope-Page Public School District**  
Hope, North Dakota

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* (GAS) 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 **Hope-Page Public School District** (School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise **Hope-Page Public School District's** basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 27, 2024.

***Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered **Hope-Page Public School District's** internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the 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 **Hope-Page Public School District's** internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of **Hope-Page Public 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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as items 2024-001, and 2024-002 to be material weaknesses.

### ***Report on Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether **Hope-Page Public 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* (GAS).

### ***Hope-Page Public School District's Response to Findings***

**Hope-Page Public School District's** response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. **Hope-Page Public School District's** response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

### **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* (GAS) in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Rouse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a stylized "R" at the end.

Fargo, North Dakota  
November 27, 2024



**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR’S RESULTS**

Financial Statements

Type of auditor’s report issued:	Unmodified		
Internal control over financial reporting:			
Material weakness(es) identified?	<u>    X    </u> yes	<u>          </u> no	
Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weakness(es)?	<u>          </u> yes	<u>    X    </u> reported	<u>          </u> none
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	<u>          </u> yes	<u>    X    </u> no	

**SECTION II – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS**

**2024-001 (MATERIAL WEAKNESS) – GAAP FINANCIAL STATEMENT PREPARATION**

***Condition***

Widmer Roel assists the School District with preparation of its financial statements and related disclosures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

***Criteria***

According to the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) elements of internal control, an organization’s internal control should include the capability of preparing financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

***Cause***

The School District has determined it is more cost-effective to allocate its limited resources to areas other than preparation of financial statements and instead engage its third-party auditor to assist in this process.

***Effect***

The financial statements could be materially misstated or omit material financial statement disclosures.

***Recommendation***

We recommend management carefully review the financial statements and note disclosures and be able to understand the purpose and source of all material financial statement amounts and disclosures. We recommend management continue to prepare all requested supporting schedules, understanding their importance to the financial statements.

***Views of Responsible Officials***

The School District recognizes this finding and does not find it to be cost-effective to prepare financial statements in accordance with the Generally Acceptable Accounting Principles and will continue to utilize Widmer Roel for this service and monitor in the future.

**HOPE-PAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**2024-002 (MATERIAL WEAKNESS) – SEGREGATION OF DUTIES**

***Condition***

The School District has a lack of segregation of duties in certain areas due to a limited number of staff. Specifically, the business manager role is responsible for numerous functions related to financial reporting.

***Criteria***

To ensure adequate internal control over financial reporting and prevent material misstatements due to errors or fraud, there should be a segregation of the functions of approval, custody of assets, posting and reconciliations.

***Cause***

The School District has limited staff to be able to adequately segregate duties.

***Effect***

Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the School District's ability to detect misstatements in the financial statements, whether the cause of the misstatement was due to errors or fraud.

***Recommendation***

It is not unusual for smaller school districts to have several accounting functions concentrated with the business manager and/or superintendent. We recommend management be aware of the lack of segregation of duties and implement controls wherever possible to mitigate this risk. For example, we recommend the board continue and or adopt the following:

- Review and approve all significant contracts and disbursements.
- Careful review of budgeted items compared to actual results, investigating unusual discrepancies.
- Dual signatures on all significant checks.
- Periodic review of savings/CD statements and review of completed bank reconciliations.
- Periodic review of School District policies, including consideration of whether School District policies are sufficient to mitigate risk of financial statement errors or fraud, or noncompliance with laws, regulations, and contracts.

***Views of Responsible Officials***

The School District recognizes this finding and plans to implement the following changes for the next fiscal year. The School District recognizes and assumes risk in the area of segregation of duties due to lack of resources and staffing.

1. Continued dual signatures for all checks.
2. Review and approval for all accounts payable with signed purchase orders.
3. Segregation of duties for activity and food service fund cash receipts and accounts payable with training for Admin. Assistants in both buildings.
4. Utilizing NDSBA for a full policy service review.
5. Budget review by administration and admin/finance committee.
6. All bank reconciliations reviewed by Superintendent or Building Administrator.