

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2017

MITCHELL J. MERKEL, CPA, P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
ELLENDALE, NORTH DAKOTA

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

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ELLEDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS
June 30, 2017

Scott Wertz	Board President
Michele Thorpe	Vice President
Charlene Kinzler	Board Member
Kent Schimke	Board Member
Kristi Gilbert	Board Member
Jeff Fastnacht	Administrator
Lana Norton	Business Manager

Mitchell J. Merkel, CPA, P.C.
Certified Public Accountant and Consultant

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the School Board
Ellendale Public School District No. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Ellendale Public School District No. 40, Ellendale, North Dakota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the school district's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted the audit in accordance with 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. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 school district's internal control. Accordingly, I express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the audit opinions.

To the School Board
Ellendale Public School District No. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

Opinions

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above 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 Ellendale Public School District No. 40, as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

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. My opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information on page 30 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such 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. I 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 my inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge I obtained during my audit of the basic financial statements. I do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide me with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

My audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Ellendale Public School District No. 40 basic financial statements. The combining nonmajor fund financial statements is presented for additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining nonmajor fund financial statements are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate 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 my opinion, the combining nonmajor fund financial statements is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

To the School Board
Ellendale Public School District No. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued a report dated October 9, 2017 on my consideration of the Ellendale Public School District No. 40's internal control over financial reporting and on my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of my testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on 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 Ellendale Public School District No. 40's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Mitchell J. Merkel, CPA, P.C.

Mitchell J. Merkel, CPA, P.C.
Ellendale, North Dakota
October 9, 2017

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
June 30, 2017

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,040,983
Taxes Receivable	72,100
Due from County Treasurer	62,694
Due from State Government	26,531
Capital Assets (net of accumulated depreciation):	
Buildings	\$ 7,045,633
Improvements	551,428
Vehicles	382,260
Furniture and Equipment	77,708
Computer Equipment	38,041
Total Capital Assets	\$ 8,095,070
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 10,297,378
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Changes in Resources Related to Pensions	\$ 1,055,144
LIABILITIES	
Long-term Liabilities:	
Due Within One Year:	
QZAB Bonds Payable	\$ 20,000
G.O. School Building Bonds Payable	360,000
Capital Lease Payable	80,011
Due After One Year:	
G.O. School Building Bonds Payable	2,415,000
Capital Lease Payable	1,040,143
Compensated Absences Payable	15,086
Net Pension Liability	4,346,477
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 8,276,717
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Changes in Resources Related to Pensions	\$ 294,902
NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 4,164,830
Restricted for:	
Special Purposes	44,371
Food Service	67,938
Debt Service	24,049
Capital Projects	473,183
Unrestricted	(1,993,469)
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ 2,780,903

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense)
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Revenue and Changes in Net Position
Governmental Activities				Governmental Activities
Regular Instruction	\$ 2,205,752	\$ 3,080	\$ -	\$ (2,202,672)
Federal Programs	163,904	-	164,404	500
Special Education	59,915	46,187	-	(13,728)
Vocational Education	169,687	-	9,159	(160,528)
District Wide Services	234,723	-	-	(234,723)
Administration	357,666	-	-	(357,666)
Operations and Maintenance	382,851	-	172,676	(210,175)
Student Transportation	442,134	-	155,317	(286,817)
Student Activities	160,349	-	-	(160,349)
Tuition and Assessments	191,588	-	-	(191,588)
Food Services	200,053	104,971	73,523	(21,559)
Unallocated Depreciation	169,875	-	-	(169,875)
Interest on Long-term Debt	40,913	-	-	(40,913)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 4,779,410	\$ 154,239	\$ 575,079	\$ (4,050,093)
General Revenues				
				\$ 1,179,826
Property Taxes; Levied for general purposes				320,070
Property Taxes; Levied for debt service				50,564
Property Taxes; Levied for building purposes				50,058
Property Taxes; Levied for miscellaneous				14,195
Telecommunications Taxes				2,728,410
State Grants/Aid - Unrestricted				4,838
Interest Income				19,787
Miscellaneous Income				
Total General Revenues				\$ 4,367,747
Change in Net Position				\$ 317,655
Net Position - Beginning of Year,				\$ 2,463,248
Net Position - End of Year				\$ 2,780,903

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
June 30, 2017

	<u>Major Funds</u>		<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>		
ASSETS				
Cash and Investments	\$ 1,445,996	\$ 471,203	\$ 123,784	\$ 2,040,983
Taxes Receivable	54,444	2,334	15,323	72,100
Due from County Treasurer	48,138	1,980	12,575	62,694
Due from State Government	26,531	-	-	26,531
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,575,109</u>	<u>\$ 475,517</u>	<u>\$ 151,682</u>	<u>\$ 2,202,308</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES				
Deferred Inflows of Resources				
Uncollected Taxes Receivable	\$ 54,444	\$ 2,334	\$ 15,323	\$ 72,100
Fund Balances				
Restricted for:				
Special Purposes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,371	\$ 44,371
Food Service	-	-	67,938	67,938
Debt Service	-	-	24,049	24,049
Capital Projects	-	473,183	-	473,183
Unassigned	1,520,666	-	-	1,520,666
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 1,520,666</u>	<u>\$ 473,183</u>	<u>\$ 136,359</u>	<u>\$ 2,130,208</u>
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 1,575,109</u>	<u>\$ 475,517</u>	<u>\$ 151,682</u>	<u>\$ 2,202,308</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
June 30, 2017

Total Fund Balances for Governmental Funds	\$	2,130,208
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Total net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:

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

Cost of Capital Assets	\$	10,682,833	
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(2,587,763)</u>	
Net Capital Assets			8,095,070

Property taxes receivable 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 resource in the funds.

	72,100
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The deferred outflows and inflows of resources reported on the statement of net position are the result of changes in resources related to pensions and do not affect current financial resources.

Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$	1,055,144	
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources		<u>(294,902)</u>	
Net Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources			760,242

Long-term liabilities applicable to the school district's governmental activities are not due and payable in the current period and accordingly are not reported as fund liabilities. Interest on long-term debt is not accrued in governmental funds, but rather is recognized as an expenditure when due. All liabilities - both current and long-term - are reported in the statement of net position.
Balances at June 30, 2017 are:

General Obligation Bonds Payable	\$	(2,775,000)	
QZAB Bonds Payable		(20,000)	
Capital Lease Payable		(1,120,154)	
Compensated Absences Payable		(15,086)	
Net Pension Liability		<u>(4,346,477)</u>	
Total Long-term Liabilities			<u>(8,276,717)</u>

Total Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$	<u><u>2,780,903</u></u>
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The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

	<u>Major Funds</u>		<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Building</u>		
REVENUES				
Local Sources	\$ 1,249,032	\$ 50,744	\$ 425,606	\$ 1,725,382
State Sources	2,892,886	-	1,363	2,894,249
Federal Sources	164,404	-	72,160	236,564
Other Sources	47,738	172,676	-	220,414
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 4,354,061	\$ 223,420	\$ 499,129	\$ 5,076,610
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Regular Instruction	\$ 2,145,875	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,145,875
Federal Programs	163,904	-	-	163,904
Special Education	59,915	-	-	59,915
Vocational Education	169,687	-	-	169,687
District Wide Services	211,023	-	-	211,023
Administration	357,666	-	-	357,666
Operations and Maintenance	334,912	47,939	-	382,851
Student Transportation	367,929	-	-	367,929
Student Activities	149,511	-	-	149,511
Tuition and Assessments	191,588	-	-	191,588
Food Services	-	-	200,053	200,053
Capital Outlay	-	1,169,460	-	1,169,460
Debt Service:				
Principal	98,974	-	314,260	413,235
Interest and Service Charges	25,983	-	14,930	40,913
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 4,276,967	\$ 1,217,399	\$ 529,244	\$ 6,023,611
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 77,093	\$ (993,980)	\$ (30,115)	\$ (947,001)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,872	\$ 14,872
Transfers Out	(14,872)	-	-	(14,872)
Capital Lease	-	987,013	-	987,013
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):	\$ (14,872)	\$ 987,013	\$ 14,872	\$ 987,013
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	\$ 62,221	\$ (6,966)	\$ (15,243)	\$ 40,012
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 1,458,445	\$ 480,150	\$ 151,602	\$ 2,090,197
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	\$ 1,520,666	\$ 473,184	\$ 136,359	\$ 2,130,208

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

**RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
 CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**
For the Year ended June 30, 2017

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$	40,012
<p>The change in net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:</p>		
<p>Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlay in the current year.</p>		
Current Year Capital Outlay	\$ 1,169,460	
Current Year Depreciation Expense	<u>(278,618)</u>	890,842
<p>Repayment of debt principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. This is the amount of the repayment of debt.</p>		
		413,235
<p>Capital lease amounts are reported as other financing sources in governmental funds that contribute to the change in fund balance. In the government wide statements, however, capital lease amounts are reported as increases to long-term debt in the Statement of Position and does not affect the Statement of Activities.</p>		
Capital Lease		(987,013)
<p>Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.</p>		
Net Decrease in Compensated Absences	\$ 5,081	
Net Decrease in Pension Expense	<u>(41,808)</u>	(36,727)
<p>Some revenues reported on 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 uncollected taxes receivable.</p>		
Decrease in Uncollected Taxes Receivable		<u>(2,694)</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$	<u><u>317,655</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - AGENCY FUNDS
June 30, 2017

	<u>Agency Fund</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 226,735
LIABILITIES	
Due to Student Activities Groups	\$ 126,476
Due to Other Educational Organizations	15,740
Due to Employees	84,520
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 226,735</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2017

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of Ellendale Public School District No. 40, Ellendale, 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 Governmental 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.

A. Reporting Entity The accompanying financial statements present the activities of Ellendale Public School District No. 40. 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 such that exclusion would cause the school district's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criterion includes appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body and (1) the ability of Ellendale Public School District No. 40 to impose its will on that organization or (2) the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on Ellendale Public School District No. 40. Based on these criteria, there are no component units to be included within the Ellendale Public School District No. 40 reporting entity.

B. Basis of Presentation, Basis of Accounting

Government-wide statements: The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the primary government (Ellendale Public School District No. 40). These statements include the financial activities of the overall government, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, fees and other non-exchange transactions. The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the School District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs and (b) 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 and unrestricted state grants operating contributions, are presented as general revenues. **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, each displayed in a separate column.

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 is used to account for building and construction repairs.

The School District reports the following fiduciary fund types:

Agency Fund. This fund accounts for assets held by the School District in a custodial capacity as an agent on behalf of others. The School District's agency funds are used to account for various deposits of the student activity funds.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

Government-wide and Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements. The government-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus. The government-wide 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

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation (Continued)

Government-wide and Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements (Continued) 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 Fund Financial Statements. 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.

Under the terms of grant agreements, the School District funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants and general revenues. Thus, when program expenses are incurred, there is both restricted and unrestricted net position available to finance the program. It is the School District's policy to first apply cost reimbursement grant resources to such programs, and then general revenues.

D. Cash and Investments

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits and money market accounts, as well as certificates of deposit with a maturity of 3 months or less. Deposits must either be deposited with the Bank of North Dakota or in other 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 equal to 110% of the uninsured balance.

Investments consist of certificates of deposits stated at cost and U.S. government-backed securities stated at fair market value with maturities in excess of 3 months.

E. Capital Assets

Capital assets which include property, plant and equipment 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 assets lives 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. Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method and the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings	50-75 Years	Improvements.....	20 Years
Vehicles	8 Years	Furniture and Equipment.....	10 Years
Office Equipment	5 Years		

F. Compensated Absences

Vested or accumulated sick leave is reported in the government-wide statement of net position. Compensation for unused sick leave will be granted to all certified employees upon separation from the district. The district's personnel policy requires a payout of \$10 per day for those employees with less than 10 years of service and a payout of \$20 per day for those exceeding 10 years of service with a maximum of 90 days accumulated. Vested or accumulated vacation leave is not reported in the governmentwide statement of net position as it is considered immaterial.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

G. 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. Bond premiums, discounts and issuance costs are recognized in the current period since the amounts are not material. In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums, discounts and issuance costs in the current period. The face amount of the debt is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs are reported as debt service expenditures.

H. Pensions

For purposes of measuring 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 the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS); additions to/deductions from TFFR's and NDPERS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by TFFR and NDPERS. 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.

I. Fund Balance & Net Position

Fund equity at the governmental fund financial reporting level is classified as "fund balance." Fund equity for all other reporting is classified as "net position."

Fund Balance - Generally, fund balance represents the difference between the current assets and current liabilities. In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report fund classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the school district is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. Fund balances are classified as follows:

Nonspendable - Fund balances are reported as nonspendable when amounts cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form (i.e., items that are not expected to be converted to cash such as inventories or prepaid expenses) or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact (i.e., endowment funds).

Restricted - Fund balances are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the school district or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments (i.e., funds restricted by state statute, unspent bond proceeds, grants earned but not spent, debt covenants or taxes raised for a specific purpose).

Committed - Fund balances are reported as committed when they can be used only for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the school board through the adoption of a resolution. The school board also may modify or rescind the commitment.

Assigned - Fund balances are reported as assigned when amounts are constrained by the school district's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed.

Unassigned - Fund balances are reported as unassigned as the residual amount when the balances do not meet any of the above criterion. The school district reports positive unassigned fund balance only in the general fund. Negative fund balances may be reported in all funds.

When both restricted and unrestricted amounts of fund balance are available for use for expenditures incurred, it is the school district's policy to use restricted amounts first and then unrestricted amounts as they are needed. For unrestricted amounts of fund balance, it is the school district's policy to use fund balance in the following order:

- * Committed
- * Assigned
- * Unassigned

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

I. Fund Balance & Net Position (Continued)

Net Position - Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used (i.e., the amount that the school district has not spent) for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted as described in the fund balance section above. All other net position is reported as unrestricted.

J. 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.

K. Use of 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 certain reported amounts and disclosures (such as estimated useful lives in determining depreciation expense); accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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 other financial institutions 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 equal to 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 investments 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 any 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 body and bonds issued by another state of the United States or other securities approved by the banking board.

At June 30, 2017 the school district's carrying amount of deposits was \$2,284,555 and the bank balance was \$2,780,027. Of the bank balance, \$530,000 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance. The remaining balance of \$2,250,027 was collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's agent in the government's name.

Credit Risk

The school district may invest idle funds as authorized in North Dakota Statutes, as follows:

- (1) 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.
- (2) Securities sold under agreements to repurchase written by a financial institution in which the underlying securities for the agreement to repurchase are of the type listed above.
- (3) Certificates of deposit fully insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation.
- (4) Obligations of the State.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

At June 30, 2017, the school district held certificates of deposit in the amount of \$77,000, which all are considered deposits.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The school district does not have a limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer.

NOTE 3 – TAXES RECIEVABLE

Taxes receivable represents the past three years of uncollected current and delinquent taxes. No allowance has been established for uncollectible 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 the first of January, 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% discount 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.

Most property owners 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.

NOTE 4 – DUE FROM COUNTY TREASURER

The amount due from county treasurer consists of the cash on hand for taxes collected but not remitted to the school district at June 30.

NOTE 5 – DUE FROM STATE GOVERNMENT

The amount due from state government consists of reimbursements due for expenses in the operation of various school programs. This amount consists of a mix of state and federal dollars.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 6 – CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2017:

	Balance July 1	Increases	Decreases	Balance June 30
Governmental Activities				
<i>Capital assets being depreciated:</i>				
Buildings	\$ 8,449,296	\$ 502,822	\$ -	\$ 8,952,118
Improvements	-	580,451	-	580,451
Vehicles	674,141	181,180	-	855,321
Furniture and Equipment	-	86,342	-	86,342
Computer Equipment	184,700	23,901	-	208,601
Total	\$ 9,308,137	\$ 1,374,696	\$ -	\$ 10,682,833
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings	\$ 1,774,267	\$ 132,218	\$ -	\$ 1,906,485
Improvements	-	29,023	-	29,023
Vehicles	388,018	85,043	-	473,061
Furniture and Equipment	-	8,634	-	8,634
Computer Equipment	146,860	23,700	-	170,560
Total	\$ 2,309,145	\$ 278,618	\$ -	\$ 2,587,763
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets, Net	\$ 6,998,992	\$ 1,096,078	\$ -	\$ 8,095,070

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the school district as follows:

District Wide Services	\$ 23,700
Student Transportation	74,205
Student Activity	10,838
Unallocated Depreciation	169,875
Total Depreciation Expense	\$ 278,618

NOTE 7 – UNAVAILABLE REVENUE

Unavailable revenue on the fund financial statements consists of amounts for which asset recognition criteria have been met, but for which revenue recognition criteria have not been met. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, such amounts are measurable but not available and include taxes receivable.

ELLEDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 8 – CAPITAL LEASE

The school district entered into a lease agreement during the year to finance an energy conservation assessment and renovation project for \$987,013. The first payment of \$80,011 was made on June 17, 2017, and the remainder will be due in annual installments of \$80,011 through June 17 of 2031 at an interest rate of 2.55%. This lease qualifies as a capital lease for accounting purposes and, therefore, has been recorded at the present value of future minimum lease payments.

The future minimum lease obligations and the net present value of these minimum lease payments as of June 30, 2017, are as follows:

Year Ending June 30	Payments
2018	\$ 80,011
2019	80,011
2020	80,011
2021	80,011
2022	80,011
2023-2027	400,055
2028-2031	320,044
Total Minimum Lease Payments	\$ 1,120,154
Less: Amount Representing Interest	(187,984)
Present Value of Minimum Lease Payments	\$ 932,170

NOTE 9 – LONG-TERM DEBT

Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

During the year ended June 30, 2017, the following changes occurred in liabilities reported in the long-term liabilities - governmental activities:

	Balance July 1	Increases	Decreases	Balance June 30	Due Within One Year
Bank Loan	\$ 24,150	\$ -	\$ 24,150	\$ -	\$ -
G.O. Bonds	3,040,000	-	265,000	2,775,000	360,000
QZAB Bonds	40,000	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Compensated Absences*	20,167	-	5,081	15,086	-
Total	\$ 3,124,317	\$ -	\$ 314,231	\$ 2,810,086	\$ 380,000

*The change in compensated absences is shown as a net change because changes in salary prohibit exact calculations of increases and decreases.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 9 – LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

Outstanding Debt at June 30, 2017 Consists of the Following:

Bonds Payable

The school district has issued general obligation bonds to provide funds for the construction and renovation of major capital facilities.

Bonds of 2010, due in annual installments of \$265,000 to \$340,000 through July 1, 2025; interest is at 0%.	\$ 2,775,000
\$200,000 Qualified Zone Academy Bonds of 2007, due in annual installments of \$20,000 through March 15, 2018; interest is at 0%.	<u>20,000</u>
Total General Obligation Debt	<u><u>\$ 2,795,000</u></u>

The annual requirements to amortize the outstanding bank loan payable are as follows:

Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest
2018	\$ 380,000	\$ -
2019	360,000	-
2020	340,000	-
2021	340,000	-
2022	340,000	-
2023-2026	<u>1,035,000</u>	-
Total	<u><u>\$ 2,795,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

NOTE 10 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The Ellendale Public School District No. 40 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, 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 public assets insurance coverage. The coverage by NDIRF is limited to losses of \$2,000,000 per occurrence for general liability and \$1,000,000 for automobile. 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 \$1,000,000 per occurrence during a 12 month period. The State Bonding Fund currently provides the school district with a blanket fidelity bond coverage in the amount of \$675,000 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; and purchases commercial insurance for employee health and accident insurance. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

ELLEDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS

1. North Dakota Teachers Fund for Retirement

The following brief description of TFFR is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to 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 Board comprised of 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 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.

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% 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 2.00% times the number of service credits earned. Retirees may elect payment 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.

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

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

1. North Dakota Teachers Fund for Retirement (Continued)

Pension Benefits (Continued)

actuarially reduced by 8% 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 2.00% times the number of service credits earned. Retirees may elect payment 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.

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% 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 for all three categories are determined by NDCC Section 15-39.1-10. Monthly benefits under TFFR are equal to the highest annual salaries earned divided by 36 months and multiplied by 2.00% 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 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.

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% 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 70.5. 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.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

1. North Dakota Teachers Fund for Retirement (Continued)

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

At June 30, 2017, the Ellendale Public School District reported a liability of \$3,904,624 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2016, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The district's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the district's share of covered payroll in the pension plan relative to the covered payroll of all participating TFRF employers. At June 30, 2016, the district's proportion was 0.266517 percent, which was a decrease of 0.013675 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2015.

For the year ended June 30, 2017 the district recognized pension expense of \$318,473. At June 30, 2017 the district reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 18,441	\$ 18,487
Changes of assumptions	326,149	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	324,580	-
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	250,373
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date (see below)	219,261	-
Total	\$ 888,431	\$ 268,860

\$218,686 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from district contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2017.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

1. North Dakota Teachers Fund for Retirement (Continued)

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

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		
2018	\$	74,937
2019		74,937
2020		154,249
2021		104,591
2022		17,477
Thereafter		(25,881)

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2015 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.75%
Salary increases	4.25% to 14.50%, varying by service, including inflation and productivity
Investment rate of return	7.75%, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-living adjustments	None

For active and inactive members, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected generationally using Scale MP-2014. For healthy retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table set back one year, multiplied by 50% for ages under 75 and grading up to 100% by age 80, projected generationally using Scale MP-2014. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table set forward four years.

The actuarial assumptions used were based on the results of an actuarial experience study dated April 30, 2015. They are the same as the assumptions used in the July 1, 2016, funding actuarial valuation for TFFR.

As a result of the April 30, 2015 actuarial experience study, the TFFR Board adopted several assumption changes, including the following:

- Investment return assumption lowered from 8% to 7.75%.
- Inflation assumption lowered from 3% to 2.75%.
- Total salary scale rates lowered by .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.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

1. North Dakota Teachers Fund for Retirement (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions (Continued)

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 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 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return
Global Equities	57%	7.50%
Global Fixed Income	22%	1.30%
Global Real Assets	20%	5.40%
Cash Equivalents	1%	0.00%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75 percent as of June 30, 2016. 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, 2016, 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, 2016. 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, 2016.

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

The following presents the district's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent, as well as what the 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 (6.75 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
The district's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 5,064,591	\$ 3,904,624	\$ 2,938,481

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detail 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 www.nd.gov/rio/sib/publications/cafr/default.htm.

ELLEDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

2. North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (Main System)

The following brief description of NDPERS is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to NDCC Chapter 54-52 for more complete information.

NDPERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers substantially all employees of the State of North Dakota, its agencies and various participating political subdivisions. NDPERS provides for pension, death and disability benefits. The cost to administer the NDPERS plan is financed by investment income and contributions and investment earnings of the plan.

Responsibility for administration of the NDPERS benefits program is assigned to a Board comprised of seven members. The Board consists of a Chairman, who is appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the Attorney General; one member appointed by the State Health Officer; three members elected by active membership of the NDPERS system; and one member elected by the retired public employees. Effective July 1, 2015, the board was expanded to include two members of the legislative assembly appointed by the chairman of the legislative management.

Pension Benefits

Benefits are set by statute. NDPERS has no provision or policies with respect to automatic and ad hoc post-retirement benefit increases. Members of the Main System are entitled to unreduced monthly pension benefits beginning when the sum of age and years of credited service equal or exceed 85 (Rule of 85), or at normal retirement age (65). For members hired on or after January 1, 2016 the Rule of 85 will be replaced with the Rule of 90 with a minimum age of 60. The annual pension benefit is equal to 2.00% of their average monthly salary, using the highest 36 months out of the last 180 months of service, for each year of service. The plan permits early retirement at ages 55-64 with three or more years of service.

Members may elect to receive the pension benefits in the form of a single life, joint and survivor, term-certain annuity, or partial lump sum with ongoing annuity. Members may elect to receive the value of their accumulated contributions, plus interest, as a lump sum distribution upon retirement or termination, or they may elect to receive their benefits in the form of an annuity. For each member electing an annuity, total payment will not be less than the members' accumulated contributions plus interest.

Death and Disability Benefits

Death and disability benefits are set by statute. If an active member dies with less than three years of service for the Main System, a death benefit equal to the value of the member's accumulated contributions, plus interest, is paid to the member's beneficiary. If the member has earned more than three years of credited service for the Main System, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a single payment refund, life-time monthly payments in an amount equal to 50% of the member's accrued normal retirement benefit, or monthly payments in an amount equal to the member's accrued 100% Joint and Survivor retirement benefit if the member had reached normal retirement age prior to date of death. If the surviving spouse dies before the member's accumulated pension benefits are paid, the balance will be payable to the surviving spouse's designated beneficiary.

Eligible members who become totally disabled after a minimum of 180 days of service, receive monthly disability benefits equal to 25% of their final average salary with a minimum benefit of \$100. To qualify under this section, the member has to become disabled during the period of eligible employment and apply for benefits within one year of termination. The definition of disabled is set by the NDPERS in the North Dakota Administrative Code.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

2. North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (Main System) (Continued)

Refunds of Member Account Balance

Upon termination, if a member of the Main System is not vested (is not 65 or does not have three years of service), they will receive the accumulated member contributions and vested employer contributions, plus interest, or may elect to receive this amount at a later date. If the member has vested, they have the option of applying for a refund or can remain as a terminated vested participant. If a member terminated and withdrew their accumulated member contribution and is subsequently reemployed, they have the option of repurchasing their previous service.

Member and Employer Contributions

Member and employer contributions paid to NDPERS are set by statute and are established as a percent of covered compensation. Member contribution rates are 7% and employer contribution rates are 7.12% of covered compensation.

The member's account balance includes the vested employer contributions equal to the member's contributions to an eligible deferred compensation plan. The minimum member contribution is \$25 and the maximum may not exceed the following:

1 to 12 months of service - Greater of one percent of monthly salary or \$25

13 to 25 months of service - Greater of two percent of monthly salary or \$25

25 to 36 months of service - Greater of three percent of monthly salary or \$25

Longer than 36 months of service - Greater of four percent of monthly salary or \$25

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

At June 30, 2017, the Ellendale Public School District reported a liability of \$441,853 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2016, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The district's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the district's share of covered payroll in the Main System pension plan relative to the covered payroll of all participating Main System employers. At June 30, 2016, the district's proportion was 0.045337 percent, which was an increase of 0.001496 from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2015.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

2. North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (Main System) (Continued)

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

For the year ended June 30, 2017 the district recognized pension expense of \$63,891. At June 30, 2017 the district reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 6,638	\$ 4,091
Changes of assumptions	40,733	21,951
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	61,645	-
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	22,696	-
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date (see below)	35,001	-
Total	\$ 166,713	\$ 26,042

\$35,001 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from district contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2018.

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		
2018	\$	20,199
2019		20,199
2020		33,647
2021		23,393
2022		8,232
Thereafter		-

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

2. North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (Main System) (Continued)

Actuarial assumptions. The total pension liability in the July 1, 2014 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	3.50%
Salary increases	4.50% per annum
Investment rate of return	8.00%, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-living adjustments	None

For active members, inactive members and healthy retirees, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Mortality Table with ages set back two years for males and three years for females, projected generationally using the SSA 2014 Intermediate cost scale from 2014. For disabled retirees, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Disabled Retiree Morality Table with ages set back one year for males (not setback for females) multiplied by 125%.

The actuarial assumptions used were based on the results of an actuarial experience study completed in 2015. They are the same as the assumptions used in the July 1, 2016, funding actuarial valuation for NDPERS.

As a result of the 2015 actuarial experience study, the NDPERS Board adopted several changes to the actuarial assumptions effective July 1, 2016. This includes changes to the mortality tables, disability incidence rates, retirement rates, administrative expenses, salary scale, and percent married assumption.

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 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 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic Equity	31%	6.90%
International Equity	21%	7.55%
Private Equity	5%	11.30%
Domestic Fixed Income	17%	1.52%
International Equity Income	5%	0.45%
Global Real Assets	20%	5.38%
Cash Equivalents	1%	0.00%

ELLEDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 11 – PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)

2. North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (Main System) (Continued)

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 8 percent as of June 30, 2016. 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, 2016, 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 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, 2013. 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, 2016.

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

The following presents the district's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 8 percent, as well as what the 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 (7 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (9 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (7%)	Current Rate (8%)	1% Increase (9%)
The district's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 626,760	\$ 441,853	\$ 286,059

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued NDPERS financial report.

NOTE 11 –SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent events were evaluated through October 9, 2017, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE – GENERAL FUND
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
REVENUES				
Local Sources	\$ 1,213,600	\$ 1,263,600	\$ 1,249,032	\$ (14,568)
State Sources	2,996,639	2,996,639	2,892,886	(103,753)
Federal Sources	162,291	200,027	164,404	(35,623)
Other Sources	114,500	114,500	47,738	(66,762)
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 4,487,030</u>	<u>\$ 4,574,766</u>	<u>\$ 4,354,061</u>	<u>\$ (220,705)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Regular Instruction	\$ 2,116,335	\$ 2,116,335	\$ 2,145,875	\$ 29,540
Federal Programs	200,028	200,028	163,904	(36,124)
Special Education	66,939	66,939	59,915	(7,024)
Vocational Education	220,028	220,028	169,687	(50,341)
District Wide Services	256,403	256,403	211,023	(45,380)
Administration	393,771	393,771	357,666	(36,105)
Operations and Maintenance	374,425	374,425	334,912	(39,513)
Student Transportation	402,585	415,918	367,929	(47,989)
Student Activities	192,931	192,931	149,511	(43,420)
Tuition and Assessments	204,000	204,000	191,588	(12,412)
Capital Outlay	50,000	50,000	-	(50,000)
Debt Service:				
Principal	43,501	69,186	98,974	29,788
Interest and Service Charges	1,499	814	25,983	25,169
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 4,522,445</u>	<u>\$ 4,560,778</u>	<u>\$ 4,276,967</u>	<u>\$ (283,811)</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ (35,415)</u>	<u>\$ 13,988</u>	<u>\$ 77,093</u>	<u>\$ 63,105</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers Out	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (14,872)	\$ (14,872)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (14,872)</u>	<u>\$ (14,872)</u>
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ (35,415)</u>	<u>\$ 13,988</u>	62,221	<u>\$ 48,233</u>
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1			<u>1,458,445</u>	
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30			<u>\$ 1,520,666</u>	

The accompanying required supplementary information notes are an integral part of this schedule.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
June 30, 2017

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT BUDGET POLICIES

The school district adopts an annual budget on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for the general fund.

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

- The annual budget must be prepared and school district taxes must be levied on or before the fifteenth day of August of each year.
- The taxes levied must be certified to the county auditor by October tenth.
- The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and means of financing them.
- Each budget is control by the business manager at the revenue and expenditure function/object level.
- 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.
- All appropriations lapse at year-end.

NOTE 2 – BUDGET AMENDMENTS

The governing board approved the following amendments to the school district's general fund budget for the year ending June 30, 2017:

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>
Estimated Revenues	\$ 4,487,030	\$ 87,736	\$ 4,574,766
Appropriations	\$ 4,522,445	\$ 38,333	\$ 4,560,778

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 3 –SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER’S SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS*

North Dakota Teachers’ Fund for Retirement

	District's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	District's covered- employee payroll	District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2017	0.266517%	\$ 3,904,624	#####	225.49%	59.20%
2016	0.280192%	\$ 3,664,506	#####	212.62%	62.10%
2015	0.293911%	\$ 3,079,666	#####	180.64%	66.60%

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System

	District's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	District's covered- employee payroll	District's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2017	0.045337%	\$ 441,853	\$ 456,886	96.71%	70.46%
2016	0.043841%	\$ 298,111	\$ 390,572	76.33%	77.15%
2015	0.041276%	\$ 261,988	\$ 389,444	67.27%	77.70%

*Complete data for these schedules is not available prior to 2015.

Changes of Assumptions

Amounts reported in 2016 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% to 7.75%.
- Inflation assumption lowered from 3% 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.

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (CONTINUED)
June 30, 2017

NOTE 4 –SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER’S CONTRIBUTIONS LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS*

North Dakota Teachers’ Fund for Retirement

	<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>
2017	220,782	\$ (220,782)	\$ -	\$ 1,731,625	12.75%
2016	219,732	\$ (219,732)	\$ -	\$ 1,723,476	12.75%
2015	183,269	\$ (183,269)	\$ -	\$ 1,704,838	10.75%

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System

	<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>
2017	\$ 33,078	\$ (34,171)	\$ (1,093)	\$ 456,886	7.48%
2016	\$ 29,667	\$ (29,773)	\$ (106)	\$ 390,572	7.60%
2015	\$ 25,898	\$ (25,898)	\$ -	\$ 389,444	6.65%

*Complete data for these schedules is not available prior to 2015.

Changes of Assumptions

Amounts reported in 2017 reflect actuarial assumption changes effective July 1, 2016 based on the results of an actuarial experience study completed in 2015. This includes changes to the mortality tables, disability incidence rates, retirement rates, administrative expenses, salary scale, and percent married assumption.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
June 30, 2017

	<u>Special Reserve</u>	<u>Food Service</u>	<u>Sinking and Interest</u>	<u>Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>
ASSETS				
Cash and Investments	\$ 44,356	\$ 73,009	\$ 19,047	\$ 136,412
Taxes Receivable	-	-	18,687	18,687
Due from County Treasurer	-	-	15,192	15,192
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 44,356</u>	<u>\$ 73,009</u>	<u>\$ 52,925</u>	<u>\$ 170,291</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES				
Deferred Inflows of Resources				
Unavailable Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,687	\$ 18,687
Fund Balances				
Restricted for:				
Special Purposes	\$ 44,356	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,356
Food Service	-	73,009	-	73,009
Debt Service	-	-	34,238	34,238
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$ 44,356</u>	<u>\$ 73,009</u>	<u>\$ 34,238</u>	<u>\$ 151,603</u>
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 44,356</u>	<u>\$ 73,009</u>	<u>\$ 52,925</u>	<u>\$ 170,290</u>

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

**COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES – NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**
June 30, 2017

	<u>Special Reserve</u>	<u>Food Service</u>	<u>Sinking and Interest</u>	<u>Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>
REVENUES				
Local Sources	\$ 15	\$ 106,589	\$ 319,002	\$ 425,606
State Sources	-	1,363	-	1,363
Federal Sources	-	72,160	-	72,160
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 15</u>	<u>\$ 180,111</u>	<u>\$ 319,002</u>	<u>\$ 499,129</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Food Services	\$ -	\$ 200,053	\$ -	\$ 200,053
Debt Service:				
Principal	-	-	314,260	314,260
Interest and Service Charges	-	-	14,930	14,930
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 200,053</u>	<u>\$ 329,190</u>	<u>\$ 529,244</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 15</u>	<u>\$ (19,942)</u>	<u>\$ (10,188)</u>	<u>\$ (30,115)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 14,872	\$ -	\$ 14,872
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 15</u>	<u>\$ (5,070)</u>	<u>\$ (10,188)</u>	<u>\$ (15,243)</u>
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	<u>\$ 44,356</u>	<u>\$ 73,008</u>	<u>\$ 34,237</u>	<u>\$ 151,601</u>
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	<u><u>\$ 44,371</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 67,938</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 24,049</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 136,358</u></u>

Mitchell J. Merkel, CPA, P.C.
Certified Public Accountant and Consultant

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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 School Board
Ellendale Public School District No. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

I 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 the Ellendale Public School District No. 40, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Ellendale Public School District No. 40 basic financial statements and have issued my report thereon dated October 9, 2017.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing the audit of the financial statements, I considered the Ellendale Public School District No. 40's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing my opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ellendale Public School District No. 40's internal control. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ellendale Public School District No. 40 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.

My consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during my audit I did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that I consider to be material weaknesses. I did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs that I consider to be significant deficiencies, identified as Item 2017-1 and 2017-2.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Ellendale Public School District No. 40's financial statements are free from material misstatement, I 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 my audit, and accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Ellendale Public School District No. 40 Response to Findings

Ellendale Public School District No. 40's response to the findings identified in my audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. Ellendale Public School District No. 40 response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of my 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.

Mitchell J. Merkel, CPA, P.C.

Ellendale, North Dakota
October 9, 2017

ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40
Ellendale, North Dakota

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES (CONTINUED)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

SECTION II – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS (CONTINUED):

Significant Deficiencies

2017-02 Financial Statement Presentation

Condition: The school district does not have an internal control system designed to provide for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Criteria: A good system of internal controls contemplates an adequate system for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Effect: Financial statements are not currently prepared by the school district.

Cause: Due to the school district's size, complexity, organizational structure and the economic realities, it is not economically feasible to have staff devote time to prepare the financial statements.

Recommendation: The circumstance is not unusual in an organization of this size. It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations.

Views of Responsible Officials: The School Board has decided to accept the degree of risk associated with the district not preparing its own financial statements due to the time and expense necessary to have staff prepare the statements prior to the annual audit.

Indication of Repeat Finding: This is a repeat finding from the prior year.