



May 27, 2020

To the Board of Education
Independent School District No. 548
310 South Broadway
Pelican Rapids, Minnesota 56572-0642

The following represents our understanding of the services we will provide Independent School District No. 548.

You have requested that we audit the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Independent School District No. 548, as of June 30, 2020, and for the year then ended and the related notes, which collectively comprise Independent School District No. 548's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter. Our audit will be conducted with the objective of our expressing an opinion on each opinion unit applicable to those basic financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAP,) as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require that certain information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB, 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. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAS). These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by U.S. GAAP. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

1. Management's Discussion and Analysis
2. Schedule of Changes in the District's Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
3. Schedule of Employer's Share of the Net Pension Liability and Schedule of Employer's Contributions

Supplementary information other than RSI will accompany Independent School District No. 548's basic financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and perform certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling the supplementary information to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and additional procedures in accordance with U.S. GAAS. We intend to provide an opinion on the following supplementary information in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole:

1. Combining and Individual Fund Schedules
2. Schedule of Changes in Student Activity Cash Balances
3. Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards Compliance Table

Also, the document we submit to you will include the following other additional information that will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements:

1. School Board and Administration

Auditor Responsibilities

We will conduct our audit in accordance with U.S. GAAS and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Legal Compliance Audit Guide prepared by the Office of the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. §6.65. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the basic financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements.

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 basic financial statements. If appropriate, our procedures will therefore include tests of documentary evidence that support the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of cash, investments, and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with creditors and financial institutions. As part of our audit process, we will request written representations from your attorneys, and they may bill you for responding. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also request certain written representations from you about the basic financial statements and related matters.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements (whether caused by errors, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations) may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and the audit requirements found in the Legal Compliance Audit Guide prepared by the Office of the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. §6.65.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the basic 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 entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the basic financial statements that we have identified during the audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the basic financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Independent School District No. 548's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance, and we will not express such an opinion.

Other Services

We will also prepare the financial statements of Independent School District No. 548 in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. We will also provide other nonattest services related to preparation of certain cash to accrual conversion entries and fund to government-wide conversion entries and submission of the uniform financial accounting and reporting standards compliance table. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Management Responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- b. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements; and

- c. To provide us with:
 - i. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;
 - ii. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
 - iii. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- d. For including the auditor's report in any document containing basic financial statements that indicates that such basic financial statements have been audited by the entity's auditor;
- e. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities;
- f. For adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current year period(s) under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole; and
- g. For acceptance of nonattest services, including identifying the proper party to oversee nonattest work;
- h. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets;
- i. For informing us of any known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees with significant role in internal control and others where fraud could have a material effect on the financials; and
- j. For the accuracy and completeness of all information provided.

With regard to the supplementary information referred to above, you acknowledge and understand your responsibility: (a) for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria; (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding supplementary information; (c) to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and that indicates that we have reported on such supplementary information; and (d) to present the supplementary information with the audited basic financial statements, or if the supplementary information will not be presented with the audited basic financial statements, to make the audited basic financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by you of the supplementary information and our report thereon.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of Independent School District No. 548's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the governing body of Independent School District No. 548. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement.

Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the basic financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

Brian Stavenger is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. Responsibilities include supervising services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report. We expect to begin our audit in September 2020.

Our fees are based on the amount of time required at various levels of responsibility, plus actual out-of-pocket expenses. Invoices will be rendered every two weeks and are payable upon presentation. We estimate that our fee for the audit will be as follows:

Audit of the financial statements	\$12,850
Conferencing presentation to the School Board	375
Implementation of GASB 84	<u>500</u>
Total	<u>\$13,725</u>

We will notify you immediately of any circumstances we encounter that could significantly affect this initial fee estimate. Whenever possible, we will attempt to use Independent School District No. 548's personnel to assist in the preparation of schedules and analyses of accounts. This effort could substantially reduce our time requirements and facilitate the timely conclusion of the audit. Further, we will be available during the year to consult with you on financial management and accounting matters of a routine nature.

We will prepare a detailed list of expected workpapers which you will need to prepare before we begin the audit. These workpapers will need to be completed prior to fieldwork commencing. In addition, we expect the beginning fund balances to agree to the prior year's ending amounts, minimal proposal of year-end correcting entries and trial balance updates. Lastly, we expect cash, receivables, inventory, prepaids, payables, and accrued liabilities to be appropriately reconciled through the date of the financial statements. If any of these issues arise and cause unexpected additional time to be devoted to the audit our fees will be based on our actual number of hours times an hourly rate depending on the staff involved.

In addition, we will be compensated for any time and expenses, including time and expenses of legal counsel, we may incur in conducting or responding to discovery requests or participating as a witness or otherwise in any legal, regulatory, or other proceedings as a result of our Firm's performance of these services. You and your attorney will receive, if lawful, a copy of every subpoena we are asked to respond to on your behalf and will have the ability to control the extent of the discovery process to control the costs you may incur.

Should our relationship terminate before our audit procedures are completed and a report issued, you will be billed for services to the date of termination. All bills are payable upon receipt. A service charge of 1% per month, which is an annual rate of 12%, will be added to all accounts unpaid 30 days after billing date. If collection action is necessary, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees will be added to the amount due.

During the course of the audit we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

We may use third party service providers and/or affiliated entities (including Eide Bailly Shared Services Private Limited) (collectively, "service providers") in order to facilitate delivering our services to you. Our use of service providers may require access to client information by the service provider. We will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have the appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of confidential information to others. We will remain responsible for the confidentiality of client information accessed by such service provider and any work performed by such service provider.

You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the basic financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to the School Board the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;

- Management’s consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Eide Bailly, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to regulators (including, but not limited to the Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Office of the State Auditor) pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Eide Bailly, LLP’s personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to regulators. The regulators may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide, upon request, a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent review reports to the party contracting for the audit. Accordingly, we will provide a copy of our most recent peer review report at your request.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The following procedures shall be used to resolve any disagreement, controversy or claim that may arise out of any aspect of our services or relationship with you, including this engagement, for any reason (“Dispute”). Specifically, we agree to first mediate.

Mediation

All Disputes between us shall first be submitted to non-binding mediation by written notice (“Mediation Notice”) to the other party. In mediation, we will work with you to resolve any differences voluntarily with the aid of an impartial mediator. The mediator will be selected by mutual agreement, but if we cannot agree on a mediator, one shall be designated by the American Arbitration Association (“AAA”).

The mediation will be conducted as specified by the mediator and agreed upon by the parties. The parties agree to discuss their differences in good faith and to attempt, with the assistance of the mediator, to reach an amicable resolution of the Dispute. Mediation will be conducted with the parties in person in Fargo, North Dakota.

Each party will bear its own costs in the mediation. The fees and expenses of the mediator will be shared equally by the parties.

Either party may commence suit on a Dispute after the mediator declares an impasse.

INDEMNITY

You agree that none of Eide Bailly LLP, its partners, affiliates, officers or employees (collectively "Eide Bailly") shall be responsible for or liable to you for any misstatements in your financial statements that we may fail to detect as a result of knowing representations made to us, or the concealment or intentional withholding of information from us, by any of your owners, directors, officers or employees, whether or not they acted in doing so in your interests or for your benefit, and to hold Eide Bailly harmless from any claims, losses, settlements, judgments, awards, damages and attorneys' fees from any such misstatement, provided that the services performed hereunder were performed in accordance with professional standards, in all material respects.

If a claim is brought against you by a third-party that arises out of or is in any way related to the services provided under this engagement, you agree to indemnify Eide Bailly LLP, its partners, affiliates, officers and employees (collectively "Eide Bailly"), against any losses, including settlement payments, judgments, damage awards, punitive or exemplary damages, and the costs of litigation (including attorneys' fees) associated with the services performed hereunder provided that the services were performed in accordance with professional standards, in all material respects.

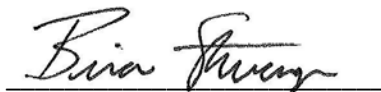
ASSIGNMENTS PROHIBITED

You agree that you will not and may not assign, sell, barter or transfer any legal rights, causes of actions, claims or Disputes you may have against Eide Bailly, its partners, affiliates, officers and employees, to any other person or party, or to any trustee, receiver or other third party.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the basic financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,



Brian Stavenger, CPA
Partner

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of Independent School District No. 548 by:

Chair of the Board

Date