

This is a Preliminary Official Statement, complete with the exception of the specific information permitted to be omitted by Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Board has authorized distribution of this Preliminary Official Statement to prospective purchasers and others. In accordance with Rule 15c2-12, this Preliminary Official Statement is deemed final. Upon the sale of the Bonds described herein, the Board will deliver a final Official Statement within the earlier of seven business days following such sale or in order to accompany the purchaser's confirmations that request payment for the Bonds.

New Issue

Ratings: See "Ratings" herein

**PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED NOVEMBER 9, 2016**

*In the opinion of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, Bond Counsel to the Board (as defined herein), pursuant to Section 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") interest on the Bonds (as defined herein) is not included in gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of calculating the alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and corporations. It is also the opinion of Bond Counsel that interest on the Bonds held by corporate taxpayers is included in "adjusted current earnings" in calculating alternative minimum taxable income for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations. In addition, in the opinion of Bond Counsel, interest on and any gain from the sale of the Bonds is not includable as gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act. Bond Counsel's opinions described herein are given in reliance on representations, certifications of fact, and statements of reasonable expectation made by the Board in its Tax Certificate (as defined herein), assuming continuing compliance by the Board with certain covenants set forth in its Tax Certificate, and are based on existing statutes, regulations, administrative pronouncements and judicial decisions. See "TAX MATTERS" herein.*

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
CITY OF SOMERS POINT  
IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY  
\$9,235,000 SCHOOL BONDS  
(Book-Entry-Only) (Bank Qualified) (Callable)**

**Dated:** Date of Delivery

**Due:** December 1, as shown below

The \$9,235,000 School Bonds (the "Bonds") of The Board of Education of the City of Somers Point in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and legal entity and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) will be issued in the form of one certificate for the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds maturing in each year and when issued will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), which will act as securities depository. See "Book-Entry-Only System" herein.

Interest on the Bonds will be payable semiannually on June 1 and December 1 in each year until maturity, or earlier redemption, commencing on December 1, 2017. Principal of and interest on the Bonds will be paid to DTC by the Board or its designated paying agent. Interest on the Bonds will be credited to the participants of DTC as listed on the records of DTC as of each next preceding May 15 and November 15 (the "Record Dates" for the payment of interest on the Bonds). The Bonds shall be subject to redemption prior to their stated maturities. See "DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS- Redemption" herein.

The Bonds are valid and legally binding obligations of the Board and, unless paid from other sources, are payable from *ad valorem* taxes levied upon all the taxable real property within the School District for the payment of the Bonds and the interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount.

**MATURITIES, PRINCIPAL AMOUNTS, INTEREST RATES, YIELDS AND CUSIPS\***

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>CUSIPS*</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>CUSIPS*</u>
2018	\$275,000				2028	\$550,000			
2019	400,000				2029	550,000			
2020	410,000				2030	550,000			
2021	415,000				2031	550,000			
2022	420,000				2032	550,000			
2023	425,000				2033	550,000			
2024	425,000				2034	550,000			
2025	425,000				2035	550,000			
2026	540,000				2036	550,000			
2027	550,000								

*The Bonds are offered when, as and if issued, and delivered to the Underwriter, subject to prior sale, to withdrawal or modification of the offer without notice and to the approval of legality by the law firm of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, Roseland, New Jersey, and certain other conditions described herein. Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Bordentown, New Jersey has served as financial advisor in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. Delivery is anticipated to be via DTC in New York, New York on or about December 13, 2016.*

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SCHOOL BONDS WILL BE RECEIVED VIA PARITY AT 11:00 A.M. ON NOVEMBER 16, 2016. FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOW TO BID ELECTRONICALLY, VIEW THE NOTICE OF SALE POSTED AT WWW. PROSPECTUSHUB.COM**

\* CUSIP is a registered trademark of the American Bankers Association. CUSIP data herein are provided by Standard & Poor's CUSIP Service Bureau, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. The CUSIP numbers listed above are being provided solely for the convenience of Bondholders only at the time of issuance of the Bonds and the Board does not make any representation with respect to such numbers or undertake any responsibility for their accuracy now or at any time in the future. The CUSIP number for a specific maturity is subject to being changed after the issuance of the Bonds as a result of procurement of secondary market portfolio insurance or other similar enhancement by investors that is applicable to all or a portion of certain maturities of the Bonds.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
CITY OF SOMERS POINT  
IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY**

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

Richard Gray, President  
Wes Kazmarck, Vice President  
Karen Broomall  
John Conover  
Todd Fath  
Staci Endicott  
Michael O'Brien  
Michael Sweeder  
Nicholas Wagner

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Thomas A. Baruffi, Ed. D.

**SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY**

Suzanne Keller

**BOARD AUDITOR**

Ford, Scott and Associates LLC  
Ocean City, New Jersey

**SOLICITOR**

Louis J. Greco, Esq  
Mays Landing, New Jersey

**FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

Phoenix Advisors, LLC  
Bordentown, New Jersey

**BOND COUNSEL**

McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC  
Roseland, New Jersey

No broker, dealer, salesperson or other person has been authorized by the Board to give any information or to make any representations with respect to the Bonds other than those contained in this Official Statement, and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the foregoing. The information contained herein has been provided by the Board and other sources deemed reliable; however, no representation is made as to the accuracy or completeness of information from sources other than the Board. The Underwriter has reviewed the information in this Official Statement in accordance with, and as part of, its responsibilities to investors under the federal securities laws as applied to the facts and circumstances of this transaction, but the Underwriter does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information. The information and the expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice, and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder under any circumstances shall create any implication that there has been no change in any of the information herein since the date hereof or since the date as of which such information is given, if earlier.

References in this Official Statement to laws, rules, regulations, resolutions, agreements, reports and documents do not purport to be comprehensive or definitive. All references to such documents are qualified in their entirety by reference to the particular document, the full text of which may contain qualifications of and exceptions to statements made herein, and copies of which may be inspected at the offices of the Board of Education during normal business hours.

This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Bonds in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for any person to make such an offer, solicitation or sale. No dealer, broker, salesperson or other person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations other than as contained in this Official Statement. If given or made, such other information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Board or the Underwriter.

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT  
OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
CITY OF SOMERS POINT  
IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY**

**\$9,235,000  
SCHOOL BONDS  
(BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY ISSUE) (BANK QUALIFIED) (CALLABLE)**

**INTRODUCTION**

This Official Statement, which includes the front cover page and the appendices attached hereto, has been prepared by The Board of Education of City of Somers Point in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey (the "Board" or "Board of Education" when referring to the governing body and legal entity and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) in connection with the sale and issuance of its \$9,235,000 School Bonds (the "Bonds"). This Official Statement has been executed by and on behalf of the Board by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and its distribution and use in connection with the sale of the Bonds have been authorized by the Board.

This Official Statement contains specific information relating to the Bonds including their general description, certain matters affecting the financing, certain legal matters, historical financial information and other information pertinent to this issue. This Official Statement should be read in its entirety.

All financial and other information presented herein has been provided by the Board from its records, except for information expressly attributed to other sources. The presentation of information is intended to show recent historic information and, but only to the extent specifically provided herein, certain projections into the immediate future, and is not necessarily indicative of future or continuing trends in the financial position of the Board.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS**

The following is a summary of certain provisions of the Bonds. Reference is made to the Bonds themselves for the complete text thereof, and the discussion herein is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

**Terms and Interest Payment Dates**

The Bonds shall be dated the date of delivery and shall mature on December 1 in each of the years and in the amounts set forth on the front cover page hereof. The Bonds shall bear interest from the date of delivery, which interest shall be payable semi-annually on the first day of June and December, commencing on December 1, 2017 (each an "Interest Payment Date"), in each of the years and at the interest rates set forth on the front cover page hereof in each year until maturity, or earlier redemption, by the Board or a duly appointed paying agent to the registered owners of the Bonds as of each May 15 and November 15 immediately preceding the respective Interest Payment Dates (the "Record Dates"). So long as The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), or its nominee Cede & Co. (or any successor or assign) is the registered owner of the Bonds, payments of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made by the Board or a designated paying agent directly to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., which will in turn remit such payments to DTC Participants, which will in turn remit such payments to the beneficial owners of the Bonds. See "BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY SYSTEM" herein.

The Bonds will be issued in fully registered book-entry-only form, without certificates. One certificate shall be issued for the aggregate principal amount of Bonds maturing in each year, and when issued, will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC. DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. The certificates will be on deposit with DTC. DTC will be responsible for maintaining a book-entry system for recording the interests of its participants and transfers of the interests among its participants. The participants will be responsible for maintaining records regarding the beneficial ownership interests in the Bonds on behalf of the individual purchasers. Individual purchases may be made in the principal amount of \$1,000 integrals, with a minimum purchase of \$5,000, through book entries made on the books and the records of DTC and its participants. Individual purchasers of the Bonds will not receive certificates representing their beneficial ownership interests in the Bonds, but each book-entry owner will receive a credit balance on the books of its nominee, and this credit balance will be confirmed by an initial transaction statement stating the details of the Bonds purchased. See "BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY SYSTEM" herein.

## **Redemption**

The Bonds maturing prior to December 1, 2025 are not subject to redemption. The Bonds maturing on or after December 1, 2025 shall be subject to redemption at the option of the Board, in whole or in part, on any date on or after December 1, 2024 at the par amount of bonds to be refunded, plus unpaid accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption.

Notice of redemption shall be given by mailing by first class mail in a sealed envelope with postage prepaid to the registered owners of the Bonds not less than thirty (30) days, nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the date fixed for redemption. Such mailing shall be to the Owners of such Bonds at their respective addresses as they last appear on the registration books kept for that purpose by the Board or a duly appointed bond registrar. So long as DTC (or any successor thereto) acts as securities depository for the Bonds, such notice of redemption shall be sent directly to such depository and not to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds. Any failure of the depository to advise any of its participants or any failure of any participant to notify any beneficial owner of any notice of redemption shall not affect the validity of the redemption proceedings. If the Board determines to redeem a portion of the Bonds prior to maturity, the Bonds to be redeemed shall be selected by the Board; the Bonds to be redeemed having the same maturity shall be selected by the securities depository in accordance with its regulations.

If notice of redemption has been given as provided herein, the Bonds or the portion thereof called for redemption shall be due and payable on the date fixed for redemption at the Redemption Price, together with accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption. Interest shall cease to accrue on and after such redemption date.

## **Security for the Bonds**

The Bonds are valid and legally binding general obligations of the Board, and the Board has irrevocably pledged its full faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds. Unless paid from other sources, the principal of and interest on the Bonds are payable from *ad valorem* taxes levied upon all the taxable property within the School District without limitation as to rate or amount except to the extent that enforcement of such payment may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar laws on equitable principles effecting the enforcement of creditors' rights general.

## **New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act (N.J.S.A. 18A:56-17 et seq.)**

All school bonds are secured by the School Bond Reserve established in the Fund for the Support of Free Public Schools of the State of New Jersey (the "Fund") in accordance with the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:56-17 et seq. (P.L. 1980, c. 72, approved July 16, 1980, as amended by P.L. 2003, c. 118, approved July 1, 2003 (the "Act")). Amendments to the Act provide that the Fund will be divided into two School Bond Reserve accounts. All bonds issued prior to July 1, 2003 shall be benefited

by a School Bond Reserve account funded in an amount equal to 1-1/2% of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes issued prior to July 1, 2003 (the "Old School Bond Reserve Account") and all bonds, including the Bonds, issued on or after July 1, 2003 shall be benefited by a School Bond Reserve account equal to 1% of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes issued on or after July 1, 2003 (the "New School Bond Reserve Account"), provided such amounts do not exceed the moneys available in the Fund. If a municipality, county or school district is unable to make payment of principal of or interest on any of its bonds issued for school purposes, the trustees of the Fund will purchase such bonds at par value and will pay to the bondholders the interest due or to become due within the limits of funds available in the applicable School Bond Reserve account in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The Act provides that the School Bond Reserve shall be composed entirely of direct obligations of the United States government or obligations guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. Securities representing at least one-third of the minimal market value to be held in the School Bond Reserve shall be due to mature within one year of issuance or purchase. Beginning with the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2003 and continuing on each June 30 thereafter, the State Treasurer shall calculate the amount necessary to fully fund the Old School Bond Reserve Account and the New School Bond Reserve Account as required pursuant to the Act. To the extent moneys are insufficient to maintain each account in the Reserve at the required levels, the State agrees that the State Treasurer shall, no later than September 15 of the fiscal year following the June 30 calculation date, pay to the trustees for deposit in the School Bond Reserve such amounts as may be necessary to maintain the Old School Bond Reserve Account and the New School Bond Reserve Account at the levels required by the Act. No moneys may be borrowed from the Fund to provide liquidity to the State unless the Old School Bond Reserve Account and New School Bond Reserve Account each are at the levels certified as full funding on the most recent June 30 calculation date. The amount of the School Bond Reserve in each account is pledged as security for the prompt payment to holders of bonds benefited by such account of the principal of and the interest on such bonds in the event of the inability of the issuer to make such payments. In the event the amounts in either the Old School Bond Reserve Account or the New School Bond Reserve Account fall below the amount required to make payments on bonds, the amounts in both accounts are available to make payments for bonds secured by the reserve.

The Act further provides that the amount of any payment of interest or purchase price of school bonds paid pursuant to the Act shall be deducted from the appropriation or apportionment of State aid, other than certain State aid which may be otherwise restricted pursuant to law, payable to the school district, county or municipality and shall not obligate the State to make, nor entitle the school district, county or municipality to receive any additional appropriation or apportionment. Any amount so deducted shall be applied by the State Treasurer to satisfy the obligation of the school district, county or municipality arising as a result of the payment of interest or purchase price of bonds pursuant to the Act. On September 11, 2014, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC business, downgraded the School Bond Reserve rating from "A+" (stable) to "A" (stable). Moody's Investors Service, Inc. has downgraded the School Bond Reserve rating from "Aa3" (stable) to "A2" (negative).

#### **AUTHORIZATION AND PURPOSE**

The Bonds have been authorized and are being issued pursuant to Title 18A, Chapter 24 of the New Jersey Statutes (N.J.S.A. 18A:24-1 et seq.), a proposal adopted by the Board on August 18, 2016 and approved by a majority of the legal voters present and voting at the school district election held on September 27, 2016 and by a resolution duly adopted by the Board on October 20, 2016 (the "Resolution").

The purpose of the Bonds is to provide funds to: (a) undertake renovations, alterations and improvements at Dawes Avenue Elementary School, New York Avenue Elementary School and Jordan Road Elementary School; and (b) acquire the necessary equipment as well as undertake any associated site

work. The total cost of the project is \$9,235,000 which will be funded through the issuance of the Bonds. The Board also expects to receive debt service aid on the Bonds.

### **BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY SYSTEM<sup>1</sup>**

The following description of the procedures and record keeping with respect to beneficial ownership interests in the Bonds, payment of principal and interest, and other payments on the Bonds to DTC Participants or Beneficial Owners defined below, confirmation and transfer of beneficial ownership interests in the Bonds and other related transactions by and between DTC, DTC Participants and Beneficial Owners, is based on certain information furnished by DTC to the Board. Accordingly, the Board does not make any representations concerning these matters.

DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. The Bonds will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered Bond certificate will be issued for each maturity of the Bonds, each in the aggregate principal amount of such maturity, and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC, the world's largest securities depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC's participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). DTC has a Standard & Poor's rating of AA+. The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com) and [www.dtc.org](http://www.dtc.org).

Purchases of the Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Bonds on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Bond ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct Participants' and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct Participant or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interest in the Bonds are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct Participants and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Bonds is discontinued.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: The Depository Trust Company



To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Bonds deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Bonds with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not affect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Bonds; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Bonds are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct Participants or Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Redemption notices shall be sent to DTC. If less than all of the Bonds within an issue are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant in such issue to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to Bonds unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's MMI procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the Board as soon as possible after the Record Date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the Bonds are credited on the Record Date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments on the Bonds will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as in the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC, the Paying Agent, or the Board, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the Board or the Paying Agent, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct Participants and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Board or the Paying Agent. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, Bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

The Board may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, Bond certificates will be printed and delivered.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry-only system has been obtained from sources that the Board believes to be reliable, but the Board takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

**THE BOARD WILL NOT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATION TO SUCH DTC PARTICIPANTS OR THE PERSONS FOR WHOM THEY ACT AS NOMINEES WITH RESPECT TO THE PAYMENTS TO OR PROVIDING OF NOTICE FOR THE DTC PARTICIPANTS, OR THE INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS, OR BENEFICIAL OWNERS.**

**SO LONG AS CEDE & CO. IS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE BONDS, AS NOMINEE OF DTC, REFERENCES HEREIN TO THE BONDHOLDERS OR REGISTERED OWNERS OF THE BONDS (OTHER THAN UNDER THE CAPTION "TAX MATTERS") SHALL MEAN CEDE & CO. AND SHALL NOT MEAN THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE BONDS.**

### **Discontinuance of Book-Entry-Only System**

In the event that the book-entry-only system is discontinued and the Beneficial Owners become registered owners of the Bonds, the following provisions apply: (i) the Bonds may be exchanged for an equal aggregate principal amount of Bonds in other authorized denominations and of the same maturity, upon surrender thereof at the office of the Board/paying agent; (ii) the transfer of any Bonds may be registered on the books maintained by the paying agent for such purposes only upon the surrender thereof to the Board/paying agent together with the duly executed assignment in form satisfactory to the Board/paying agent; and (iii) for every exchange or registration of transfer of Bonds, the Board/paying agent may make a charge sufficient to reimburse for any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect to such exchange or registration of transfer of the Bonds. Interest on the Bonds will be payable by check or draft, mailed on each Interest Payment Date to the registered owners thereof as of the close of business on the Record Date, whether or not a business day, next preceding an Interest Payment Date.

### **THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE BOARD**

The School District is a Type II school district without a board of school estimate coterminous with the boundaries of the City of Somers Point (the "City") located in the County of Atlantic (the "County"), New Jersey (the "State"). The school district serves kindergarten through eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade.

The Board consists of nine (9) elected members. Pursuant to State statute, the Board appoints a Superintendent and a Business Administrator/Board Secretary. *See* "APPENDIX A – Certain Economic and Demographic Information About the School District and the City of Somers Point."

### **THE STATE'S ROLE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The Constitution of the State of New Jersey provides that the legislature of the State shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools for the instruction of all children in the State between the ages of 5 and 18 years. Case law has expanded the responsibility to include children between the ages of 3 and 21.

The responsibilities of the State with respect to the general supervision and control of public education have been delegated to the New Jersey Department of Education (the "Department"), which is a part of the executive branch of the State government and was created by the State Legislature. The Department is governed and guided by the policies set forth by the New Jersey Board of Education (the "State Board"). The State Board is responsible for the general supervision and control of public education and is obligated to formulate plans and to make recommendations for the unified, continuous and efficient development of public education of all people of all ages within the State. To fulfill these responsibilities, the State Board has the power, *inter alia*, to adopt rules and regulations that have the effect of law and that are binding upon school districts.

The Commissioner of Education (the "Commissioner") is the chief executive and administrative officer of the Department. The Commissioner is appointed by the Governor of the State with the advice and consent of the State Senate, and serves at the pleasure of the Governor during the Governor's term of office. The Commissioner is Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the State Board and is responsible for the supervision of all school districts in the State and is obligated to enforce the rules and regulations of the State Board. The Commissioner has the authority to recommend the withholding of State financial aid and the Commissioner's consent is required for authorization to sell school bonds that exceed the debt limit

of the municipality in which the school district is located and may also set the amount to be raised by taxation for a board of education if a school budget has not been adopted by a board of school estimate or by the voters.

An Executive County Superintendent of Schools (the "County Superintendent") is appointed for each county in the State by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner and with the advice and consent of the State Senate. The County Superintendent reports to the Commissioner or a person designated by the Commissioner. The County Superintendent is responsible for the supervision of the school districts in the county and is charged with the enforcement of rules pertaining to the certification of teachers, pupil registers and financial reports and the review of budgets. Under the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, P.L. 2007, c. 63 approved April 3, 2007 (A4), the role of the County Superintendent was changed to create the post of the Executive County Superintendent with expanded powers for the operation and management of school districts to, among other things, promote administrative and operational efficiencies, eliminate non-operating school districts and recommend a school district consolidation plan to eliminate school districts through the establishment or enlargement of regional school districts, subject to voter approval.

## **STRUCTURE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN NEW JERSEY**

### **Categories of School Districts**

State school districts are characterized by the manner in which the board of education or the governing body takes office. School districts are principally categorized in the following categories:

(1) Type I, in which the mayor or chief executive officer ("CEO") of a municipality appoints the members of a board of education and a board of school estimate, which board of school estimate consists of two (2) members of the board of education, two (2) members of the governing body of the municipality and the mayor or CEO of the municipality comprising the school district, approves fiscal matters;

(2) Type II, in which the registered voters in a school district elect the members of a board of education and either (a) the registered voters may also vote upon fiscal matters, or (b) a board of school estimate, consisting of two (2) members of the governing body of and the CEO of each municipality within the school district and the president of and one member of the board of education, approves fiscal matters;

(3) Regional and consolidated school districts comprising the territorial boundaries of more than one municipality in which the registered voters in the school district elect members of the board of education and may vote upon fiscal matters. Regional school districts may be "All Purpose Regional School Districts" or "Limited Purpose Regional School Districts";

(4) State operated school districts created by the State Board, pursuant to State law, when a local board of education cannot or will not correct severe educational deficiencies;

(5) County vocational school districts have boards of education consisting of the County Superintendent and four (4) members unless it is a county of the first class, which adopted an ordinance, in which case it can have a board consisting of seven (7) appointed members which the board of chosen freeholders of the county appoints. Such vocational school districts shall also have a board of school estimate, consisting of two (2) members appointed by the board of education of the school district, two (2) members appointed by the board of chosen freeholders and a fifth member being the county executive or the director of the board of chosen freeholders of the county, which approves fiscal matters; and

(6) County special services school districts have boards of education consisting of the County Superintendent and six (6) persons appointed by the board of chosen freeholders of the county. Such special services school districts shall also have a board of school estimate, consisting of two (2) members appointed by the board of education of the school district, two (2) members appointed by the board of chosen

freeholders and a fifth member being the freeholder-director of the board of chosen freeholders, which approves all fiscal matters.

There is a procedure whereby a Type I school district or a Type II school district may change from one type to the other after an approving public referendum. Such a public referendum must be held whenever directed by the municipal governing body or board of education in a Type I school district, or the board of education in a Type II district, or when petitioned for by fifteen percent (15%) of the voters of any school district. The School District is a Type II school district.

Under the Uniform Services and Consolidation Act, the Executive County Superintendent is required to eliminate non-operating school districts and to recommend consolidation to eliminate districts through the establishment or enlargement of regional school districts, subject to voter approval.

### **School Budgetary Process (N.J.S.A. 18A:22-1 et seq.)**

In a Type I school district, a separate body from the school district, known as the board of school estimate, examines the budget requests and fixes the appropriation amounts for the next year's operating budget at or after a public hearing. This board, whose composition is fixed by statute, certifies the budget to the municipal governing body or board of education. If the board of education disagrees with the certified budget of the board of school estimate, then it can appeal to the Commissioner to request changes.

In a Type II school district, the elected board of education develops the budget proposal and, at or after a public hearing, submits it for voter approval unless the Board has moved its annual election to November as discussed below. Debt service provisions are not subject to public referendum. If approved, the budget goes into effect. If defeated, the governing bodies of the City must develop the school budget by May 19 of each year. Should the governing bodies be unable to do so, the Commissioner establishes the local school budget.

The New Budget Election Law (P.L. 2011, c.202, effective January 17, 2012) establishes procedures that allow the date of the annual school election of a Type II school district, without a board of school estimate, to be moved from April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, to be held simultaneously with the general election. Such change in the annual school election date must be authorized by resolution of either the Board or the governing body of the municipality, or by an affirmative vote of a majority of the voters whenever a petition, signed by at least 15% of the legally qualified voters, is filed with the Board. Once the annual school election is moved to November, such election may not be changed back to an April annual school election for four years.

School districts that opt to move the annual school election to November are no longer required to submit the budget to the voters for approval if the budget is at or below the two-percent property tax levy cap as provided for the New Cap Law. For school districts that opt to change the annual school election date to November, proposals to spend above the two-percent property tax levy cap would be presented to voters at the annual school election in November.

The Board has chosen to move its election to November and has not exceeded its two-percent property tax levy cap.

### **Spending Growth Limitation**

CEIFA (as hereinafter defined) places limits on the amount school districts can increase their annual current expenses and capital outlay budgets, and such limits are known as a school district's spending growth limitation amount (the "Spending Growth Limitation"). *See* "SUMMARY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SCHOOL DEBT" herein.

## **SUMMARY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SCHOOL DEBT**

### **Levy and Collection of Taxes**

School districts in the State do not levy or collect taxes to pay those budgeted amounts that are not provided by the State. The municipality within which a school district is situated levies or collects the required taxes and must remit them in full to the school district.

### **Budgets and Appropriations**

School districts in the State must operate on an annual cash basis budget. Each school district must adopt an annual budget in such detail and upon forms as prescribed by the Commissioner, to which must be attached an itemized statement showing revenues, including State and federal aid, and expenditures. The Commissioner must approve a budget prior to its final adoption and has the power to increase or decrease individual line items in a budget. Any amendments to a school district's budget must be approved by the board of education or the board of school estimate, as the case may be. Every budget submitted must provide no less than the minimum permissible amount deemed necessary under State law to provide for a thorough and efficient education as mandated by the State constitution. The Commissioner may not approve any budget unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the school district has adequately implemented within the budget the Core Curriculum Content Standards required by State law. If necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to order changes in the local school district's budget. The Commissioner will also ensure that other provisions of law are met including the limitations on taxes and spending explained below.

### **Tax and Spending Limitations**

The Public School Education Act of 1975, N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-1 et seq., P.L. 1975, c. 212 (amended and partially repealed) first limited the amount of funds that could be raised by a local school district. It limited the annual increase of any school district's net current expense budget. The budgetary limitation was known as a "CAP" on expenditures. The "CAP" was intended to control the growth in local property taxes. Subsequently there have been numerous legislative changes as to how the spending limitations would be applied.

The Quality Education Act of 1990, N.J.S.A. 18A:7D-1 et seq., P.L. 1990, c. 52 ("QEA") (now repealed) also limited the annual increase in the school district's current expense and capital outlay budgets by a statutory formula linked to the annual percentage increase in per capita income. The QEA was amended and revised by Chapter 62 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1991, and further amended by Chapter 7 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1993.

The Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996, N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-1 et seq., P.L. 1996, c. 138 ("CEIFA") (as amended by P.L. 2004, c.73, effective July 1, 2004), which followed QEA, also limited the annual increase in a school district's net budget by a spending growth limitation. CEIFA limited the amount school districts could increase their annual current expenses and capital outlay budgets, defined as a school district's Spending Growth Limitation. Generally, budgets could increase by either a set percent or the consumer price index, whichever was greater. Amendments to CEIFA lowered the budget cap to 2.5% from 3%. Budgets could also increase because of certain adjustments for enrollment increases, certain capital outlay expenditures, pupil transportation costs, and special education costs that exceeded \$40,000 per pupil. Waivers were available from the Commissioner based on increasing enrollments and other fairly narrow grounds and increases higher than the cap could be approved by a vote of 60% at the annual school election.

P.L. 2007, c. 62, effective April 3, 2007 (Assembly Bill A1), provided additional limitations on school district spending by limiting the amount a school district could raise for school district purposes through the property tax levy by 4% over the prior budget year's tax levy. P.L. 2007, c. 62 provided for

adjustments to the cap for increases in enrollment, reductions in State aid and increased health care costs and for certain other extraordinary cost increases that required approved by the Commissioner. The bill granted discretion to the Commissioner to grant other waivers from the cap for increases in special education costs, capital outlay, and tuition charges. The Commissioner also had the ability to grant extraordinary waivers to the tax levy cap for certain other cost increases beginning in fiscal year 2009 through 2012.

P.L. 2007, c. 62 was deemed to supersede the prior limitations on the amount school districts could increase their annual current expenses and capital outlay budgets, created by CEIFA (as amended by P.L. 2004, c.73, effective July 1, 2004). However, Chapter 62 was in effect only through fiscal year 2012. Without an extension of Chapter 62 by the legislature, the Spending Growth Limitations on the general fund and capital outlay budget would be in effect.

Debt service was not limited either by the Spending Growth Limitations or the 4% cap on the tax levy increase imposed by Chapter 62.

The previous legislation has now been amended by P.L. 2010, c. 44, approved July 13, 2010 and applicable to the next local budget year following enactment. The new law limits the school district tax levy for the general fund budget to increases of 2% over the prior budget year with exceptions only for enrollment increases, increases for certain normal and accrued liability for pension contributions in excess of 2%, certain healthcare increases, and amounts approved by a simple majority of voters voting at a special election. The process for obtaining waivers from the Commissioner for additional increases over the tax levy or Spending Growth Limitations has been eliminated under Chapter 44.

The restrictions are solely on the tax levy for the general fund and are not applicable to the debt service fund. There are no restrictions on a local school district's ability to raise funds for debt service, and nothing would limit the obligation of a school district to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all taxable real property within the school district to pay debt service on its bonds or notes.

## **Issuance of Debt**

Among the provisions for the issuance of school debt are the following requirements: (i) bonds must mature in serial installments within the statutory period of usefulness of the projects being financed but not exceeding forty (40) years; (ii) bonds shall be issued pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the governing body of the municipality comprised within the school district for a Type I school district; (iii) for Type II school districts (without boards of school estimate) bonds shall be issued by board of education resolution approving the bond proposal and by approval of the legally qualified voters of the school district; (iv) debt must be authorized by a resolution of a board (and approved by a board of school estimate in a Type I school district); and (v) there must be filed with the State by each municipality comprising a school district a supplemental debt statement and a school debt statement setting forth the amount of bonds and notes authorized but unissued and outstanding for such school district.

## **Annual Audit (N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 et seq.)**

Every board is required to provide an annual audit of the school district's accounts and financial transactions. Beginning with the year ended June 30, 2010, a licensed public school accountant must complete the annual audit no later than five months (5) after the end of the fiscal year. P.L. 2010, c. 49 amended N.J.S.A. 18A:23-1 to provide an additional month for the completion of a school district's audit. Previously the audit was required to be completed within four months. The audit, in conformity with statutory requirements, must be filed with the board of education and the Commissioner. Additionally, the audit must be summarized and discussed at a regular public meeting of the local board of education within thirty (30) days following receipt of the annual audit by such board of education.

## **Temporary Financing (N.J.S.A. 18A:24-3)**

Temporary notes may be issued in anticipation of the issuance of permanent bonds for a capital improvement or capital project. Such temporary notes may not exceed in the aggregate the amount of bonds authorized for such improvement or project. A school district's temporary notes may be issued for one (1) year periods, with the final maturity not exceeding five (5) years from the date of original issuance; provided, however, that no such notes shall be renewed beyond the third anniversary date of the original notes unless an amount of such notes, at least equal to the first legally payable installment of the bonds in anticipation of which said notes are issued, is paid and retired subsequent to such third anniversary date from funds other than the proceeds of obligations. School districts may not capitalize interest on temporary notes, but must include in each annual budget the amount of interest due and payable in each fiscal year on all outstanding temporary notes.

## **Debt Limitation (N.J.S.A. 18A:24-19)**

Except as provided below, no additional debt shall be authorized if the principal amount, when added to the net debt previously authorized, exceeds a statutory percentage of the average equalized valuation of taxable property in a school district. As a kindergarten (K) through grade eight (8) school district, the Board can borrow up to 3% of the average equalized valuation of taxable property in the School District. The Board has not exceeded its 3% debt limit. See "APPENDIX A – Debt Limit of the Board."

## **Exceptions to Debt Limitation**

A Type II school district (other than a regional school district) may also utilize its constituent municipality's remaining statutory borrowing power (i.e., the excess of 3.5% of the average equalized valuation of taxable property within the constituent municipality over the constituent municipality's net debt). The School District has not utilized the municipality's borrowing margin. A school district may also authorize debt in excess of this limit with the consent of the Commissioner and the Local Finance Board.

## **Capital Lease Financing**

School districts are permitted to enter into lease purchase agreements for the acquisition of equipment or for the improvement of school buildings. Generally, lease purchase financings must mature within five years except for certain lease purchase financings of energy savings equipment and other energy conservation measures, which may mature within fifteen (15) years and in certain cases twenty (20) years from the date the project is placed in service, if paid from energy savings (see "Energy Savings Obligations" below). Facilities lease purchase agreements, which may only be financed for a term of five (5) years or less, must be approved by the Commissioner. The Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72, effective July 18, 2000, as amended ("EFCFA") repealed the authorization to enter into facilities leases for a term in excess of five years. The payment of rent is treated as a current expense and within the school district's Spending Growth Limitation and tax levy cap, and the payment of rent on an ordinary equipment lease and on a five year and under facilities lease is subject to annual appropriation. Lease purchase payments on leases in excess of five years entered into under prior law (CEIFA) are treated as debt service payments and, therefore, will receive debt service aid if the school district is entitled and are outside the school district's Spending Growth Limitation and tax levy cap.

## **Energy Saving Obligations**

Under N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.6 (P.L. 2009, c. 4, effective March 23, 2009, as amended by P.L. 2012, c. 55, effective September 19, 2013), the Energy Savings Improvement Program Law or the "ESIP Law," school districts may issue energy savings obligations as refunding bonds without voter approval or lease purchase agreements to fund certain improvements that result in reduced energy use, facilities for production of renewable energy or water conservation improvements, provided that the value of the savings will cover the cost of the measures. The lease purchase financings for such measures must mature within

15 years, or in certain instances 20 years, from the date the projects are placed in service. These energy savings refunding bonds or leases are payable from the general fund. Such payments are within the school district's Spending Growth Limitation and tax levy cap but are not necessarily subject to annual appropriation.

### **Promissory Notes for Cash Flow Purposes**

N.J.S.A. 18A:22-44.1 permits school districts to issue promissory notes in an amount not exceeding ½ the amount appropriated for current general fund expenses. These promissory notes are not considered debt and are used for cash flow purposes including funding in anticipation of the receipt of taxes, other revenues or grants.

## **SUMMARY OF STATE AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

In 1973, the Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey (the "Court") first ruled in Robinson v. Cahill that the method then used to finance public education principally through property taxation was unconstitutional. Pursuant to the Court's ruling, the State Legislature enacted the Public School Education Act of 1975, N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-1 et seq. (P.L. 1975, c. 212) (the "Public School Education Act") (since amended and partially repealed), which required funding of the State's school aid through the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act, P. L. 1976, c. 47, since amended and supplemented, enacted for the purpose of providing property tax relief.

On June 5, 1990, the Court ruled in Abbott v. Burke that the school aid formula enacted under the Public School Education Act was unconstitutional as applied. The Court found that poorer urban school districts were significantly disadvantaged under that school funding formula because school revenues were derived primarily from property taxes. The Court found that wealthy school districts were able to spend more, yet tax less for educational purposes.

Since that time there has been much litigation and many cases affecting the State's responsibilities to fund public education and many legislative attempts to distribute State aid in accordance with the court cases and the constitutional requirement. The cases addressed not only current operating fund aid but also addressed the requirement to provide facilities aid as well. The legislation has included the QEA (now repealed), CEIFA and EFCFA, which became law on July 18, 2000. For many years aid was simply determined in the State Budget, which itself is an act of the legislature, based upon amounts provided in prior years. The most current school funding formula, provided in the School Funding Reform Act of 2008, P.L. 2007, c. 260 approved January 1, 2008 (A500), removed the special status given to certain school districts known as Abbott Districts after the school funding cases and instead has funding follow students with certain needs and provides aid in a way that takes into account the ability of the local school district to raise local funds to support the budget in amounts deemed adequate to provide for a thorough and efficient education as required by the State constitution. This legislation was challenged in the Court, and the Court held that the State's current plan for school aid is a "constitutionally adequate scheme".

Notwithstanding over 35 years of litigation, the State provides State aid to school districts of the State in amounts provided in the State Budget each year. These now include equalization aid, educational adequacy aid, special education categorical aid, transportation aid, preschool education aid, school choice aid, security aid, adjustment aid and other aid determined in the discretion of the Commissioner.

State law requires that the State will provide aid for the construction of school facilities in an amount equal to the greater of the district aid percentage or 40% times the eligible costs determined by the Commissioner either in the form of a grant or debt service aid as determined under the Education Facilities Construction and Financing Act of 2001. The amount of the aid to which a school district is entitled is established prior to the authorization of the project. Grant funding is provided by the State up front and debt service aid must be appropriated annually by the State.



The State reduced debt service aid by fifteen percent (15%) for the fiscal years 2011 through 2016. As a result of the debt service aid reduction for those fiscal years, school districts received eighty-five percent (85%) of the debt service aid that they would have otherwise received. In addition, school districts which received grants under the EFCFA, which grants were financed through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (the “EDA”), were assessed an amount in their fiscal years 2011 through 2016 budgets representing 15% of the school district’s proportionate share of the principal and interest payments on the outstanding EDA bonds issued to fund such grants.

## **SUMMARY OF FEDERAL AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Federal funds are available for certain programs approved by the federal government with allocation decided by the State, which assigns a proportion to each local school district. The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, enacted December 10, 2015, is a federal assistance program for which a school district qualifies to receive aid. A remedial enrichment program for children of low income families is available under Chapter 1 Aid. Such federal aid is generally received in the form of block grants. Aid is also provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act although never in the amounts federal law required.

## **MUNICIPAL FINANCE - FINANCIAL REGULATION OF COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES**

### **Local Bond Law (N. J. S. A. 40A:2-1 et seq.)**

The Local Bond Law governs the issuance of bonds and notes to finance certain general municipal and utility capital expenditures. Among its provisions are requirements that bonds must mature within the statutory period of usefulness of the projects bonded and that bonds be retired in serial installments. A 5% cash down payment is generally required toward the financing of expenditures for municipal purposes subject to a number of exceptions. All bonds and notes issued by the City are general full faith and credit obligations.

The authorized bonded indebtedness of the City for municipal purposes is limited by statute, subject to the exceptions noted below, to an amount equal to 3-1/2% of its average equalized valuation basis. With Local Finance Board approval, the City has exceeded its statutory debt limit for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Certain categories of debt are permitted by statute to be deducted for purposes of computing the statutory debt limit, including school bonds that do not exceed the school bond borrowing margin and certain debt that may be deemed self-liquidating.

The City may exceed its debt limit with the approval of the Local Finance Board, a State regulatory agency, and as permitted by other statutory exceptions. If all or any part of a proposed debt authorization would exceed its debt limit, the City may apply to the Local Finance Board for an extension of credit. If the Local Finance Board determines that a proposed debt authorization would not materially impair the credit of the City or substantially reduce the ability of the City to meet its obligations or to provide essential public improvements and services, or if it makes certain other statutory determinations, approval is granted. In addition, debt in excess of the statutory limit may be issued by the City to fund certain notes, to provide for self-liquidating purposes, and, in each fiscal year, to provide for purposes in an amount not exceeding 2/3 of the amount budgeted in such fiscal year for the retirement of outstanding obligations (exclusive of utility and assessment obligations).

The City may sell short-term “bond anticipation notes” to temporarily finance a capital improvement or project in anticipation of the issuance of bonds if the bond ordinance or a subsequent resolution so provides. A local unit’s bond anticipation notes must mature within one year, but may be renewed or rolled over. Bond anticipation notes, including renewals, must mature and be paid no later than

the first day of the fifth month following the close of the tenth fiscal year next following the date of the original notes. For bond ordinances adopted on or after February 3, 2003, notes may only be renewed beyond the third anniversary date of the original notes if a minimum payment equal to the first year's required principal payment on the bonds is paid to retire a portion of the notes on or before each subsequent anniversary date from funds other than the proceeds of bonds or notes. For bond ordinances adopted prior to February 3, 2003, the governing body may elect to make such minimum principal payment only when the notes are renewed beyond the third and fourth anniversary dates. Generally, bond anticipation notes may not be outstanding for longer than ten (10) years. An additional period may be available following the tenth anniversary date equal to the period from the notes' maturity to the end of the tenth fiscal year in which the notes mature plus four (4) months in the next following fiscal year from the date of original issuance. Beginning in the third year, the amount of notes that may be issued is decreased by the minimum required for the first year's principal payment for a bond issue.

#### **Local Budget Law (N. J. S. A. 40A:4-1 et seq.)**

The foundation of the New Jersey local finance system is the annual cash basis budget. The City, which operate on a calendar year (January 1 to December 31), must adopt a budget in the form required by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the "Division"). Certain items of revenue and appropriation are regulated by law and the proposed budget must be certified by the director of the Division (the "Director") prior to final adoption. The Local Budget Law requires each local unit to appropriate sufficient funds for payment of current debt service, and the Director is required to review the adequacy of such appropriations, among others, for certification.

Tax Anticipation Notes are limited in amount by law and must be paid off in full within 120 days of the close of the fiscal year.

The Director has no authority over individual operating appropriations, unless a specific amount is required by law, but the review functions focusing on anticipated revenues serve to protect the solvency of all local units.

The cash basis budgets of local units must be in balance, i.e., the total of anticipated revenues must equal the total of appropriations (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-22). If in any year a local unit's expenditures exceed its realized revenues for that year, then such excess must be raised in the succeeding year's budget.

The Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-26) provides that no miscellaneous revenues from any source may be included as an anticipated revenue in the budget in excess of the amount actually realized in cash from the same source during the next preceding fiscal year, unless the Director determines that the facts clearly warrant the expectation that such excess amount will actually be realized in cash during the fiscal year and certifies that determination to the local unit.

No budget or budget amendment may be adopted unless the Director shall have previously certified his approval of such anticipated revenues except that categorical grants-in-aid contracts may be included for their face amount with an offsetting appropriation. The fiscal years for such grants rarely coincide with the municipality's calendar year. However, grant revenue is generally not realized until received in cash.

The same general principle that revenue cannot be anticipated in a budget in excess of that realized in the preceding year applies to property taxes. The maximum amount of delinquent taxes that may be anticipated is limited by a statutory formula, which allows the local unit to anticipate collection at the same rate realized for the collection of delinquent taxes in the previous year. Also, the local unit is required to make an appropriation for a "reserve for uncollected taxes" in accordance with a statutory formula to provide for a tax collection in an amount that does not exceed the percentage of taxes levied and payable in the preceding fiscal year that was received in cash by the last day of that fiscal year. The budget also must provide for any cash deficits of the prior year.

Emergency appropriations (those made after the adoption of the budget and the determination of the tax rate) may be authorized by the governing body of the local unit. However, with minor exceptions, such appropriations must be included in full in the following year's budget. When such appropriations exceed 3% of the adopted operating budget, consent of the Director must be obtained.

The exceptions are certain enumerated quasi-capital projects ("special emergencies") such as ice, snow, and flood damage to streets, roads and bridges, which may be amortized over three years, and tax map preparation, revaluation programs, revision and codification of ordinances, master plan preparations, and drainage map preparation for flood control purposes, which may be amortized over five years. Emergency appropriations for capital projects may be financed through the adoption of a bond ordinance and amortized over the useful life of the project.

Budget transfers provide a degree of flexibility and afford a control mechanism. Transfers between appropriation accounts may be made only during the last two months of the year. Appropriation reserves may also be transferred during the first three (3) months of the year, to the previous years' budget. Both types of transfers require a 2/3 vote of the full membership of the governing body; however, transfers cannot be made from either the down payment account or the capital improvement fund. Transfers may be made between sub-account line items within the same account at any time during the year, subject to internal review and approval. In a "CAP" budget, no transfers may be made from excluded from "CAP" appropriations to within "CAP" appropriations nor can transfers be made between excluded from "CAP" appropriations.

A provision of law known as the New Jersey "Cap Law" (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 *et seq.*) imposes limitations on increases in municipal appropriations subject to various exceptions. The payment of debt service is an exception from this limitation. The Cap formula is somewhat complex, but basically, it permits a municipality to increase its overall appropriations by the lesser of 2.5% or the "Index Rate". The "Index Rate" is the rate of annual percentage increase, rounded to the nearest one-half percent, in the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government purchases of goods and services computed by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Exceptions to the limitations imposed by the Cap Law also exist for other things including capital expenditures; extraordinary expenses approved by the Local Finance Board for implementation of an interlocal services agreement; expenditures mandated as a result of certain emergencies; and certain expenditures for services mandated by law. Counties are also prohibited from increasing their tax levies by more than the lesser of 2.5% or the Index Rate subject to certain exceptions. Municipalities by ordinance approved by a majority of the full membership of the governing body may increase appropriations up to 3.5% over the prior year's appropriation, and counties by resolution approved by a majority of the full membership of the governing body may increase the tax levy up to 3.5% over the prior year's tax levy in years when the Index Rate is 2.5% or less.

Legislation constituting P.L. 2010, c. 44, approved July 13, 2010 limits tax levy increases for local units to 2% with exceptions only for capital expenditures including debt service, increases in pension contributions and accrued liability for pension contributions in excess of 2%, certain healthcare increases, extraordinary costs directly related to a declared emergency and amounts approved by a simple majority of voters voting at a special election.

Neither the tax levy limitation nor the "Cap Law" limits, including the provisions of the recent legislation, would limit the obligation of the City to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all taxable real property within the City to pay debt service on its bonds or notes.

In accordance with the Local Budget Law, each local unit must adopt and may from time to time amend rules and regulations for capital budgets, which rules and regulations must require a statement of capital undertakings underway or projected for a period not greater than over the next ensuing six years as a general improvement program. The capital budget, when adopted, does not constitute the approval or appropriation of funds, but sets forth a plan of the possible capital expenditures which the local unit may contemplate over the next six years. Expenditures for capital purposes may be made either by ordinances

adopted by the governing body setting forth the items and the method of financing or from the annual operating budget if the terms were detailed.

### **Tax Assessment and Collection Procedure**

Property valuations (assessments) are determined on true values as arrived at by a cost approach, market data approach and capitalization of net income, where appropriate. Current assessments are the results of new assessments on a like basis with established comparable properties for newly assessed or purchased properties. This method assures equitable treatment to like property owners, but it often results in a divergence of the assessment ratio to true value. Because of the changes in property resale values, annual adjustments could not keep pace with the changing values.

Upon the filing of certified adopted budgets by the local unit, the local school district and the county, the tax rate is struck by the Atlantic County Board of Taxation based on the certified amounts in each of the taxing districts for collection to fund the budgets. The statutory provision for the assessment of property, the levying of taxes and the collection thereof are set forth in N.J.S.A. 54:4-1 et seq. Special taxing districts are permitted in New Jersey for various special services rendered to the properties located within the special districts.

Tax bills are mailed annually in June by the Tax Collector. The taxes are due August 1 and November 1, respectively, and are adjusted to reflect the current calendar year's total tax liability. The preliminary taxes due February 1 and May 1 of the succeeding year are based upon one-half of the current year's total tax.

Tax installments not paid on or before the due date are subject to interest penalties of 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00. These interest and penalties are the highest permitted under New Jersey statutes. If a delinquency is in excess of \$10,000.00 and remains in arrears after December 31st, an additional penalty of 6% shall be charged. Delinquent taxes open for one year or more are annually included in a tax sale in accordance with New Jersey Statutes.

### **Tax Appeals**

The New Jersey Statutes provide a taxpayer with remedial procedures for appealing an assessment deemed excessive. Prior to February 1 in each year, the Constituent Municipality must mail to each property owner a notice of the current assessment and taxes on the property. The taxpayer has a right to petition the County Board of Taxation on or before April 1 for review. The County Board of Taxation has the authority after a hearing to decrease or reject the appeal petition. These adjustments are usually concluded within the current tax year and reductions are shown as canceled or remitted taxes for that year. If the taxpayer feels his petition was unsatisfactorily reviewed by the County Board of Taxation, appeal may be made to the Tax Court of New Jersey, for further hearing. Some State Tax Court appeals may take several years prior to settlement, and any losses in tax collections from prior years are charged directly to operations.

### **Local Fiscal Affairs Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:5-1 et seq.)**

This law regulates the non-budgetary financial activities of local governments. The Chief Financial Officer of every local unit must file annually, with the Director, a verified statement of the financial condition of the local unit and all constituent boards, agencies or commissions.

An independent examination of each local unit's accounts must be performed annually by a licensed registered municipal accountant. The audit, conforming to the Division of Local Government Services' "Requirements of Audit", includes recommendations for improvement of the local unit's financial

procedures and must be filed with the Director. A synopsis of the audit report, together with all recommendations made, must be published in a local newspaper within 30 days of its submission.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements of the Board for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 are presented in Appendix B to this Official Statement (the "Financial Statements"). The Financial Statements have been audited by Ford, Scott and Associates LLC, Ocean City, New Jersey, an independent auditor, as stated in the reports appearing in Appendix B to this Official Statement. *See* "APPENDIX B –Somers Point Board of Education Financial Statements".

## **LITIGATION**

To the knowledge of the Board Attorney, Louis J. Greco, Esquire, Mays Landing, New Jersey (the "Board Attorney"), there is no litigation of any nature now pending or threatened, restraining or enjoining the issuance or the delivery of the Bonds, or the levy or the collection of any taxes to pay the principal of or the interest on the Bonds, or in any manner questioning the authority or the proceedings for the issuance of the Bonds or for the levy or the collection of taxes, or contesting the corporate existence or the boundaries of the Board or the School District or the title of any of the present officers. To the knowledge of the Board Attorney, no litigation is presently pending or threatened that, in the opinion of the Board Attorney, would have a material adverse impact on the financial condition of the Board if adversely decided. A certificate to such effect will be executed by the Board Attorney and delivered to the Underwriter of the Bonds at the closing.

## **TAX MATTERS**

Section 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), provides that interest on the Bonds is not included in gross income for federal income tax purposes if various requirements set forth in the Code are met. The Board has covenanted in its Arbitrate and Tax Certificate (the "Tax Certificate"), delivered in connection with the issuance of the Bonds, to comply with these continuing requirements and has made certain representations, certifications of fact, and statements of reasonable expectation in connection with the issuance of the Bonds to assure this exclusion. Pursuant to Section 103(a) of the Code, failure to comply with these requirements could cause interest on the Bonds to be includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds.

In the opinion of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC ("Bond Counsel"), pursuant to Section 103(a) of Code, interest on the Bonds is not included in gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of calculating the alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and corporations. Bond Counsel is also of the opinion that interest on the Bonds held by corporate taxpayers is included in "adjusted current earnings" in calculating alternative minimum taxable income for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations. Bond Counsel's opinions described herein are given in reliance on the representations, certifications of fact, and statements of reasonable expectation made by the Board in its Tax Certificate, assume continuing compliance by the Board with certain covenants set forth in its Tax Certificate, and are based on existing statutes, regulations, administrative pronouncements and judicial decisions.

### **Certain Federal Tax Consequences Relating to the Bonds**

Although, pursuant to Section 103(a) of the Code, interest on the Bonds is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, the accrual or receipt of interest on the Bonds may otherwise affect the federal income tax liability of the recipient. The nature and extent of these other tax consequences will depend upon the recipient's particular tax status or other items of income or deduction. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion regarding any such consequences. Purchasers of the Bonds, particularly purchasers

that are corporations (including S corporations and foreign corporations operating branches in the United States), property or casualty insurance companies, banks, thrifts or other financial institutions and certain recipients of Social Security benefits, are advised to consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of purchasing or holding the Bonds.

### **Bank Qualification**

The Bonds will be designated as qualified under Section 265 of the Code by the Board for an exemption from the denial of deduction for interest paid by financial institutions to purchase or to carry tax-exempt obligations.

The Code denies the interest deduction for certain indebtedness incurred by banks, thrift institutions and other financial institutions to purchase or to carry tax-exempt obligations. The denial to such institutions of one hundred percent (100%) of the deduction for interest paid on funds allocable to tax-exempt obligations applies to those tax-exempt obligations acquired by such institutions after August 7, 1986. For certain issues, which are eligible to be designated and which are designated by the issuer as qualified under Section 265 of the Code, eighty percent (80%) of such interest may be deducted as a business expense by such institutions.

### **New Jersey Gross Income Tax**

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, the interest on the Bonds and any gain realized on the sale of the Bonds is not includable as gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act.

### **Future Events**

Tax legislation, administrative action taken by tax authorities, and court decisions, whether at the federal or State level, may adversely affect the exclusion from gross income of interest on the Bonds for federal income tax purpose, or the exclusion of interest on and any gain realized on the sale of the Bonds under the existing New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act, and any such legislation, administrative action or court decisions and even proposals for change could adversely affect the market price or marketability of the Bonds.

ALL POTENTIAL PURCHASERS OF THE BONDS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR OWN ADVISORS REGARDING ANY CHANGES IN THE STATUTES, PROPOSED FEDERAL OR NEW JERSEY STATE TAX LEGISLATION, ANY CHANGES IN THE STATUS OF PENDING OR PROPOSED LEGISLATION, ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TAKEN BY TAX AUTHORITIES, COURT DECISIONS OR PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE ON THE TAX AND MARKET IMPLICATIONS OF OWNERSHIP OF THE BONDS.

### **MUNICIPAL BANKRUPTCY**

The undertakings of the Board should be considered with reference to 11 U.S.C. 401 et seq., as amended and supplemented (the "Bankruptcy Code"), and other bankruptcy laws affecting creditors' rights and municipalities in general. The Bankruptcy Code permits the State or any political subdivision, public agency, or instrumentality that is insolvent or unable to meet its debts to commence a voluntary bankruptcy case by filing a petition with a bankruptcy court for the purpose of effecting a plan to adjust its debts; directs such a petitioner to file with the court a list of petitioner's creditors; provides that a petition filed under this chapter shall operate as a stay of the commencement or continuation of any judicial or other proceeding against the petitioner; grants certain priority to debt owed for services or material; and provides that the plan must be accepted in writing by or on behalf of classes of creditors holding at least two-thirds in amount and more than one-half in number of the allowed claims of such class. The Bankruptcy Code specifically does not limit or impair the power of a state to control, by legislation or otherwise, the procedures that a municipality must follow in order to take advantage of the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

The Bankruptcy Code provides that special revenue acquired by the debtor after the commencement of the case shall remain subject to any lien resulting from any security agreement entered into by such debtor before the commencement of such bankruptcy case. However, any such lien, other than municipal betterment assessments, shall be subject to the necessary operating expenses of such project or system. Furthermore, the Bankruptcy Code provides that a transfer of property of a debtor to or for the benefit of any holder of a bond or note, on account of such bond or note, may not be avoided pursuant to certain preferential transfer provisions set forth in such Bankruptcy Code.

Reference should also be made to N.J.S.A. 52:27-40 et seq., which provides that a local unit has the power to file a petition in bankruptcy with any United States Court or court in bankruptcy under the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, for the purpose of effecting a plan of readjustment of its debts or for the composition of its debts; provided, however, the approval of the Municipal Finance Commission must be obtained. The powers of the Municipal Finance Commission have been vested in the Local Finance Board.

Reference to the Bankruptcy Code or the State statute should not create any implication that the Board expects to utilize the benefits of their provisions.

### **APPROVAL OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

All legal matters incident to the authorization, the issuance, the sale and the delivery of the Bonds are subject to the approval of Bond Counsel to the Board, whose approving legal opinion will be delivered with the Bonds substantially in the form set forth as Appendix C hereto. Certain legal matters may be passed on to the Board for review by the Board Attorney.

### **PREPARATION OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

The Board hereby states that the descriptions and statements herein, including Financial Statements, are true and correct in all material respects, and it will confirm same to the Underwriter by a certificate signed by the Board President and the Business Administrator.

All other information has been obtained from sources that the Board considers to be reliable, and it makes no warranty, guaranty or other representation with respect to the accuracy and the completeness of such information.

Bond Counsel has neither participated in the preparation of the financial or statistical information contained in this Official Statement, nor have they verified the accuracy, completeness or fairness thereof and, accordingly, expresses no opinion with respect thereto.

### **RATINGS**

S&P Global Ratings, acting through Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC (the "Rating Agency"), has assigned an underlying rating of "A+/stable outlook" to the Bonds based upon the underlying credit of the School District. The Rating Agency has also assigned its rating of "A/negative outlook" to the Bonds based upon the additional security provided by the School Bond Reserve.

The ratings reflect only the view of the Rating Agency and an explanation of the significance of such ratings may only be obtained from the Rating Agency at the following address: 55 Water Street, New York, New York 10041. The Board forwarded to the Rating Agency certain information and materials concerning the Bonds and the School District. There can be no assurance that the ratings will be maintained for any given period of time or that the ratings may not be raised, lowered or withdrawn entirely, if in the Rating Agency's judgment, circumstances so warrant. Any downward change in, or withdrawal of such ratings, may have an adverse effect on the marketability or market price of the Bonds.

## **FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Bordentown, New Jersey has served as financial advisor to the Board with respect to the issuance of the Bonds (the "Financial Advisor"). The Financial Advisor is not obligated to undertake, and has not undertaken, either to make an independent verification of, or to assume responsibility for, the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the information contained in this Official Statement and the appendices hereto. The Financial Advisor is an independent firm and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, trading or distributing municipal securities or other public securities.

## **SECONDARY MARKET DISCLOSURE**

Solely for purposes of complying with Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission, as amended and interpreted from time to time (the "Rule"), and provided that the Bonds are not exempt from the Rule and provided that the Bonds are not exempt from the following requirements in accordance with paragraph (d) of the Rule, for so long as the Bonds remain outstanding (unless the Bonds have been wholly defeased), the Board shall provide for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds and the beneficial owners thereof:

(a) On or prior to February 1 of each year, beginning February 1, 2017, electronically to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access ("EMMA") system or such other repository designated by the SEC to be an authorized repository for filing secondary market disclosure information, if any, annual financial information with respect to the Board of Education consisting of the audited financial statements (or unaudited financial statements if audited financial statements are not then available, which audited financial statements will be delivered when and if available) of the Board of Education and certain financial information and operating data consisting of (1) Board of Education indebtedness; (2) property valuation information; and (3) tax rate, levy and collection data. The audited financial statements will be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as modified by governmental accounting standards as may be required by New Jersey law;

(b) if any of the following material events occur regarding the Bonds, a timely notice not in excess of ten business days after the occurrence of the event sent to EMMA:

- (1) Principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (2) Non-payment related defaults, if material;
- (3) Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (4) Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
- (5) Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- (6) Adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the security, or other material events affecting the tax status of the security;
- (7) Modifications to rights of security holders, if material;
- (8) Bond calls, if material, and tender offers;
- (9) Defeasances;
- (10) Release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the securities, if material;
- (11) Rating changes;
- (12) Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the obligated person;



- (13) The consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving an obligated person or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the obligated person, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;
- (14) Appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material.

For the purposes of the event identified in subparagraph (12) above, the event is considered to occur when any of the following occur: the appointment of a receiver, fiscal agent or similar officer for an obligated person in a proceeding under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or in any other proceeding under state or federal law in which a court or governmental authority has assumed jurisdiction over substantially all of the assets or business of the obligated person, or if such jurisdiction has been assumed by leaving the existing governing body and officials or officers in possession but subject to the supervision and orders of a court or governmental authority, or the entry of an order confirming a plan of reorganization, arrangement or liquidation by a court or governmental authority having supervision or jurisdiction over substantially all of the assets or business of the obligated person.

(c) Notice of failure of the Board to provide required annual financial information on or before the date specified in the Resolution shall be sent in a timely manner [to EMMA.

(d) If all or any part of the Rule ceases to be in effect for any reason, then the information required to be provided under the Resolution, insofar as the provision of the Rule no longer in effect required the provision of such information, shall no longer be required to be provided.

(e) The Business Administrator shall determine, in consultation with Bond Counsel, the application of the Rule or the exemption from the Rule for each issue of obligations of the Board prior to their offering. Such officer is hereby authorized to enter into additional written contracts or undertakings to implement the Rule and is further authorized to amend such contracts or undertakings or the undertakings set forth in the Resolution, provided such amendment is, in the opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel, in compliance with the Rule.

(f) In the event that the Board fails to comply with the Rule requirements or the written contracts or undertakings specified in the Resolution, the Board shall not be liable for monetary damages, remedy being hereby specifically limited to specific performance of the Rule requirements or the written contracts or undertakings therefor.

Within the five years immediately preceding the date of this Official Statement, the Board previously failed to file, in accordance with the Rule, in a timely manner, under previous filing requirements: (i) audited financial information for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011 and 2012; (ii) operating data for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011 and 2012; and (iii) adopted budgets for fiscal years ending June 30, 2012, 2013 and 2014. Additionally, the Board previously failed to file late filing notices in connection with its untimely filings of: (i) audited financial information; (ii) operating data; (iii) adopted budgets, all as described above, and late filing notices and/or event notices in connection with certain rating changes. Such notices of events and late filings have since been filed with the MSRB's EMMA. The Board appointed Phoenix Advisors, LLC in October of 2014 to serve as continuing disclosure agent.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Inquiries regarding this Official Statement, including information additional to that contained herein, may be directed to Suzanne Keller, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, at 121 W. New York Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244, (609) 927-2053, or to the Financial Advisor, Phoenix Advisors, LLC, at 4 West Park Street, Bordentown, New Jersey 08505, (609) 291-0130.

## **CERTIFICATE WITH RESPECT TO THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

At the time of the original delivery of the Bonds, the Board will deliver a certificate of one of its authorized officials to the effect that he has examined this Official Statement (including the appendices) and the financial and other data concerning the School District contained herein and that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, (i) this Official Statement, both as of its date and as of the date of delivery of the Bonds, does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact necessary to make the statements herein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading and (ii) between the date of this Official Statement and the date of delivery of the Bonds there has been no material adverse change in the affairs (financial or otherwise), financial condition or results or operations of the Board except as set forth in or contemplated by the this Official Statement.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

This Official Statement is not to be construed as a contract or agreement among the Board, the underwriter and the holders of any of the Bonds. Any statements made in this Official Statement involving matters of opinion, whether or not expressly so stated, are intended merely as opinions and not as representations of fact. The information and expressions of opinion contained herein are subject to change without notice and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale of the Bonds made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Board since the date hereof. The information contained in this Official Statement is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness.

## **THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF SOMERS POINT IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Suzanne Keller, Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**Date:** November \_\_, 2016

## **APPENDIX A**

### **CERTAIN ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF SOMERS POINT**

## **INFORMATION REGARDING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>**

### **Type**

The School District is a Type II school district that is coterminous with the borders of the City of Somers Point (the “Board”). The School District provides a full range of educational services appropriate to kindergarten through grade eight.

The Board is composed of nine (9) members elected by the legally qualified voters in the School District to terms of three (3) years on a staggered basis. The President and Vice President are chosen for one (1) year terms from among the members of the Board.

The Board is the policy making body of the School District and has the general responsibility for providing an education program, the power to establish policies and supervise the public schools in the School District, the responsibility to develop the annual School District budget and present it to the legally registered voters in the School District. The Board's fiscal year ends each June 30.

The Board appoints a Superintendent and Board Secretary/Business Administrator who are responsible for budgeting, planning and the operational functions of the School District. The administrative structure of the Board gives final responsibility for both the educational process and the business operation to the Superintendent.

### **Description of Facilities**

The Board presently operates the following school facilities:

<b><u>Facility</u></b>	<b><u>Grade Level</u></b>	<b><u>Student Enrollment (As of 6/30/16)</u></b>
New York Avenue School	Pre-K	74
Dawes Avenue School	Pre-K-6	354
Jordan Road School	K-8	535

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

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<sup>1</sup> Source: The Board, unless otherwise indicated.

## **Staff**

The Superintendent is the chief executive officer of the Board and is in charge of carrying out Board policies. The Board Secretary/Business Administrator is the chief financial officer of the Board and must submit monthly financial reports to the Board and annual reports to the New Jersey Department of Education.

The following table presents the number of full and part-time teaching professionals and support staff of the School District as of June 30, 2016, for each of the past five (5) years.

	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>
Teaching Professionals	128	128	117	116	108
Support Staff	<u>58</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>58</u>
Total Full & Part Time Employees	<u>186</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>166</u>

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

## **Pupil Enrollments**

The following table presents the historical average daily pupil enrollments for the past five (5) school years and projections of pupil enrollment.

<b>Pupil Enrollments</b>	
<b><u>School Year</u></b>	<b><u>Enrollment</u></b>
2016-2017	958
2015-2016	963
2014-2015	984
2013-2014	1,038
2012-2013	1,066

<b>Projected Future Enrollments</b>	
<b><u>School Year</u></b>	<b><u>Enrollment</u></b>
2018-2019	958
2017-2018	958

Source: School District and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

## **Labor Relations**

<b>Labor Contract</b>	<b>Date of Contract</b>
<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Expiration</u></b>
Education Association	6/30/2016
Administrators	6/30/2016

Source: School Districts

## **Pensions**

Those employees of the School District who are eligible for pension coverage are enrolled in one of the two State-administered multi-employer pension systems (the “Pension System”). The Pension System was established by an act of the State Legislature. The Board of Trustees for the Pension System is responsible for the organization and administration of the Pension System. The two State-administered pension funds are: (1) the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund (“TPAF”) and (2) the Public Employee's Retirement System (“PERS”). The Division of Pensions and Benefits, within the State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury (the “Division”), charges the participating school districts annually for their respective contributions. The School District raises its contributions through taxation and the State contributes the employer's share of the annual Social Security and Pension contribution for employees enrolled in the TPAF. The Pension System is a cost sharing multiple employer contributory defined benefit plan. The Pension System's designated purpose is to provide retirement and medical benefits for qualified retirees and other benefits to its members. Membership in the Pension System is mandatory for substantially all full-time employees of the State or any county, municipality, school district or public agency provided the employee is not required to be a member of another State administered retirement system or other state or local jurisdiction.

## **Fiscal 2016-17 Budget**

Prior to the passage of P.L. 2011, c. 202 the Board was required to submit its budget for voter approval on an annual basis. Under the Election Law (P.L. 2011, c. 202, effective January 17, 2012) if a school district has opted to move its annual election to November, it is no longer required to submit the budget to voters for approval if the budget is at or below the two-percent (2%) property tax levy cap as provided for under New Cap Law (P.L. 2010, c. 44). If a school district proposes to spend above the two-percent (2%) property tax levy cap, it is then required to submit its budget to voters at the annual school election in November. The Board has chosen under the Election Law to move its annual school election to November.

The General Fund budget is the sum of all state aid (exclusive of pension aid and social security aid) and the local tax levy (exclusive of debt service). The Board's General Fund Budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year is \$15,898,459. The major sources of revenue are \$9,613,369 from the local tax levy and \$5,680,239 from state aid.

Source: Annual User-Friendly Budget of the School District

## **Budget History**

As noted, prior to the Board's budget for its 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Board was required to submit its budget for voter approval. A summary of the last five (5) budget years of the Board is presented below:

<b><u>Budget Year</u></b>	<b><u>Amount Raised in Taxes</u></b>	<b><u>Budget Amount</u></b>
2016-2017	\$9,613,369	\$15,898,459
2015-2016	9,383,122	15,633,470
2014-2015	8,949,548	15,272,758
2013-2014	8,711,622	14,972,103
2012-2013	8,383,479	14,665,294

Source: Annual User-Friendly Budget of the School District and NJ State Department of Education Website – School Election Results

*[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]*

## **Financial Operations**

The following table summarizes information on the changes in general fund revenues and expenditures for the school years ending June 30, 2012 through June 30, 2016 for the general fund. This summary should be used in conjunction with the tables in the sourced documents from which it is derived (see Appendix B). Beginning with the 1993-94 fiscal year, school districts in the State of New Jersey have begun to prepare their financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States.

### **GENERAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30:**

	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Local Sources:					
Local Tax Levy	\$9,383,122	\$8,949,548	\$8,711,622	\$8,383,479	\$8,078,673
Other Local Revenue	<u>144,831</u>	<u>95,360</u>	<u>104,900</u>	<u>81,704</u>	<u>48,261</u>
Total revenues-local sources	9,527,953	9,044,908	8,816,522	8,465,183	8,126,934
State Sources	7,395,707	7,209,023	7,066,916	7,030,363	6,495,277
Federal Sources	<u>38,795</u>	<u>104,673</u>	<u>59,081</u>	<u>49,194</u>	<u>262,167</u>
Total Revenues	\$16,962,455	\$16,358,604	\$15,942,519	\$15,544,740	\$14,884,378
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
General Fund:					
Instruction	\$6,521,162	\$6,707,545	\$6,281,163	\$6,104,334	\$6,183,572
Undistributed Expenditures	10,302,996	9,831,955	9,239,581	9,463,088	8,447,404
Capital Outlay	<u>59,305</u>	<u>270,796</u>	<u>163,463</u>	<u>195,864</u>	<u>33,947</u>
Total Expenditures	\$16,883,463	\$16,810,296	\$15,684,207	\$15,763,286	\$14,664,923
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues					
Over/(Under) Expenditures	78,993	(451,692)	258,312	(218,546)	219,455
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Proceeds of Capital Lease	0	159,423	0	136,296	0
Transfers in	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers out	<u>0</u>	<u>(63,211)</u>	<u>(61,284)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	0	96,212	(61,284)	136,296	0
Net Change in Fund Balance	78,993	(355,480)	197,028	(82,250)	219,455
Fund Balance, July 1	<u>1,094,850</u>	<u>1,450,330</u>	<u>1,253,302</u>	<u>1,335,552</u>	<u>1,117,500</u>
Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$1,173,842</u>	<u>\$1,094,850</u>	<u>\$1,450,330</u>	<u>\$1,253,302</u>	<u>\$1,336,955</u>

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District. Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Governmental Funds and Changes In Fund Balances on a GAAP basis



### **Capital Leases**

As of June 30, 2016, the Board has capital lease(s) outstanding with payments due through year ending June 30, 2019, totaling \$90,555.77.

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

### **Operating Leases**

As of June 30, 2016, the Board has no operating leases outstanding.

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

### **Short Term Debt**

As of June 30, 2016, the Board has no short term debt outstanding.

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

### **Long Term Debt**

The following table outlines the outstanding long term debt of the Board as of June 30, 2016.

<b><u>Fiscal Year Ending</u></b>	<b><u>Principal</u></b>	<b><u>Interest</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
2017	\$350,000	\$114,343	\$464,343
2018	360,000	102,303	462,303
2019	353,000	89,963	442,963
2020	240,000	75,720	315,720
2021	250,000	66,120	316,120
2022	265,000	56,120	321,120
2023	275,000	45,520	320,520
2024	290,000	34,520	324,520
2025	300,000	22,920	322,920
2026	<u>273,000</u>	<u>10,920</u>	<u>283,920</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b><u>\$2,956,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$618,449</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,574,449</u></b>

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

## **Debt Limit of the Board**

The debt limitation of the Board is established by statute (N.J.S.A. 18A:24-19). The Board is permitted to incur debt up to 3% of the average equalized valuation for the past three years (See “SUMMARY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SCHOOL DEBT-Exceptions to Debt Limitation” herein). The following is a summation of the Board’s debt limitation as of June 30, 2016:

Average Equalized Real Property Valuation (2014, 2015, and 2016)	\$1,147,233,708
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### **School District Debt Analysis**

Permitted Debt Limitation (3% of AEVP)	\$34,417,011
Less: Bonds and Notes Authorized and Outstanding	<u>2,956,000</u>
Remaining Limitation of Indebtedness	\$31,461,011
Percentage of Net School Debt to Average Equalized Valuation	0.26%

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

*[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]*

## **INFORMATION REGARDING THE CITY<sup>1</sup>**

The following material presents certain economic and demographic information of the City of Somers Point (the “City”), in the County of Atlantic (the “County”), State of New Jersey (the “State”).

### **Employment and Unemployment Comparisons**

For the following years, the New Jersey Department of Labor reported the following annual average employment information for the City, the County, and the State:

	<b><u>Total Labor Force</u></b>	<b><u>Employed Labor Force</u></b>	<b><u>Total Unemployed</u></b>	<b><u>Unemployment Rate</u></b>
<b><u>City</u></b>				
2015	5,187	4,718	469	9.0%
2014	5,427	4,840	587	10.8%
2013	5,587	4,946	641	11.5%
2012	5,761	5,017	744	12.9%
2011	5,694	5,023	671	11.8%
<b><u>County</u></b>				
2015	127,666	115,704	11,962	9.4%
2014	132,676	118,708	13,968	10.5%
2013	137,184	121,259	15,925	11.6%
2012	140,634	122,809	17,825	12.7%
2011	139,601	122,129	17,472	12.5%
<b><u>State</u></b>				
2015	4,543,800	4,288,800	255,000	5.6%
2014	4,513,600	4,209,700	303,900	6.7%
2013	4,528,500	4,157,600	370,800	8.2%
2012	4,585,300	4,158,600	426,800	9.3%
2011	4,565,300	4,138,500	426,800	9.3%

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor, Office of Research and Planning, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, Bureau of Labor Force Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

<sup>1</sup> Source: The City, unless otherwise indicated.

**Income (as of 2014)**

	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
Median Household Income	\$47,945	\$54,392	\$72,062
Median Family Income	63,988	66,360	87,999
Per Capita Income	27,463	27,411	36,359

Source: US Bureau of the Census

**Population**

The following tables summarize population increases and the decreases for the City, the County, and the State.

	<u>City</u>		<u>County</u>		<u>State</u>	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% Change</u>
2015 Estimate	10,688	-0.99%	274,219	-0.12%	8,958,013	1.89%
2010	10,795	-7.05	274,549	8.71	8,791,894	4.49
2000	11,614	3.55	252,552	12.58	8,414,350	8.85
1990	11,216	8.58	224,327	15.56	7,730,188	4.96
1980	10,330	30.45	194,119	10.90	7,365,001	2.75

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

**Largest Taxpayers**

The ten largest taxpayers in the City and their assessed valuations are listed below:

<u>Taxpayers</u>	<u>2015 Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>% of Total Assessed Valuation</u>
Village Plaza LLC	\$23,486,000	1.99%
Sea Aire Apartments LLC	14,760,000	1.25%
IDA K mart Sears	13,586,000	1.15%
West America LTD	10,272,000	0.87%
Related Somers Point LLC	10,244,000	0.87%
American Stores Realty CO	9,506,000	0.81%
Ocean Heights Manor LLC	9,189,000	0.78%
WWW Associates	8,835,000	0.75%
EQI Financial Partners, LP	7,601,000	0.65%
Somers Point, LLC	<u>7,081,000</u>	<u>0.60%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$114,560,000</u></b>	<b><u>9.72%</u></b>

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District and Municipal Tax Assessor

### **Comparison of Tax Levies and Collections**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Tax Levy</u></b>	<b><u>Current Year Collection</u></b>	<b><u>Current Year % of Collection</u></b>
2015	\$32,975,453	\$31,996,256	97.03%
2014	32,144,642	31,298,402	97.37%
2013	32,036,567	31,076,079	97.00%
2012	29,616,625	28,725,922	96.99%
2011	29,824,596	28,958,162	97.09%

Source: Annual Audit Reports of the City

### **Delinquent Taxes and Tax Title Liens**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Amount of Tax Title Liens</u></b>	<b><u>Amount of Delinquent Tax</u></b>	<b><u>Total Delinquent</u></b>	<b><u>% of Tax Levy</u></b>
2015	\$137,197	\$842,484	\$979,681	2.97%
2014	132,630	664,380	797,010	2.48%
2013	98,837	874,125	972,962	3.04%
2012	88,489	823,844	912,333	3.08%
2011	85,471	697,286	782,757	2.62%

Source: Annual Audit Reports of the City

### **Property Acquired by Tax Lien Liquidation**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
2015	\$19,412
2014	19,412
2013	19,412
2012	19,412
2011	19,412

Source: Annual Audit Reports of the City

### **Tax Rates per \$100 of Net Valuations Taxable and Allocations**

The table below lists the tax rates for City residents for the past five (5) years.

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Municipal</u></b>	<b><u>Local School</u></b>	<b><u>Regional School</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
2016	\$0.907	\$0.874	\$0.631	\$0.537	\$2.950
2015	0.881	0.827	0.595	0.491	2.794
2014R	0.839	0.768	0.622	0.471	2.700
2013	1.390	1.306	1.073	0.881	4.650
2012	1.295	1.264	1.027	0.708	4.294

R: Revaluation

Source: Abstract of Ratables and State of New Jersey – Property Taxes

### **Valuation of Property**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Aggregate Assessed Valuation of Real Property</u></b>	<b><u>Aggregate True Value of Real Property</u></b>	<b><u>Ratio of Assessed to True Value</u></b>	<b><u>Assessed Value of Personal Property</u></b>	<b><u>Equalized Valuation</u></b>
2016	\$1,172,378,100	\$1,124,475,446	104.26%	\$0	\$1,124,475,446
2015	1,178,038,500	1,140,736,419	103.27	0	1,140,736,419
2014R	1,188,371,800	1,176,489,258	101.01	0	1,176,489,258
2013	681,506,300	1,161,592,466	58.67	1,521,274	1,163,113,740
2012	685,785,300	1,293,690,436	53.01	1,918,493	1,295,608,929

R: Revaluation

Source: Abstract of Ratables and State of New Jersey – Table of Equalized Valuations

### **Classification of Ratables**

The table below lists the comparative assessed valuation for each classification of real property within the City for the past five (5) years.

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Vacant Land</u></b>	<b><u>Residential</u></b>	<b><u>Farm</u></b>	<b><u>Commercial</u></b>	<b><u>Industrial</u></b>	<b><u>Apartments</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
2016	\$10,385,800	\$804,520,400	\$0	\$285,895,900	\$0	\$71,576,000	\$1,172,378,100
2015	10,206,200	808,079,300	0	288,177,000	0	71,576,000	1,178,038,500
2014R	11,663,100	814,795,100	0	290,337,600	0	71,576,000	1,188,371,800
2013	8,351,400	473,381,500	0	159,401,300	0	40,372,100	681,506,300
2012	9,416,400	473,012,000	0	162,959,800	0	40,397,100	685,785,300

R: Revaluation

Source: Abstract of Ratables and State of New Jersey – Property Value Classification

## **Financial Operations**

The following table summarizes the City's Current Fund budget for the past five (5) fiscal years ending December 31. The following summary should be used in conjunction with the tables in the sourced documents from which it is derived.

### **Summary of Current Fund Budget**

<b><u>Anticipated Revenues</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>
Fund Balance Utilized	\$1,400,000	\$950,000	\$1,105,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,209,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	2,613,281	2,384,098	2,694,897	3,523,598	3,191,380
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	560,000	750,000	725,000	675,000	675,000
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	<u>8,904,294</u>	<u>9,491,456</u>	<u>9,962,140</u>	<u>10,385,257</u>	<u>10,628,278</u>
Total Revenue:	<u>\$13,477,575</u>	<u>\$13,575,554</u>	<u>\$14,487,037</u>	<u>\$15,633,855</u>	<u>\$15,703,658</u>
<b><u>Appropriations</u></b>					
General Appropriations	\$10,222,508	\$10,536,548	\$10,916,638	\$11,281,383	\$11,530,748
Operations (Excluded from CAPS)	673,252	263,534	665,094	680,038	1,298,931
Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures	150,000	312,350	261,648	81,418	60,000
Judgments	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Improvement Fund	375,000	20,000	36,000	50,000	50,000
Municipal Debt Service	1,067,700	1,446,625	1,542,525	2,462,495	1,640,185
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	<u>989,115</u>	<u>996,497</u>	<u>1,064,932</u>	<u>1,078,521</u>	<u>1,123,794</u>
Total Appropriations:	<u>\$13,477,575</u>	<u>\$13,575,554</u>	<u>\$14,486,837</u>	<u>\$15,633,855</u>	<u>\$15,703,658</u>

Source: Annual Adopted Budgets of the City

## **Fund Balance**

### **Current Fund**

The following table lists the City's fund balance and the amount utilized in the succeeding year's budget for the Current Fund for the past five (5) fiscal years ending December 31.

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Fund Balance - Current Fund</u></b>	
	<b><u>Balance 12/31</u></b>	<b><u>Utilized in Budget of Succeeding Year</u></b>
2015	\$1,543,740	\$1,209,000
2014	1,425,884	1,050,000
2013	1,756,710	1,105,000
2012	1,063,919	950,000
2011	1,876,527	1,400,000

Source: Annual Audit Reports of the City

Sewer Utility Operating Fund

The following table lists the City's fund balance and the amount utilized in the succeeding year's budget for the Sewer Utility Operating Fund for the past five (5) fiscal years ending December 31.

<b><u>Fund Balance - Sewer Utility Operating Fund</u></b>		
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Utilized in Budget</b>
<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>12/31</u></b>	<b><u>of Succeeding Year</u></b>
2015	\$652,649	\$0
2014	343,823	0
2013	26,449	0
2012	256,449	230,000
2011	214,317	80,000

Source: Annual Audit Reports of the City



## **City Indebtedness as of December 31, 2015**

### **General Purpose Debt**

Serial Bonds	\$7,976,950
Bond Anticipation Notes	2,230,000
Bonds and Notes Authorized but Not Issued	91,100
Other Bonds, Notes and Loans	<u>0</u>
Total:	\$10,298,050

### **Local School District Debt**

Serial Bonds	\$3,296,000
Temporary Notes Issued	0
Bonds and Notes Authorized but Not Issued	<u>0</u>
Total:	\$3,296,000

### **Regional School District Debt**

Serial Bonds	\$14,625,035
Temporary Notes Issued	0
Bonds and Notes Authorized but Not Issued	<u>0</u>
Total:	\$14,625,035

### **Self-Liquidating Debt**

Serial Bonds	\$2,647,092
Bond Anticipation Notes	850,000
Bonds and Notes Authorized but Not Issued	125,000
Other Bonds, Notes and Loans	<u>0</u>
Total:	\$3,622,092

### **TOTAL GROSS DEBT**

**\$31,841,177**

Less: Statutory Deductions	
General Purpose Debt	\$0
Local School District Debt	3,296,000
Regional School District Debt	14,625,035
Self-Liquidating Debt	<u>3,622,092</u>
Total:	\$21,543,127

### **TOTAL NET DEBT**

**\$10,298,050**

Source: Annual Debt Statement of the City

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**Overlapping Debt (as of December 31, 2015)<sup>2</sup>**

<b><u>Name of Related Entity</u></b>	<b><u>Related Entity Debt Outstanding</u></b>	<b><u>City Percentage</u></b>	<b><u>City Share</u></b>
Local School District	\$3,296,000	100.00%	\$3,296,000
Regional School District	39,010,000	37.00%	14,625,035
County	155,437,199	3.04%	<u>4,725,588</u>
Net Indirect Debt			\$22,646,623
Net Direct Debt			<u>10,298,050</u>
Total Net Direct and Indirect Debt			<b><u>\$32,944,673</u></b>

**Debt Limit**

Average Equalized Valuation Basis (2013, 2014, 2015)	\$1,159,606,048
Permitted Debt Limitation (3 1/2%)	40,586,212
Less: Net Debt	<u>10,298,050</u>
Remaining Borrowing Power	<u>\$30,288,162</u>
Percentage of Net Debt to Average Equalized Valuation	0.888%
 Gross Debt Per Capita based on 2010 population of 10,795	 \$2,950
Net Debt Per Capita based on 2010 population of 10,795	\$954

Source: Annual Debt Statement of the City

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<sup>2</sup> City percentage of County debt is based on the City's share of total equalized valuation in the County.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **SOMERS POINT BOARD OF EDUCATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



# FORD - SCOTT

& ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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## **Independent Auditor's Report**

Honorable President and  
Members of the Board of Education  
City of Somers Point School District  
County of Atlantic  
Somers Point, New Jersey

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Somers Point School District, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the 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***

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and audit requirements as prescribed by the Office of School Finance, Department of Education, State of New Jersey. Those standards require that we 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we 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.

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

## **Opinions**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Somers Point School District, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, as of June 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Other Matters**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Required Supplementary Information identified in the table of contents 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. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City of Somers Point School District's basic financial statements. The introductory section, combining and individual non-major fund financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), the schedule of state financial assistance as required by NJ OMB Circular 15-08, and statistical information are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The introductory section, combining statements, and individual non-major fund financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), the schedule of state financial assistance as required by NJ OMB Circular 15-08, and statistical information is the responsibility of management and was 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 our opinion, the combining and individual non-major fund financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), the schedule of state financial assistance as required by NJ OMB Circular 15-08, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 4, 2016 on our consideration of the City of Somers Point School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on 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 City of Somers Point School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Ford, Scott & Associates, L.L.C.*  
**FORD, SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.**  
**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

*Michael S. Garcia*  
**Michael S. Garcia**  
**Certified Public Accountant**  
**Licensed Public School Accountant**  
**No. 2080**

**November 4, 2016**

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## **Required Supplementary Information – Part I**



**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
UNAUDITED**

The discussion and analysis of Somers Point School District's financial performance provides an overall review of the School District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School District's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to enhance their understanding of the School District's financial performance.

**Financial Highlights**

Key financial highlights for 2016 are as follows:

- In total, net position decreased \$380,622.42, which represents a less than 8% decrease from 2015.
- General revenues accounted for \$15,439,334.58 of total revenue or 71% of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and operating grants and contributions accounted for \$6,351,883.62 or 29% of total revenues of \$21,791,218.20.
- Total assets of governmental activities decreased by \$502,535.39 as cash and cash equivalents decreased by \$9,752.46, receivables increased by \$2,732.83, internal balances decreased \$30,002.00 and capital assets decreased by \$465,513.76.
- The School District had \$22,171,218.20 in expenses; only \$6,351,883.62 of these expenses was offset by program specific charges for services, grants or contributions. General revenues (primarily taxes and state aid) of \$15,439,334.58 were adequate to provide for these programs.
- Among governmental funds, the General Fund had \$16,962,455.05 in revenues and \$16,883,462.50 in expenditures. The General Fund's fund balance increased \$78,992.55 from 2015.

**Using this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)**

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand Somers Point School District as a financial whole, an entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the whole School district, presenting both an aggregate view of the School district's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the School district's most significant funds with all other non-major funds presented in total in one column. In the case of Somers Point School District, the General Fund is by far the most significant fund.

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**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
UNAUDITED (CONTINUED)**

**Reporting the School District as a Whole**

Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

While this document contains the large number of funds used by the School District to provide programs and activities, the view of the School District, as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during 2016?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities answer this question. These statements include all position and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector businesses. This basis of accounting takes into consideration all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the School District's net position and changes in that position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the school district as a whole, the financial position of the School district has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial and some not. Non-financial factors include the School District's property tax base, current laws in New Jersey restricting revenue growth, facility condition, required educational programs and other factors.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, the School District is divided into two distinct kinds of activities:

- **Governmental Activities** - All of the School District's programs and services are reported here including instruction, support services, operation and maintenance of plant facilities, pupil transportation and extracurricular activities.
- **Business-Type Activity** - This service is provided on a charge for goods or services basis to recover all the expenses of the goods or services provided. The CER enterprise fund is reported as a business activity.

**Reporting the School District's Most Significant Funds**

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the School District's funds. The School District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transaction. The School District's governmental funds are the General Fund, Special Revenue Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Debt Service Fund.

Governmental Funds

The School District's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in the future years. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the School district's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps the reader determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements.

Enterprise Fund

The enterprise fund uses the same basis of accounting as business-type activities; therefore, these statements are essentially the same.

**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
UNAUDITED (CONTINUED)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the District-wide and fund financial statements.

**The School District as a Whole**

Recall that the Statement of Net Position provides the perspective of the School District as a whole. Net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position.

The District's financial position is the product of several financial transactions including the net results of activities, the acquisition and payment of debt, the acquisition and disposal of capital assets, and the depreciation of capital assets.

Table 1 provides a summary of the School District's net position for 2016 and 2015.

**Table 1  
Net Position**

	2016	2015
<b>Assets</b>		
Current and Other Assets	\$ 1,603,393.72	1,597,687.11
Capital Assets	10,576,035.71	11,046,316.00
Total Assets	<u>12,179,429.43</u>	<u>12,644,003.11</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	<u>755,014.00</u>	<u>401,290.00</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Long-Term Liabilities	7,962,852.13	7,528,636.00
Other Liabilities	432,042.91	443,401.30
Total Liabilities	<u>8,394,895.04</u>	<u>7,972,037.30</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>		
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	<u>74,927.00</u>	<u>228,012.00</u>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Debt	7,529,479.94	7,630,893.00
Restricted	1,335,356.28	1,221,297.00
Unrestricted	(4,400,214.83)	(4,006,946.19)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 4,464,621.39</u>	<u>4,845,243.81</u>

The District's combined net position was \$4,464,621.39 on June 30, 2016. This was an 8% decrease from the prior year.

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**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
UNAUDITED (CONTINUED)**

Table 2 shows changes in net position for fiscal year 2016 and 2015.

**Table 2  
Changes in Net Position**

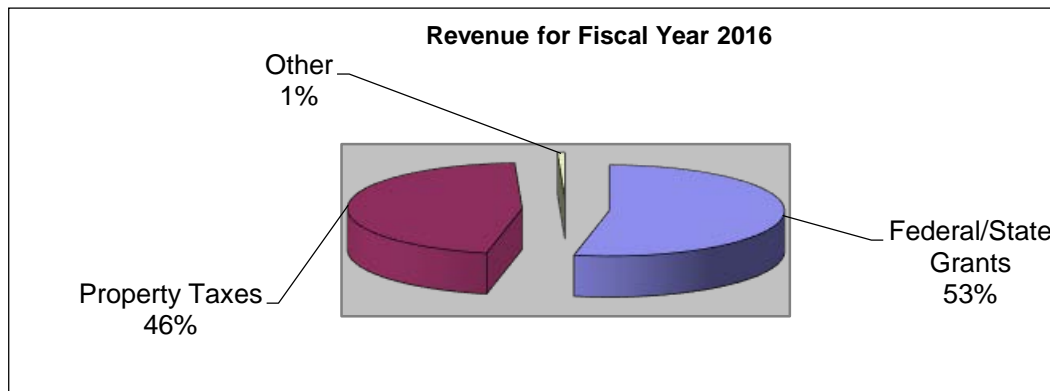
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Program Revenues:		
Charges for Services	\$ 363,010.91	318,641.00
Operating Grants and Contributions	5,988,872.71	5,249,554.00
General Revenues:		
Property Taxes	9,752,324.00	9,248,615.00
Grants and Entitlements	5,681,344.10	5,681,557.00
Other	5,666.48	13,006.00
Special Items	-	14,372.00
Total Revenues	<u>21,791,218.20</u>	<u>20,525,745.00</u>
<b>Program Expenses</b>		
Instruction	13,343,409.96	12,684,530.00
Support Services:		
Tuition	354,870.66	530,832.00
Related Services - Pupils and Instructional Staff	3,454,182.35	3,085,494.00
General Administration, School Administration	1,299,820.62	1,216,113.00
Maintenance of Facilities	1,987,072.97	1,772,395.00
Pupil Transportation	428,568.57	539,849.00
Business and Other Support Services	574,380.34	486,724.00
Interest on Debt	121,692.00	133,231.00
Food Service Program	429,714.38	390,689.00
CER Program	166,004.87	174,287.00
Special Items	12,123.90	-
Total Expenses	<u>22,171,840.62</u>	<u>21,014,144.00</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Position	<u>\$ (380,622.42)</u>	<u>(488,399.00)</u>

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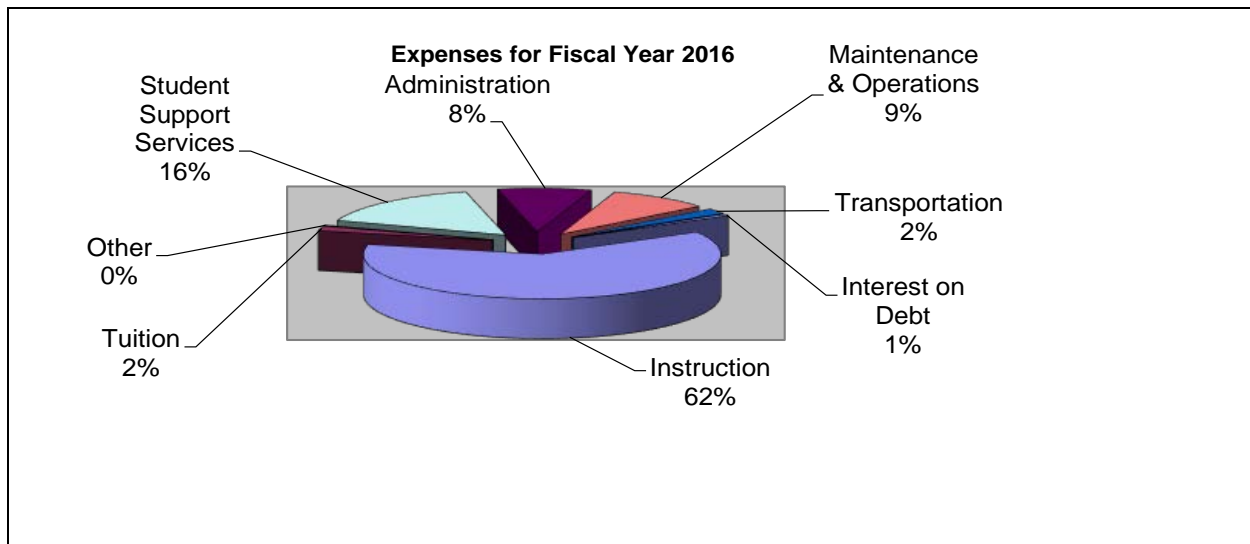
**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
UNAUDITED (CONTINUED)**

**Governmental Activities**

The District's total revenues were \$21,169,055.25 for the year ended June 30, 2016. Property taxes made up 46 percent of revenues for governmental activities for the City of Somers Point School District for fiscal year 2016. Federal, state, and local grants accounted for 53 percent of the revenue. Local revenue and charges for service make up 1 percent of the revenue.



The total cost of all program and services was \$21,575,001.37. Instruction comprises 60 percent of District expenses.



**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
UNAUDITED (CONTINUED)**

**Business-Type Activities**

Revenues for the District's business-type activities (food service and CER programs) were comprised of charges for services and federal and state reimbursements.

- Revenues exceeded expenses before investment income by \$26,443.70.
- Charges for services represent \$223,769.42 of revenue. This represents amounts paid by patrons for daily food service and childcare.
- For the food service operation, federal and state reimbursement for meals, including payments for free and reduced lunches and breakfast, and donated commodities was \$398,393.53.

**Governmental Activities**

The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services. Table 3 shows the total cost of services and the net cost of services. The net cost shows the financial burden that was placed on the District's taxpayers by each of these functions.

**Table 3**

	<u><b>Total Cost of Services 2016</b></u>	<u><b>Net Cost of Services 2016</b></u>	<u><b>Total Cost of Services 2015</b></u>	<u><b>Net Cost of Services 2015</b></u>
Instruction	\$ 13,343,409.96	8,901,032.10	12,684,530.00	8,842,248.00
Support Services:				
Tuition	394,587.66	394,587.66	530,832.00	530,832.00
Pupils and Instructional Staff	3,454,182.35	2,341,796.40	3,085,494.00	2,148,717.00
General Administration, School Administration, Business Operations and Maintenance of Facilities	3,821,556.93	3,646,600.07	3,475,232.00	3,317,734.00
Pupil Transportation	428,568.57	428,568.57	539,849.00	539,849.00
Interest and Fiscal Charges	121,692.00	121,692.00	133,231.00	133,231.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 21,563,997.47</u>	<u>15,834,276.80</u>	<u>20,449,168.00</u>	<u>15,512,611.00</u>

Instruction expenses include activities directly dealing with the teaching of pupils and the interaction between teacher and student, including extracurricular activities.

Pupils and instructional staff include the activities involved with assisting staff with the content and process of teaching to students, including curriculum and staff development.

General administration, school administration, and business include expenses associated with administrative and financial supervision of the District.

Operation and maintenance of facilities involve keeping the school grounds, buildings, and equipment in an effective working condition.

Pupil transportation includes activities involved with the conveyance of students to and from school, as well as to and from school activities, as provided by State law.

**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
UNAUDITED (CONTINUED)**

Interest on debt involves the transactions associated with the payment of interest and other related charges to debt of the School District.

"Other" includes special schools and unallocated depreciation.

**The School District's Funds**

All governmental funds (i.e., general fund, special revenue fund, capital projects fund and debt service fund presented in the fund-based statements) are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Total revenues amounted to \$18,789,953.25 and expenditures were \$18,807,369.49. The net decrease in fund balance for the year was \$17,416.24.

As demonstrated by the various statements and schedules included in the financial section of this report, the District continues to meet its responsibility for sound financial management. The following schedules present a summary of the revenues of the governmental funds for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, and the amount and percentage of increases and decreases in relation to prior year revenues.

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease) from 2015</b>	<b>Percent of Increase (Decrease)</b>
Local Sources	\$ 9,897,231.97	52.7%	553,196.97	6%
State Sources	7,967,263.17	42.4%	175,832.17	2%
Federal Sources	925,458.11	4.9%	(79,994.89)	-9%
Total	<u>\$ 18,789,953.25</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>649,034.25</u>	<u>3%</u>

The following schedule represents a summary of general fund, special revenue fund, capital projects fund and debt service fund expenditures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, and the percentage of increases and decreases in relation to prior year amounts.

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease) from 2015</b>	<b>Percent of Increase (Decrease)</b>
Current expense:				
Instruction	\$ 7,662,703.69	40.7%	(255,219.31)	-3.3%
Undistributed expenditures	10,579,561.19	56.3%	437,044.19	4.1%
Capital Outlay	59,304.61	0.3%	(211,491.39)	-356.6%
Debt Service	466,083.00	2.5%	(1,440.00)	-0.3%
Transfer to Charter Schools	39,717.00	0.2%	13,860.00	34.9%
Total	<u>\$ 18,807,369.49</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>(17,246.51)</u>	<u>-0.1%</u>

Changes in expenditures were the results of varying factors. The current expense of undistributed expenditures is attributed to tuition, transportation and health benefits.

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**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
UNAUDITED (CONTINUED)**

**General Fund Budgeting Highlights**

As further explained in the Notes to the Financial Statements, annual appropriated budgets are prepared in the spring of each year for the general and special revenue funds. The budgets are submitted to the County office. Transfers of appropriations may be made by Board resolution at any time during the fiscal year. The District is permitted to encumber funds throughout the year for purchases ordered but not yet received. Any open encumbrances as of June 30<sup>th</sup> carry over to the next fiscal year and are added to the appropriation reflected in the certified budget.

After adjusting total revenue reported on Exhibit C-1 for the Reimbursed TPAF Social Security Contribution and On-behalf TPAF Contribution, which are not budgeted, the District's actual revenue was more than the budget by approximately \$152,396.67. The added revenue is from approximately \$11,567.00 more state aid and \$134,241.49 of Tuition Revenue that was not budgeted. Again, after adjusting for the Reimbursed TPAF Social Security Contribution and On-behalf TPAF Contribution, actual revenues were more than actual expenditures by approximately \$579,643.21. Audit exhibit C-1 does not include current year depreciation expense.

**Capital Assets**

At the end of the fiscal year 2016, the School District had \$10,576,035.71 invested in land, building and machinery and equipment. Table 4 shows fiscal year 2016 balances compared to 2015.

**Table 4  
Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation) at June 30**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Land and Land Improvements	\$ 81,208.45	87,085.00
Building and Building Improvements	10,299,012.22	10,757,345.00
Machinery and Equipment	195,815.04	201,886.00
Total	<u>\$ 10,576,035.71</u>	<u>11,046,316.00</u>

Overall capital assets decreased \$470,280.29 from fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2016. The decrease in capital assets is due to current year depreciation expense. For more detailed information, please refer to the Notes to the Financial Statements.

**Debt Administration**

At June 30, 2016, the School District had \$3,302,683.13 of outstanding debt. Of this amount, \$256,127.36 is for compensated absences and \$2,956,000.00 of serial bonds relating to several capital improvement projects and \$90,555.77 is a capital lease.

**Table 5  
Bonded Outstanding Debt at June 30**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
1996 School Bonds	\$ 403,000.00	543,000.00
2011 School Bonds	2,553,000.00	2,753,000.00
Total	<u>\$ 2,956,000.00</u>	<u>3,296,000.00</u>

At June 30, 2016, the School District's remaining legal debt margin available was \$31,832,181. For more detailed information, please refer to the Notes to the Financial Statements.



**SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
UNAUDITED (CONTINUED)**

**For the Future**

The Somers Point School District is in good financial condition presently. The School District is proud of its community support of the public schools.

The District continues to provide quality education programs while continuing to stabilize the tax rate in Somers Point. In conclusion, the Somers Point School District has committed itself to financial excellence for many years. In addition, the School District's system for financial planning, budgeting, and internal financial controls are well regarded. The School District plans to continue its sound fiscal management to meet the challenges of the future.

**Contacting the School District's Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the School District's finances and to show the School District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact Suzanne Keller, Business Administrator at Somers Point School District, 121 West New York Avenue, Somers Point, New Jersey 08244.

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## **Basic Financial Statements**

## DISTRICT – WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the District. These statements include the financial activities of the overall District, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. These statements distinguish between the governmental and business – type activities of the District.

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2016**

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,185,225.54	40,157.59	1,225,383.13
Receivables, Net	105,387.83	86,704.83	192,092.66
Inventory		2,317.93	2,317.93
Internal Balances	37,988.00	(37,988.00)	-
Restricted Assets:			
Cash Reserve Account	100.00		100.00
Maintenance Reserve Account	183,500.00		183,500.00
Capital Assets, Net			
Land	27,012.00		27,012.00
Depreciable assets, net of depreciation	10,504,020.24	45,003.47	10,549,023.71
Total Assets	<u>12,043,233.61</u>	<u>136,195.82</u>	<u>12,179,429.43</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	755,014.00		755,014.00
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>755,014.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>755,014.00</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	316,853.00	10,192.31	327,045.31
Payable to State Government	17,163.00		17,163.00
Unearned Revenue	28,712.60	19,630.00	48,342.60
Accrued Interest	39,492.00		39,492.00
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Due Within One Year	379,516.45		379,516.45
Due Beyond One Year	2,923,166.68		2,923,166.68
Net Pension Liability	4,660,169.00		4,660,169.00
Total Liabilities	<u>8,365,072.73</u>	<u>29,822.31</u>	<u>8,394,895.04</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	74,927.00		74,927.00
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	7,484,476.47	45,003.47	7,529,479.94
Restricted for:			
Other Purposes	1,335,356.28		1,335,356.28
Unrestricted	(4,461,584.87)	61,370.04	(4,400,214.83)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 4,358,247.88</u>	<u>106,373.51</u>	<u>4,464,621.39</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

## FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The individual Fund statements and schedules present more detailed information for the individual fund in a format that segregates information by fund type.

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**June 30, 2016**

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,104,970.90	74,365.07	149.53	5,740.04	1,185,225.54
Receivables from Other Governments	16,905.54				16,905.54
Interfunds Receivable	37,988.00	3.43		137.78	38,129.21
Other Accounts Receivable	88,482.29				88,482.29
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	183,600.00				183,600.00
Total Assets	<u>1,431,946.73</u>	<u>74,368.50</u>	<u>149.53</u>	<u>5,877.82</u>	<u>1,512,342.58</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>					
Liabilities:					
Accounts Payable	258,100.90	58,752.10			316,853.00
Payable to State Government		17,163.00			17,163.00
Interfunds Payable	3.43		137.78		141.21
Unearned Revenue		28,712.60			28,712.60
Total Liabilities	<u>258,104.33</u>	<u>104,627.70</u>	<u>137.78</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>362,869.81</u>
Fund Balances:					
Nonspendable:					
None	-				-
Restricted for:					
Excess Surplus - Current Year	591,105.28				591,105.28
Excess Surplus - Prior Year - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	460,651.00				460,651.00
Debt Service				5,877.82	5,877.82
Capital Projects			11.75		11.75
Committed to:					
Maintenance Reserve	183,500.00				183,500.00
Capital Reserve	100.00				100.00
Assigned to:					
Designated by BOE for Subsequent Expenditures	100,000.00				100,000.00
Unassigned:					
General Fund	(161,513.88)				(161,513.88)
Special Revenue Fund		(30,259.20)			(30,259.20)
Total Fund Balances	<u>1,173,842.40</u>	<u>(30,259.20)</u>	<u>11.75</u>	<u>5,877.82</u>	<u>1,149,472.77</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 1,431,946.73</u>	<u>74,368.50</u>	<u>149.53</u>	<u>5,877.82</u>	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position (A-1) are different because:

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

The cost of the assets is \$16,986,061.96 and the accumulated depreciation is \$6,455,029.72.

10,531,032.24

Long - term liabilities, including bonds and capital leases payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported as liabilities in the funds.

(3,302,683.13)

Pension Liabilities Net of Deferred Outflows & Inflows

(3,980,082.00)

Interest on long-term debt in the statement of activities is accrued, regardless of when due.

(39,492.00)

Net position of governmental activities \$ 4,358,247.88

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement



**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Local Sources:					
Local Tax Levy	\$ 9,383,122.00			369,202.00	9,752,324.00
Tuition	139,241.49				139,241.49
Interest Earned on Investments	2,968.35		77.41		3,045.76
Miscellaneous	2,620.72				2,620.72
Total Local Sources	9,527,952.56	-	77.41	369,202.00	9,897,231.97
State Sources	7,395,707.38	571,555.79			7,967,263.17
Federal Sources	38,795.11	886,663.00			925,458.11
Total Revenues	16,962,455.05	1,458,218.79	77.41	369,202.00	18,789,953.25
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Current:					
Regular Instruction	4,829,865.80				4,829,865.80
Special Education Instruction	1,366,798.30	1,141,541.34			2,508,339.64
Other Special Instruction	324,498.25				324,498.25
Support Services:					
Tuition	354,870.66				354,870.66
Student & Instruction Related Serv.	1,755,355.14	316,282.65			2,071,637.79
School Administrative Services	512,708.77				512,708.77
General Administrative Services	314,968.19				314,968.19
Plant Operation and Maintenance	1,421,562.33				1,421,562.33
Pupil Transportation	399,666.79				399,666.79
Central Services	334,059.49				334,059.49
Employee Benefits	5,170,087.17				5,170,087.17
Debt Service:					
Principal				340,000.00	340,000.00
Interest and Other Charges				126,083.00	126,083.00
Capital Outlay	59,304.61				59,304.61
Transfer to Charter Schools	39,717.00				39,717.00
Total Expenditures	16,883,462.50	1,457,823.99	-	466,083.00	18,807,369.49
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	78,992.55	394.80	77.41	(96,881.00)	(17,416.24)
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
Transfer in				96,935.41	96,935.41
Transfer out			(96,935.41)		(96,935.41)
Total Other Financing Sources and Uses	-	-	(96,935.41)	96,935.41	-
Net Changes in Fund Balance	78,992.55	394.80	(96,858.00)	54.41	(17,416.24)
Fund Balance - July 1	1,094,849.85	(30,654.00)	96,869.75	5,823.41	1,166,889.01
Fund Balance - June 30	\$ 1,173,842.40	(30,259.20)	11.75	5,877.82	1,149,472.77

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2016**

Total Net Change in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds (from B-2) \$ (17,416.24)

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities (A-2) are different because:

Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures.

However, on 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 capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current fiscal year.

Depreciation expense	(493,416.66)	
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	(11,003.90)	
Capital Outlay	38,906.81	(465,513.75)

Repayment of bond principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long - term liabilities in the statement of net assets and is not reported in the statement of activities.

Bonds Payable	340,000.00	
Capital Lease Payable	28,867.23	368,867.23

Governmental funds report district pension contributions as expenditures.

However in the Statement of Activities, the cost of pension benefits earned net of of employee contributions is reported as pension expense.

District pension contributions - PERS		
Cost of benefits earned net of employee contributions	(327,305.00)	(327,305.00)

In the statement of activities, certain operating expenses, e.g., compensated absences (vacations and sick pay) are measured by the amounts earned during the year. In the governmental funds, however, expenditures for these items are reported in the amount of financial resources used (paid). When the earned amount exceeds the paid amount, the difference is a reduction in the reconciliation; when the paid amount exceeds the earned amount, the difference is an addition to the reconciliation.

31,030.64

In the statement of activities, interest on long - term debt is accrued, regardless of when due. In the governmental funds, interest is reported when due. The accrued interest is a deduction in the reconciliation.

4,391.00

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$ (405,946.12)	
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The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2016**

	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Fund Non Major Funds		
	Food Service	CER Program	Totals
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current Assets:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,099.67	36,057.92	40,157.59
Accounts Receivable	86,704.83		86,704.83
Inventories	2,317.93		2,317.93
Total Current Assets	<u>93,122.43</u>	<u>36,057.92</u>	<u>129,180.35</u>
Noncurrent Assets:			
Furniture, Machinery & Equipment	161,248.00		161,248.00
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(116,244.53)</u>		<u>(116,244.53)</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>45,003.47</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,003.47</u>
Total Assets	<u>138,125.90</u>	<u>36,057.92</u>	<u>174,183.82</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	10,137.83	54.48	10,192.31
Unearned Revenues		19,630.00	19,630.00
Interfunds Payable	37,988.00		37,988.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u>48,125.83</u>	<u>19,684.48</u>	<u>67,810.31</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities:			
None	-	-	-
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>48,125.83</u>	<u>19,684.48</u>	<u>67,810.31</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	45,003.47	-	45,003.47
Unrestricted	44,996.60	16,373.44	61,370.04
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 90,000.07</u>	<u>16,373.44</u>	<u>106,373.51</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Fund Non Major Funds		
	Food Service	CER Program	Totals Enterprise
Operating Revenues:			
Charges for Services:			
Daily Sales - Reimbursable Programs	\$ 34,970.99		34,970.99
Daily Sales - Non-reimbursable Programs	10,977.76		10,977.76
Participant Fees		177,733.67	177,733.67
Other Income	87.00		87.00
Total Operating Revenue	<u>46,035.75</u>	<u>177,733.67</u>	<u>223,769.42</u>
Operating Expenses:			
Cost of Sales	197,077.66		197,077.66
Salaries and Benefits	168,977.11	139,641.89	308,619.00
Management Fee	33,495.00		33,495.00
Other Purchased Professional Services		18,829.40	18,829.40
Supplies and Materials	16,475.32	7,533.58	24,008.90
Miscellaneous	10,042.76		10,042.76
Depreciation	3,646.53		3,646.53
Total Operating Expenses	<u>429,714.38</u>	<u>166,004.87</u>	<u>595,719.25</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>(383,678.63)</u>	<u>11,728.80</u>	<u>(371,949.83)</u>
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):			
State Sources:			
State School Lunch Program	5,175.39		5,175.39
Federal Sources:			
National School Lunch Program	270,932.31		270,932.31
National School Breakfast Program	72,988.29		72,988.29
After School Snack Program	13,361.88		13,361.88
Food Distribution Program	35,935.66		35,935.66
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	(1,120.00)		(1,120.00)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>397,273.53</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>397,273.53</u>
Income (Loss) before Contributions & Transfers	<u>13,594.90</u>	<u>11,728.80</u>	<u>25,323.70</u>
Changes in Net Position	13,594.90	11,728.80	25,323.70
Total Net Position - Beginning	<u>76,405.17</u>	<u>4,644.64</u>	<u>81,049.81</u>
Total Net Position - Ending	<u>\$ 90,000.07</u>	<u>16,373.44</u>	<u>106,373.51</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Fund Non Major Funds		
	Food Service	CER Program	Totals Enterprise
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Customers	\$ 5,245.67	181,908.67	187,154.34
Payments to Employees		(139,641.89)	(139,641.89)
Payments for Purchased Contracted Services		(18,829.22)	(18,829.22)
Payments for Suppliers	(412,385.37)	(7,573.58)	(419,958.95)
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities	<u>(407,139.70)</u>	<u>15,863.98</u>	<u>(391,275.72)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
State Sources	5,527.74		5,527.74
Federal Sources	369,775.97		369,775.97
Food Distribution Program	35,935.66		35,935.66
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>411,239.37</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>411,239.37</u>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
None	-	-	-
Net Cash (Used for) Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
None	-	-	-
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Investing Activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,099.67	15,863.98	19,963.65
Balance - Beginning of Year	-	20,193.94	20,193.94
Balance - End of Year	<u>4,099.67</u>	<u>36,057.92</u>	<u>40,157.59</u>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities:</b>			
Operating Income (Loss)	(383,678.63)	11,728.80	(371,949.83)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income(Loss) to Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities:			
Depreciation and Net Amortization	3,646.53		3,646.53
(Increase) in Inventory	3,544.65		3,544.65
(Decrease) in Interfund	(29,978.05)		(29,978.05)
(Increase) in Accounts Receivable	(10,812.03)	1,635.00	(9,177.03)
(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	10,137.83	(39.82)	10,098.01
Increase in Deferred Revenues		2,540.00	2,540.00
Total Adjustments	<u>(23,461.07)</u>	<u>4,135.18</u>	<u>(19,325.89)</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities	\$ <u>(407,139.70)</u>	<u>15,863.98</u>	<u>(391,275.72)</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Fiduciary Funds**  
**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	<u>Unemployment Compensation</u>	<u>Agency Fund</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ <u>161,707.28</u>	<u>24,024.76</u>
Total Assets	<u>161,707.28</u>	<u>24,024.76</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Payable to Student Groups		23,293.80
Accounts Payable	<u>699.27</u>	<u>730.96</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>699.27</u>	<u>24,024.76</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Held in Trust for Unemployment Claims and Other Purposes	\$ <u><u>161,008.01</u></u>	

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Fiduciary Funds**  
**Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	<u>Unemployment Compensation</u>
<b>ADDITIONS</b>	
Contributions:	
Plan Member	\$ 17,912.11
Board Contribution	40,000.00
	<u>57,912.11</u>
Total Contributions	
Investment Earnings:	
Interest	193.61
	<u>193.61</u>
Net Investment Earnings	
	<u>58,105.72</u>
Total Additions	
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>	
Unemployment Claims	7,963.94
	<u>7,963.94</u>
Total Deductions	
Changes in Net Assets	50,141.78
Net Position - Beginning of the Year	110,866.23
Net Position - End of the Year	\$ <u><u>161,008.01</u></u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of this statement

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016**

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

The City of Somers Point School District is an instrumentality of the State of New Jersey, established to function as an educational institution. The Board consists of elected officials and is responsible for the fiscal control of the District. A superintendent is appointed by the Board and is responsible for the administrative control of the District.

The financial statements of the Board of Education (Board) of the City of Somers Point School District (District) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. In its accounting and financial reporting, the District follows the pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the District are discussed below.

**A. REPORTING ENTITY**

The City of Somers Point School District is a Type II district located in the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey. As a Type II District, the School District functions independently through a Board of Education. The board is comprised of nine members elected to three-year terms. The purpose of the district is to educate students in grades K-8. The City of Somers Point School District had an enrollment at June 30, 2016 of 963 students.

The primary criterion for including activities within the District's reporting entity, as set forth in Section 2100 of the GASB Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, is whether:

- the organization is legally separate (can sue or be sued in their own name)
- the District holds the corporate powers of the organization
- the District appoints a voting majority of the organization's board
- the District is able to impose its will on the organization
- the organization has the potential to impose a financial benefit/burden on the District
- there is a fiscal dependency by the organization on the District

Based on the aforementioned criteria, the District has no component units.

**B. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS**

The District's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the District as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the District's major funds). Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type. The District's general and special revenue activities are classified as governmental activities. The District's Food Service and CER program is classified as business-type activities.

In the governmental-wide Statement of Net Position, both the governmental and business-type activities columns (a) are presented on a consolidated basis by column, (b) and are reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The District's net position are reported in three parts-invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted net position; and unrestricted net position. The District first utilizes restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

The government-wide Statement of Activities reports both the gross and net cost of each of the District's functions and business-type activities (food service). The functions are also supported by general government revenues (property taxes, tuition, certain intergovernmental revenues, etc.). The Statement of Activities reduces gross expenses (including depreciation) by related program revenues, operating and capital grants. Program revenues must be directly associated with the function (regular instruction, vocational programs, student & instruction related services, etc.) or a business-type activity. Operating grants include operating-specific and discretionary (either operating or capital) grants while the capital grants column reflects capital-specific grants.

The net costs (by function or business-type activity) are normally covered by general revenue (property taxes, interest income, etc.).

- a. The District does allocate indirect costs such as depreciation expense, compensated absences, On-behalf TPAF Pension Contributions, and Reimbursed TPAF Social Security Contributions.

The government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the District as an entity and the change in the District's net position resulting from the current year's activities. Fiduciary funds are not included in the government-wide statements.

**C. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial transactions of the District are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures/expenses. The various funds are reported by generic classification within the financial statements.

The emphasis in fund financial statements is on the major funds in either the governmental or business-type activities categories. Non-major funds by category are summarized into a single column. GASBS No. 34 sets forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets, liabilities, revenues or expenditures/expenses of either fund category or the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The non-major funds are combined in a column in the fund financial statements. The State of New Jersey Department of Education has mandated that all New Jersey School Districts must report all governmental funds as major, regardless of the fund meeting the GASB definition of a major fund. However, the criteria are applied to proprietary funds.

The following fund types are used by the District:

**1. Governmental Funds:**

The focus of the governmental funds' measurement (in the fund statements) is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The following is a description of the governmental funds of the District.

- a. **General Fund** is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.
- b. **Special Revenue** funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for a specific purpose. The special revenue fund is specifically used to account for state and federal grant monies that have been allocated to the District.
- c. **Capital Projects** funds are used to account for all financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities. The financial resources are derived from temporary notes or serial bonds that are specifically authorized by the voters as a separate question on the ballot either during the annual election or at a special election.

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

- d. **Debt Service** funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued to finance major property acquisition, construction and improvement programs.

**Fund Balances – Governmental Funds**

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report the following classifications of fund balance:

Nonspendable – includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not spendable in form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted – includes amounts restricted by external sources (creditors, laws of other governments, etc.) or by constitutional provision or enabling legislation.

Committed – includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes. Committed fund balance is reported pursuant to resolutions passed by the Board of Education, the District's highest level of decision making authority. Commitments may be modified or rescinded only through resolutions approved by the Board of Education.

Assigned – includes amounts that the District intends to use for a specific purpose, but do not meet the definition of restricted or committed fund balance. Under the District's policy, amounts may be assigned by the Business Administrator.

Unassigned – includes amounts that have not been assigned to other funds or restricted, committed or assigned to a specific purpose within the General Fund. The District reports all amounts that meet the unrestricted General Fund Balance Policy described below as unassigned:

The details of the fund balances are included in the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet. When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the District considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balance are available, the District considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed.

**2. Proprietary Funds:**

The focus of proprietary fund measurement is upon determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows. The generally accepted accounting principles applicable are those similar to businesses in the private sector. The following is a description of the proprietary funds of the District:

- a. **Enterprise Funds** are required to be used to account for operations for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services and the activity (a) is financed with debt that is solely secured by a pledge of the net revenues, (b) has third party requirements that the cost of providing services, including capital costs, be recovered with fees and charges or (c) establishes fees and charges based on a pricing policy designated to recover similar costs. The District operates a CER fund to provide a Community Education Program for the students of the District and a food service fund to provide a child nutrition program for the students of the district.

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

**3. Fiduciary Funds:**

Fiduciary funds are used to report assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others and therefore are not available to support District programs. The reporting focus is on net position and changes in net position, and is reported using accounting principles similar to proprietary funds.

The District's fiduciary funds are presented in the fiduciary fund financial statements by type (pension, private purpose and agency). Since by definition these assets are being held for the benefit of a third party (other local governments, private parties, pension participants, etc.), and cannot be used to address activities or obligations of the government, these funds are not incorporated into the government-wide statements.

All fund internal activity is eliminated when carried to the Government-Wide statements.

**D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

Basis of accounting refers to the point at which revenues or expenditures/expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. It relates to the timing of the measurements made regardless of the measurement focus applied.

**1. Accrual:**

Both governmental and business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements and the proprietary and fiduciary fund financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

**2. Modified Accrual:**

The governmental fund financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual; i.e., both measurable and available. "Available" means collectible within the current period or within 60 days after year end. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. The exception to this general rule is that principal and interest on general obligation long-term debt, if any, is recognized when due.

**E. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AMOUNTS**

**1. Cash and Cash Equivalents:**

Cash and cash equivalents include petty cash, change funds, cash in banks and all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase and are stated at cost plus accrued interest. U.S. Treasury and agency obligations and certificates of deposit with maturities of one year or less when purchased are stated at cost. All other investments are stated at fair value.

New Jersey school districts are limited as to the types of investments and types of financial institutions they may invest in. New Jersey statute 18A:20-37 provides a list of permissible investments that may be purchased by New Jersey school districts.

Additionally, the District has adopted a cash management plan that requires it to deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act ("GUDPA"). GUDPA was enacted in 1970 to protect Governmental Units from a loss of funds on deposit with a failed banking institution in New Jersey.

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

NJSA 17:9-41 et. seq. establishes the requirements for the security of deposits of governmental units. The statute requires that no governmental unit shall deposit public funds in a public depository unless such funds are secured in accordance with the Act. Public depositories include Savings and Loan institutions, banks (both state and national banks) and savings banks the deposits of which are federally insured. All public depositories must pledge collateral, having a market value at least equal to five percent of the average daily balance of collected public funds, to secure the deposits of Governmental Units. If a public depository fails, the collateral it has pledged, plus the collateral of all other public depositories, is available to pay the full amount of their deposits to the Governmental units.

**2. Investments:**

Investments, including deferred compensation and pension funds, are stated at fair value, (quoted market price or the best available estimate). Interest earned on investments in the Capital Projects Fund is recognized as a reserve to pay future debt service or transferred to the general fund.

**3. Inventories:**

Inventories in the general fund consist of expendable supplies held for the District's use and are carried at cost using the first-in, first-out method. Inventories in the enterprise fund are valued at cost, which approximates market, using the first-in, first –out method. As of June 30, 2016, the District did not have inventory in the general fund and had the following inventory in the enterprise fund:

Food and	\$	2,317.93
Supplies		
	\$	<u>2,317.93</u>

The value of Federal donated commodities is the difference between market value and cost of the commodities at the date of purchase and has been included as an item of non-operating revenue in the financial statements. The value of commodities included in the food inventory on June 30, 2016 is \$695.42.

**4. Capital Assets:**

Capital assets purchased or acquired with an original cost of \$2,000 or more are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Contributed assets are reported at fair market value as of the date received. Additions, improvements and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings	20-50 years
Machinery and equipment	5-10 years
Improvements	10-20 years
Infrastructure Assets	50-65 years

Infrastructure assets include roads, parking lots, underground pipe, etc. The District includes all infrastructure assets as depreciable assets in the financial statements.

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

**5. Revenues:**

Substantially all governmental fund revenues are accrued. Property taxes are susceptible to accrual and under New Jersey State Statutes a municipality is required to remit to its school district the entire balance of taxes in the amount certified, prior to the end of the school year. The District records the entire approved tax levy as revenue (accrued) at the start of the fiscal year, since the revenue is both measurable and available. Subsidies and grants to proprietary funds, which finance either capital or current operations, are reported as non-operating revenue. In respect to grant revenues, the provider recognizes liabilities and expenses and the recipient recognizes receivables and revenue when the applicable eligibility requirements, including time requirements are met. Resources transmitted before the eligibility requirements are met are reported as advances by the provider and unearned revenue by the recipient. Program revenues, including tuition revenue are reported as reductions to expenses in the statement of activities.

**6. Expenditures:**

Expenses are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred. Inventory costs are reported in the period when inventory items are used, rather than in the period purchased.

**7. Compensated Absences:**

Compensated absences are those absences for which employees will be paid, such as vacation, sick leave, and sabbatical leave. A liability for compensated absences that are attributable to services already rendered, and that are not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the District and its employees, is accrued as the employees earn the rights to the benefits. Compensated absences that relate to future services, or that are contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the District and its employees, are accounted for in the period in which such services are rendered or in which such events take place.

In governmental and similar trust funds, compensated absences that are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources are reported as both an expenditure and a fund liability in the fund that will pay for the compensated absences. The remainder of the compensated absences liability is reported in the District-wide Financial Statements as a Governmental Activity.

In proprietary and similar trust funds, compensated absences are recorded as an expense and liability of the fund that will pay for them.

**8. Interfund Activity:**

Interfund activity is reported as loans, services provided, reimbursements or transfers. Loans are reported as interfund receivables and payables as appropriate and are subject to elimination upon consolidation. Services provided, deemed to be at market or near market rates, are treated as revenues and expenditures/expenses. Reimbursements are when one fund incurs a cost, charges the appropriate benefiting fund and reduces its related costs as reimbursement. All other interfund transactions are treated as transfers. Transfers between governmental or proprietary funds are netted as part of the reconciliation to the government-wide financial statements.

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

**9. Budgets/Budgetary Control:**

Annual appropriated budgets are prepared in the spring of each year for the general, special revenue and debt service funds. The budgets are submitted to the county office for approval and, as long as the District budget is within State mandated CAPs, there is no public vote on the budget. If the budget exceeds State mandated CAPs, the voters have an opportunity to approve or reject the budget at the regular election held in November. Budgets are prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting, except for the special revenue fund as described later. The legal level of budgetary control is established at line item accounts within each fund. Line item accounts are defined as the lowest (most specific) level of detail as established pursuant to the minimum chart of accounts referenced in N.J.A.C. 6:23-2(g). Transfers of appropriations may be made by School Board resolution at any time during the fiscal year and are subject to two-thirds majority vote by the School Board and under certain circumstances require approval by the County Superintendent of Schools.

Significant transfers approved by the Board of Education during the fiscal year were as follows:

Regular Programs - Instruction	
Grades 1 - 5 Salaries of Teachers	\$ (36,639.00)
Regular Programs - Undistributed Instruction	
Other Salaries for Instruction	(42,859.00)
Special Education - Instruction	
Multiple Disabilities - Salaries of Teachers	50,409.00
Multiple Disabilities - Other Salaries for Instruction	46,565.00
Community Services Programs/Operations	
Salaries	89,019.00
Undistributed Expenditures -	
Tuition to CSSD & Regional Day Schools	(97,803.00)
Tuition to Private Schools for the Disabled-Within State	50,500.00
Custodial Services - Cleaning, Repair and Maintenance Service	62,746.00
Unallocated Benefits - Health Benefits	(236,782.44)
Unallocated Benefits - Other Employee Benefits	81,152.00
Local Contribution-Transfer to Special Revenue	(66,293.00)

Formal budgetary integration into the accounting system is employed as a management control device during the year. For governmental funds there are no substantial differences between the budgetary basis of accounting and generally accepted accounting principles with the exception of the legally mandated revenue recognition of the last state aid payments for budgetary purposes only and the special revenue fund as noted below. Encumbrance accounting is also employed as an extension of formal budgetary integration in the governmental fund types. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at fiscal year end.

The accounting records of the special revenue fund are maintained on the grant accounting budgetary basis. The grant accounting budgetary basis differs from GAAP in that the grant accounting budgetary basis recognizes encumbrances as expenditures and also recognizes the related revenues, whereas the GAAP basis does not. Sufficient supplemental records are maintained to allow for the presentation of GAAP basis financial reports.

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

**10. Tuition Receivable:**

Tuition charges were established by the Board of Education based on estimated costs. The charges are subject to adjustment when the final costs have been determined. The final cost is based on agreements with the sending districts with a negotiated amount up to the final cost as determined by State of New Jersey.

**11. Tuition Payable:**

Tuition charges for the fiscal years 2015/16 were based on rates established by the receiving district. These rates are subject to change when the actual costs have been determined.

**12. Use of Estimates:**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those results.

**13. Allocation of Costs:**

In the government-wide statement of activities, the District has allocated unallocated benefits to various programs based on the budgetary expenditures by program.

**14. Pensions:**

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) and additions to/deductions from the fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the TPAF and PERS. 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.

**F. RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS NOT YET EFFECTIVE**

In June 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 74, "Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans". This statement is effective for fiscal periods beginning after June 30, 2016 establishes new accounting and financial reporting requirements for OPEB plans. It is anticipated that this statement will not have any effect on the District's financial reporting.

In June 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions". This statement is effective for fiscal periods beginning after June 30, 2017. Although not determinable, the impact of this statement on the net position of the entity is anticipated to be significant.

In August 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 77, "Tax Abatement Disclosure". This statement is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2015, will not have any effect on the District's financial reporting.

In December 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 78, "Pensions Provided through Certain Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plans". This statement is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2015, will not have any effect on the District's financial reporting.

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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In January 2016, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 80, "Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14". This statement is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2016, will not have any effect on the District's financial reporting.

In March 2016, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 81, "Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements". This statement is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2016, will not have any effect on the District's financial reporting.

In March 2016, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 82, "Pension Issues – an amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, No. 68, and No.73". This statement is effective for fiscal periods beginning after June 15, 2016, will not have any effect on the District's financial reporting, however will affect the disclosure of pension related items.

**NOTE 2 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Custodial Credit Risk Related to Deposits - Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the School District's deposits might not be recovered. Although the School District does not have a formal policy regarding custodial credit risk, N.J.S.A. 17:9-41 et seq. requires that governmental units shall deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act at June 30, 2016, the carrying amount of the Board's deposits were \$1,594,715.17 and the bank balance was \$1,675,471.20. Of the School District's bank balance of \$1,675,471.20 as of June 30, 2016, \$206,764.94 was uninsured and uncollateralized.

**NOTE 3 – RECEIVABLES**

Receivables at June 30, 2016, consisted of accounts (rent, tuition, and fees), accrued interest, interfund, intergovernmental, and property taxes. All receivables are considered collectible in full. A summary of the principal items of intergovernmental receivables follows:

	Governmental Fund Financial Statements	District Wide Financial Statements
State Aid	\$ 11,567.00	12,473.35
Federal Aid	5,338.54	67,341.15
Other	88,482.29	112,278.16
Gross Receivables	105,387.83	192,092.66
Less: Allowance for Uncollectibles		
Total Receivables, Net	\$ 105,387.83	192,092.66

**NOTE 4 – INTERFUND TRANSFERS AND BALANCES**

Transfers between funds are used to (1) move investment income earned in the Capital Projects Fund that is required to be expended in the Debt Service Fund; (2) repay expenses paid by another fund.

The following interfund balances remained on the fund financial statements at June 30, 2016.

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Fund	Interfund Receivable	Interfund Payable
General Fund	\$ 37,988.00	3.43
Special Revenue Fund	3.43	
Capital Projects Fund		137.78
Debt Service Fund	137.78	
Food Service Fund		37,988.00
	<u>\$ 38,129.21</u>	<u>38,129.21</u>

The general fund receivable is comprised of one interfund due from the food service fund in the amount of \$37,988.00 for equipment purchased. The special revenue fund receivable is comprised on one interfund due from the general fund in the amount of \$3.43. The debt service fund receivable is comprised of one interfund. It is due from the capital projects Fund in the amount of \$137.78 which is a result of interest earned on the deposits in the Capital Projects Fund.

**NOTE 5 – CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2016, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions/ Adjustments	Adjustments	Ending Balance
<b>Governmental activities:</b>					
Capital assets, not being depreciated:					
Land	\$ 27,012.00			\$	27,012.00
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>27,012.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,012.00</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:					
Land Improvements	165,531.00				165,531.00
Buildings and building improvements	16,277,094.00				16,277,094.00
Equipment	610,238.00	38,906.80	(154,691.84)	21,972.00	516,424.96
Total capital assets being depreciated at historical cost	<u>17,052,863.00</u>	<u>38,906.80</u>	<u>(154,691.84)</u>	<u>21,972.00</u>	<u>16,959,049.96</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:					
Land Improvements	(105,458.00)	(5,876.55)			(111,334.55)
Buildings and improvements	(5,519,749.00)	(458,332.78)			(5,978,081.78)
Equipment	(458,122.00)	(30,625.91)	143,687.94	(20,553.42)	(365,613.39)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>11,253,573.84</u>	<u>(455,928.44)</u>	<u>(11,003.90)</u>	<u>1,418.58</u>	<u>10,504,020.24</u>
Governmental activity capital assets, net	<u>11,280,585.84</u>	<u>(455,928.44)</u>	<u>(11,003.90)</u>	<u>1,418.58</u>	<u>10,531,032.24</u>
<b>Business-type activities:</b>					
Capital assets being depreciated:					
Equipment	168,048.00		(6,800.00)		161,248.00
Less accumulated depreciation	(118,278.00)	(3,646.53)	5,680.00		(116,244.53)
Enterprise Fund capital assets, net	<u>\$ 49,770.00</u>	<u>(3,646.53)</u>	<u>(1,120.00)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,003.47</u>

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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Depreciation expense is charged to governmental functions as follows:

Regular Instruction	\$ 187,393.15
Special Education	97,320.65
Other Special Instruction	12,590.15
Student & Instruction Related Service	80,377.13
School Administrative Services	19,892.50
General Administrative Services	12,220.40
Plant Operations and Maintenance	55,154.96
Pupil Transportation	15,506.60
Central Services	12,961.12
	<u>\$ 493,416.66</u>

**NOTE 6 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

Changes in long-term obligations for the year ended June 30, 2016 are as follows:

	Balance July 1, 2015	Issues or Additions	Payments or Expenditures	Balance June 30, 2016	Amounts Due Within One Year
Compensated Absences	\$ 287,158.00		31,030.64	256,127.36	
Capital Leases Payable	119,423.00		28,867.23	90,555.77	29,516.45
Bonds Payable	3,296,000.00		340,000.00	2,956,000.00	350,000.00
Net Pension Liability	<u>3,826,055.00</u>	<u>1,488,810.00</u>	<u>654,696.00</u>	<u>4,660,169.00</u>	
	<u>\$ 7,528,636.00</u>	<u>1,488,810.00</u>	<u>1,054,593.87</u>	<u>7,962,852.13</u>	<u>379,516.45</u>

Compensated absences have been liquidated in the General Fund.

**Bonds Payable**

Bonds are authorized in accordance with State law by the voters of the municipality through referendums. All bonds are retired in serial installments within the statutory period of usefulness. Bonds issued by the District are general obligation bonds.

At June 30, 2016, bonds payable consisted of the following issues:

\$1,523,000 School Bonds dated April 4, 2006, due in annual installments beginning February 1, 2005 through February 1, 2019, bearing interest at 4.10% per annum. The balance remaining as of June 30, 2016 is \$403,000.00.

\$3,443,000 School Bonds dated February 15, 2011, due in annual installments beginning February 15, 2011 through February 15, 2026, bearing interest at variable rates from 2.00% to 4.00% per annum. The balance remaining as of June 30, 2016 is \$2,553,000.00.

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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Debt service requirements on serial bonds payable at June 30, 2016 are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2017	\$ 350,000.00	114,343.00	464,343.00
2018	360,000.00	102,303.00	462,303.00
2019	353,000.00	89,963.00	442,963.00
2020	240,000.00	75,720.00	315,720.00
2021	250,000.00	66,120.00	316,120.00
2022-2026	1,403,000.00	170,000.00	1,573,000.00
	<u>\$ 2,956,000.00</u>	<u>618,449.00</u>	<u>3,574,449.00</u>

**Capital Leases**

The District is leasing security system equipment amounting to \$159,423.00 under capital leases. The following is a schedule of the future minimum lease payments under these capital leases and the net minimum lease payments at June 30, 2016:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Amount
2017	\$ 31,553.05
2018	31,553.05
2019	31,553.05
Total minimum lease payments	94,659.15
Less amount representing interest	4,103.38
Present value of lease payments	<u>\$ 90,555.77</u>

**NOTE 7 – PENSION PLANS**

Description of Plans - All required employees of the District are covered by either the Public Employees' Retirement System or the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund which have been established by state statute and are administered by the New Jersey Division of Pension and Benefits (Division). According to the State of New Jersey Administrative Code, all obligations of both Systems will be assumed by the State of New Jersey should the Systems terminate. The Division issues a publicly available financial report that includes the financial statements and required supplementary information for the Public Employees Retirement System and the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund. These reports may be obtained by writing to the Division of Pension and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625 or the reports can be accessed on the internet at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annrpts.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annrpts.shtml)

Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF)

The Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund was established as of January 1, 1955, under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:66 to provide retirement benefits, death, disability and medical benefits to certain qualified members. The Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund is considered a cost-sharing multiple-employer plan with a special funding situation, as under current statute, all employer contributions are made by the State of New Jersey on behalf of the District and the system's other related non-contributing employers. Membership is mandatory for substantially all teachers or members of the professional staff certified by the State Board of Examiners, and employees of the Department of Education who have titles that are unclassified, professional and certified.

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*Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)*

The Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) was established as of January 1, 1955 under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:15A to provide retirement, death, disability and medical benefits to certain qualified members. The Public Employees' Retirement System is a cost-sharing multiple-employer plan. Membership is mandatory for substantially all full-time employees of the State of New Jersey or any county, municipality, school district, or public agency, provided the employee is not required to be a member of another state-administered retirement system or other state or local jurisdiction.

*Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP)*

The Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP) was established as of July 1, 2007 under the provisions of Chapter 92, P.L. 2007 and Chapter 103, P.L. 2007 (N.J.S.A. 43:15C-1 et seq.). The DCRP is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined contribution pension fund. The DCRP provides eligible members, and their beneficiaries with a tax-sheltered, defined contribution retirement benefit, along with life insurance and disability coverage. Vesting and benefit provisions are established by N. J.S.A. 43:15C-1 et. seq.

*Funding Policy*

The contribution policy is set by N.J.S.A. 43:15A, Chapter 62, P.L. of 1994, Chapter 115, P.L. of 1997 and N.J.S.A. 18:66, and requires contributions by active members and contributing employers. Plan member and employer contributions may be amended by State of New Jersey legislation. TPAF and PERS provide for employee contributions of 6.78% of employees' annual compensation, as defined. Employers are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate in both TPAF and PERS. The School District's contributions to TPAF for the years ending June 30, 2016, 2015, and 2014 were \$553,221.00, \$387,213.00, and \$312,733.00 respectively, and paid by the State of New Jersey on behalf of the board, equal to the required contributions for each year. The School District's contributions to PERS for the years ending June 30, 2016, 2015, and 2014 were \$178,479.00, \$168,466.00 and \$165,607.00 respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

During the fiscal years ended June 30, 2016, 2015, and 2014, the State of New Jersey contributed \$658,733.00, \$614,701.00, and \$512,763.00, respectively, to the TPAF for post-retirement medical benefits on behalf of the Board. Also, in accordance with NJSA 18A:66-66 the State of New Jersey reimbursed the Board \$541,592.18, \$566,616.12, and \$514,475.70, during the same fiscal years for the employer's share of social security contributions for TPAF members as calculated on their base salaries. These amounts, which are not required to be budgeted, have been included in the financial statements, and the combining and individual fund statements and schedules as revenues and expenditures in accordance in GASB Standards.

For the DCRP, members contribute at a uniform rate of 5.5% of their base salary. Employers are required to contribute at a set rate of 3.0% of base salary. There were employees enrolled in the DCRP for the year ended June 30, 2016.

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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Vesting and Benefit Provisions - The vesting and benefit provisions for PERS are set by N.J.S.A. 43:15A and 43:3B, and N.J.S.A. 18A:6C for TPAF. All benefits vest after eight to ten years of service, except for medical benefits that vest after 25 years of service. Retirement benefits for age and service are available at age 60 and are generally determined to be 1/60 of the final average salary for each year of service credit, as defined. Final average salary equals the average salary for the final three years of service prior to retirement (or highest three years' compensation if other than the final three years). Members may seek early retirement after achieving 25 years of service credit or they may elect deferred retirement after achieving eight to ten years of service in which case benefits would begin the first day of the month after the member attains normal retirement age. The TPAF and PERS provides for specified medical benefits for members who retire after achieving 25 years of qualified service, as defined, or under the disability provisions of the System. Members are always fully vested for their own contributions and, after three years of service credit, become vested for 2% of related interest earned on the contributions. In the case of death before retirement, members' beneficiaries are entitled to full interest credited to the members' accounts.

Significant Legislation

Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, effective June 28, 2011 made various changes to the manner in which the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) operate and to the benefit provisions of those systems.

Chapter 78's provisions impacting employee pension and health benefits include:

- New members of the PERS hired on or after June 28, 2011 (Tier 5 members) will need 30 years of creditable service and age 65 for receipt of the early retirement benefit without a reduction of 1/4 of 1% for each month that the member is under age 65.
- The eligibility age to qualify for a service retirement in the PERS is increased from age 63 to 65 for Tier 5 members.
- The annual benefit under special retirement for new PFRS members enrolled after June 28, 2011 (Tier 3 members), will be 60% instead of 65% of the member's final compensation plus 1% for each year of creditable service over 25 years but not to exceed 30 years.
- Increases in active member contribution rates. PERS active member rates increase from 5.5% of annual compensation to 6.5% plus an additional 1% phased-in over 7 years; PFRS active member rate increase from 8.5% to 10%. For fiscal year 2012, the member contribution rates increased in October 2011. The phase-in of the additional incremental member contribution rates for PES members will take place in July of each subsequent fiscal year.
- The payment of automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) additional increases to current and future retirees and beneficiaries is suspended until reactivated as permitted by this law.
- New employee contribution requirements towards the cost of employer-provided health benefit coverage. Employees are required to contribute a certain percentage of the cost of coverage. The rate of contribution is determined based on the employee's annual salary and the selected level of coverage. The increased employee contributions will be phased in over a 4-year period for those employed prior to Chapter 78's effective date with a minimum contribution required to be at least 1.5% of salary.
- In addition, this new legislation changes the method for amortizing the pension systems' unfunded accrued liability (from a level percent of pay method to a level dollar of pay).

Chapter 1, P.L. 2010, effective May 21, 2010, made a number of changes to the State-administered retirement systems concerning eligibility, the retirement allowance formula, the definition of compensation, the positions eligible for service credit, the non-forfeitable right to a pension, the prosecutor's part of the PERS, special retirement under the PFRS, and employer contributions to the retirement systems.

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Also, Chapter 1, P.L. 2010 changed the membership eligibility criteria for new members of PERS from the amount of annual compensation to the number of hours worked weekly. Also, it returned the benefit multiplier for new members of PERS to 1/60<sup>th</sup> from 1/55<sup>th</sup>, and it provided that new members of PERS have the retirement allowance calculated using the average annual compensation for the last five years of service instead of the last three years of service. New members of PERS will no longer receive pension service credit from more than one employer. Pension service credit will be earned for the highest paid position only. For new members of the PERS, the law capped the maximum compensation that can be used to calculate a pension from these plans at the annual wage contribution base for social security, and requires the pension to be calculated using a three year average annual compensation instead of the last year's salary. This law also closed the Prosecutors Part of the PERS to new members and repealed the law for new members that provided a non-forfeitable right to receive a pension based on the laws of the retirement system in place at the time 5 years of pension service credit is attained. The law also requires the State to make its full pension contribution, defined a 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the required amount, beginning in fiscal years 2012.

Chapter 3, P.L. 2010, effective May 21, 2010, replaced the accidental and ordinary disability retirement for new members of the PERS with disability insurance coverage similar to that provided by the State to individuals enrolled in the State's Defined Contribution Retirement Program.

Chapter 92, P.L. 2007 implemented certain recommendations contained in the December 1, 2006 report of the Joint Legislative Committee on Public Employee Benefits Reform; established a DCRP for elected and certain appointed officials, effective July 1, 2007; the new pension loan interest rate became 4.69% per year, and an \$8.00 processing fee per loan was charged, effective January 1, 2008. The legislation also removed language from existing law that permits the State Treasurer to reduce employer pension contributions needed to fund the Funds and Systems when excess assets are available.

**NOTE 8 – PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

At June 30, 2016, the District reported a liability of \$4,660,169.00 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2015, 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 a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2015, the District's proportion was 0.02075984620%, which was an increase of 0.0003245% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2014.

For the year ended June 30, 2016, the District recognized pension expense of \$337,318.00. At June 30, 2016, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PERS from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expended and actual experience	\$ 111,175	
Changes of assumptions	500,465	
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments		74,927
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	143,374	
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date		
Total	<u>\$ 755,014</u>	<u>74,927</u>

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\$178,479.00 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from school district contributions subsequent to the measurement date (June 30, 2015) will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2016. 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,		
2017	\$	127,131
2018		127,131
2019		127,131
2020		190,837
2021		107,857
Total	\$	<u>680,087</u>

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2015 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation of July 1, 2014, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2015. The total pension liability for the June 30, 2014 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2014. This actuarial valuation used the following assumptions, applied to all period in the measurement:

Inflation rate	3.04%
Salary increases:	
2012-2021	2.15% - 4.40% (based on age)
Thereafter	3.15% - 5.40% (based on age)
Investment rate of return:	7.90%

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Male and Female Mortality Tables (setback 1 year for males and females) for service retirement and beneficiaries of former members with adjustments for mortality improvements from the base year of 2012 based on Projections Scale AA. The RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Tables (setback 3 years for males and setback 1 year for females) are used to value disabled retirees.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2014 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011. It is likely that future experience will not exactly conform to these assumptions. To the extent that actual experience deviates from these assumptions, the emerging liabilities may be higher or lower than anticipated. The more the experience deviates, the larger the impact on future financial statements.

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7.9% at June 30, 2015) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees, and the actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in PERS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2015 are summarized in the following table:

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Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	5.00%	1.04%
U.S. Treasuries	1.75%	1.64%
Investment Grade Credit	10.00%	1.79%
Mortgages	2.10%	1.62%
High Yield Bonds	2.00%	4.03%
Inflation-Indexed Bonds	1.50%	3.25%
Broad US Equities	27.25%	8.52%
Developed Foreign Equities	12.00%	6.88%
Emerging Market Equities	6.40%	10.00%
Private Equity	9.25%	12.41%
Hedge Funds/Absolute Return	12.00%	4.72%
Real Estate (Property)	2.00%	6.83%
Commodities	1.00%	5.32%
Global Debt ex US	3.50%	0.40%
REIT	4.25%	5.12%

*Discount Rate*

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 4.90% as of June 30, 2015. This single blended discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.9%, and a municipal bond rate of 3.80% as of June 30, 2015, based on the Bond Buyer Go 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made based on the average of the last five years of contributions made in relation to the last five years of actuarially determined contributions. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current plan members through 2033, and the municipal bond rate was applied to projected benefit payments after that date in determining the total pension liability.

*Sensitivity of the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate.*

The following presents the collective net pension liability of the participated employers as of June 30, 2015, calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above as well as what the collective net pension liability would be if it was calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (3.90%)	Current Discount Rate (4.90%)	1% Increase (5.90%)
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 5,622,289	4,660,169	3,854,873



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*Pension plan fiduciary net position.*

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

**NOTE 9 – TEACHERS PENSIONS AND ANNUITY FUND (TPAF)**

At June 30, 2016, the District reported a liability for its proportionate share of the net pension liability that reflected a reduction for State pension support provided to the District. The amount recognized by the District as its proportionate share of the net pension liability, the related State support, and the total portion of the net pension liability that was associated with the District were as follows:

District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ -
State's proportionate share of the net position liability associated with the District	<u>45,267,958</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 45,267,958</u></u>

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2015 and the total pension liability 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 a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating school districts and the State, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2015, the District's proportion was 0.00%, which was no change from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2014.

For the year ended June 30, 2016, the District recognized pension expense of \$2,764,016 and revenue of \$2,379,102 for support provided by the State. At June 30, 2016, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to TPAF from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expended and actual experience	\$ 230,067	13,637
Changes of assumptions	5,156,871	
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments		383,433
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions		1,353,005
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date		
Total	<u><u>\$ 5,386,938</u></u>	<u><u>1,750,075</u></u>

\$384,914 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from district contributions subsequent to the measurement date (June 30, 2015) will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2016. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

Year ended June 30,		
2017	\$	427,234
2018		427,234
2019		427,234
2020		654,472
2021		553,910
Thereafter		1,146,779
Total	\$	<u>3,636,863</u>

*Actuarial assumptions.* The total pension liability in the June 30, 2015 actuarial valuation was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2014, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2015. This actuarial valuation used the following assumptions, applied to all period included in the measurement:

Inflation Rate	2.50%
Salary increases	
2012-2021	Varies based on experience
Thereafter	Varies based on experience
Investment rate of return	7.90%

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Health Annuitant Mortality Table for Males or Females, as appropriate with adjustments for mortality improvements based on Scale AA from the base year of 2000 until the valuation date plus 15 years to account for future mortality improvement. Post-retirement mortality improvements for non-disabled annuitants are projected using Scale AA from the base year of 2000 for males and 2003 for females until the valuation date plus 7 years to account for future mortality improvement.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2014 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7.90% at June 30, 2015) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees and the actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return was determined using a building block method in which best-estimated ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in TPAF's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2015 are summarized in the following table:

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return.
US Cash	5.00%	53.00%
US Government Bonds	1.75%	1.39%
US Credit Bonds	13.50%	2.72%
US Mortgages	2.10%	2.54%
US Inflation-Indexed Bonds	1.50%	1.47%
US High Yield Bonds	2.00%	4.57%
US Equity Market	27.25%	5.63%
Foreign Developed Equity	12.00%	6.22%
Emerging market equities	6.40%	8.46%
Private Real Estate Property	4.25%	3.97%
Timber	1.00%	4.09%
Farmland	1.00%	4.61%
Private equity	9.25%	9.15%
Commodities	1.00%	3.58%
Hedge Funds - Multi Strategy	4.00%	4.59%
Hedge Funds - Equity Hedge	4.00%	5.68%
Hedge Funds - Distressed	4.00%	4.30%

*Discount rate.* The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 4.13% as of June 30, 2015. This single blended discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.90%, and a municipal bond rate of 3.80% as of June 30, 2015, based on the Bond Buyer Go 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made based on the average of the last five years of employers' contributions. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current plan members through 2027. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to projected benefit payments through 2027, and the municipal bond rate was applied to projected benefit payments after that date in determining the total pension liability.

*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 4.13% 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 (3.13%) or 1-percentage point higher (5.13%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (3.13%)	Current Discount Rate (4.13%)	1% Increase (5.13%)
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ -	-	-

**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

*Pension plan fiduciary net position.*

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

**NOTE 10 – POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

Chapter 384 of Public Laws 1987 and Chapter 6 of Public Laws 1990 required Teachers' Pensions and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), respectively, to fund post-retirement medical benefits for those State employees who retire after accumulating 25 years of credited service or on a disability retirement. P.L. 2007, c.103 amended the law to eliminate the funding of post-retirement medical benefits through the TPAF and PERS. It created separate funds outside of the pension plans for the funding and payment of post-retirement medical benefits for retired State employees and retired educational employees. As of June 30, 2015, there were 107,314 retirees receiving post-retirement medical benefits, and the State contributed \$1.25 billion on their behalf. The cost of these benefits is funded through contributions by the State in accordance with P.L. 1994, c. 62. Funding of post-retirement medical changed from a pre-funding basis to a pay-as-you-go basis beginning in fiscal year 1994.

The State is also responsible for the cost attributable to P.L. 1992 c. 126, which provides employer paid health benefits to members of PERS and the Alternate Benefit Program who retired from a board of education or county college with 25 years of service. The State paid \$214.1 million toward Chapter 126 benefits for 19,056 eligible retired members in Fiscal Year 2015.

**NOTE 11 – COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

The liability for vested compensated absences for the governmental fund types is recorded in current and long-term liabilities. The current portion of the compensated absences balance of the governmental funds is not considered material to the applicable funds total liabilities, and therefore is not shown separately from the long-term liability of compensated absences.

The liability for vested compensated absences of the proprietary fund types is recorded within those funds as the benefits accrue to employees. As of June 30, 2016, no liability existed for compensated absences in the Food Service Fund and Community Education Recreation Program.

**NOTE 12 – DEFERRED COMPENSATION**

The District offers its employees a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b). The plans, which are administered by the entities listed below, permit participants to defer a portion of their salary until future years. Amounts deferred under the plans are not available to employees until termination, retirement, death or unforeseeable emergency. The plan administrators are as follows:

Lincoln Investments	Valic
Equitable Insurance	Siracusa Insurance

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

**NOTE 13 – CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT**

A capital reserve account was established by City of Somers Point Board of Education by the inclusion of \$100.00 on September 21, 2000 for the accumulation of funds for use as capital outlay expenditures in subsequent fiscal years. The capital reserve account is maintained in the general fund and its activity is included in the general fund annual budget.

Beginning balance, July 1, 2015	\$ 100.00
No activity in FY 2016	-
Ending balance, June 30, 2016	<u>\$ 100.00</u>

Funds placed in the capital reserve account are restricted to capital projects in the district's approved Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) and updated annually in the Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR). Upon submission of the LRFP to the department, a district may deposit funds into the capital reserve account at any time upon board resolution through the transfer of undesignated, unreserved general fund balance or of excess undesignated, unreserved general fund balance that is anticipated in the budget certified for taxes. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:23A-5.1(d) 7, the balance in the account cannot at any time exceed the local support costs of uncompleted capital projects in its LRFP.

**NOTE 14 – MAINTENANCE RESERVE ACCOUNT**

A maintenance reserve account was established by the City of Somers Point Board of Education for the accumulation of funds for use as required maintenance expenditures in subsequent fiscal years. The maintenance reserve account is maintained in the general fund and its activity is included in the general fund annual budget.

The activity of the Maintenance reserve for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 fiscal year is as follows:

Beginning balance, July 1, 2015	\$ 183,500.00
No activity in FY 2016	-
Ending balance, June 30, 2016	<u>\$ 183,500.00</u>

**NOTE 15 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

Property and Liability Insurance - The District maintains insurance coverage for property, liability and surety bonds through the Atlantic & Cape May Counties Association of School Business Officials Joint Insurance Fund (ACCASBOJIF). A complete schedule of insurance coverage can be found in the Statistical Section of this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance - The District has elected to fund its New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance under the "Benefit Reimbursement Method". Under this plan, the District is required to reimburse the New Jersey Unemployment Trust Fund for benefits paid to its former employees and charged to its account with the State. The District is billed quarterly for amounts due to the State. The following is a summary of District contributions, employee contributions, reimbursements to the State for benefits paid and the ending balance of the District's expendable trust fund for the current and prior year:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Interest on Investments</u>	<u>Employee Contributions</u>	<u>Board Contribution</u>	<u>Amount Reimbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
2015-2016	\$ 193.61	17,912.11	40,000.00	7,963.94	161,008.01
2014-2015	70.00	18,206.00		17,889.00	110,866.23
2013-2014	105.00	17,101.00		40,283.00	110,479.23

**NOTE 16 – CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

Federal and State Grants

The District participates in a number of federal and state grant programs. The grant programs are subject to program compliance audits by the grantors or their representatives. The District is potentially liable for expenditures which may be disallowed pursuant to the terms of these grant programs. Management is not aware of any material items of noncompliance would result in the disallowance of program expenditures.

**NOTE 17 – ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY**

The District receives support from federal government and from the state government. A significant reduction in the level of support, if this were to occur, would have an effect on the District's programs and activities.

**NOTE 18 – LITIGATION**

From time to time, the District is a defendant in legal proceedings relating to its operations as a school district. In the best judgment of the District's management, the outcome of any present legal proceedings will not have any adverse material effect on the accompanying financial statements.

**NOTE 19 – FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED**

General Fund – Of the \$1,173,842.40 General Fund fund balance, at June 30, 2016, \$37,132.59 is reserved for encumbrances, but not reflected as committed on the balance sheet since the unassigned balance is negative; \$1,051,756.28 is reserved as excess surplus in accordance with NJSA 18A:7F-7 (\$460,651.00 of the total reserve for excess surplus has been appropriated and included as anticipated revenue for the year ending June 30, 2016), \$100.00 has been reserved in the Capital Reserve Account; \$183,500.00 has been reserved in the Maintenance Reserve Account; \$100,000.00 is designated by BOE for subsequent expenditures and (\$161,513.88) is classified and Unassigned, after adjusting for the encumbrance amount of \$37,132.59.

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**CITY OF SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
(CONTINUED)**

**NOTE 20 – CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS**

The designation for Reserved Fund Balance - Excess Surplus is a required calculation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-7 as amended. New Jersey school districts are required to reserve General Fund fund balance at the fiscal year end of June 30 if they did not appropriate a required minimum amount of budgeted fund balance in their subsequent years' budget. The excess fund balance at June 30, 2016 is \$591,105.28. The excess fund balance at June 30, 2015 was \$460,651.00.

**NOTE 21 – DEFICIT FUND BALANCES**

The District has a deficit unassigned fund balance of (\$30,259.20) in the Special Revenue Fund as of June 30, 2016 as reported in the fund statements (modified accrual basis). N.J.S.A. 18A:22-44.2 provides that in the event a state school aid payment is not made until the following school budget year, districts must record the last payment as revenue, for budget purposes only, in the current school budget year. For intergovernmental transactions, GASB Statement No. 33 requires that recognition (revenue, expenditure, asset, liability) should be in symmetry i.e., if one government recognizes an asset, the other government recognizes a liability. Since the State is recording the June state aid payments in the subsequent fiscal year, the school district cannot recognize the June state aid payments on the GAAP financial statements until the year the state records the payable. Due to the timing difference of recording the last state aid payment, the Special Revenue Fund balance deficit does not alone indicate that the district is facing financial difficulties. The District deficit in the Special revenue fund in the GAAP fund statements of (\$30,259.20) is equal to the last state aid payment for that fund.

**NOTE 22 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management has reviewed and evaluated all events and transactions that occurred through November 4, 2016, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued for possible disclosure and recognition in the financial statements.

The District held a special election on September 27, 2016 for the consideration of a \$9,235,000 bond proposal. The project includes renovations, alterations and improvements at the Dawes Avenue, New York Avenue and Jordan Road Elementary Schools. The voters approved this bond referendum.

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## **APPENDIX C**

### **FORM OF APPROVING LEGAL OPINION**



\_\_\_\_\_, 2016

The Board of Education of the  
City of Somers Point  
in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey

Dear Board Members:

We have acted as bond counsel to The Board of Education of the City of Somers Point in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey (the "Board of Education") in connection with the issuance by the Board of Education of \$9,235,000 School Bonds dated the date hereof (the "Bonds"). In order to render the opinions herein, we have examined laws, documents and records of proceedings, or copies thereof, certified or otherwise identified to us, as we have deemed necessary.

The Bonds are issued pursuant to (i) Title 18A, Education, Chapter 24 of the New Jersey Statutes, (ii) a proposal adopted by the Board of Education on August 18, 2016 and approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the legal voters present and voting at the school district election held on September 27, 2016 and (iii) a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Education on October 20, 2016. The Bonds are secured under the provisions of the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:56-17 et seq. (P.L. 1980, c.72, approved July 16, 1980, as amended by P.L. 2003, c. 118, approved July 1, 2003).

In our opinion, except insofar as the enforcement thereof may be limited by any applicable bankruptcy, moratorium or similar laws or application by a court of competent jurisdiction of legal or equitable principles relating to the enforcement of creditors' rights, the Bonds are valid and legally binding general obligations of the Board of Education, and the Board of Education has the power and is obligated to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all the taxable real property within the school district for the payment of the Bonds and the interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount.

On the date hereof, the Board of Education has covenanted in its Arbitrage and Tax Certificate (the "Certificate") to comply with certain continuing requirements that must be satisfied subsequent to the issuance of the Bonds in order to preserve the tax-exempt status of the Bonds pursuant to Section 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Pursuant to Section 103(a) of the Code, failure to comply with these requirements could cause interest on the Bonds to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. In the event that the Board of Education continuously complies with its covenants and in reliance on representations, certifications of fact and statements of reasonable expectations made by the Board of Education in the Certificate, it is our opinion that, pursuant to Section 103(a) of the Code, interest on the Bonds is not included in gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of calculating the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and corporations. It is also our opinion that interest on the Bonds held by a corporate taxpayer is included in "adjusted current earnings" in calculating alternative minimum taxable income for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations. We express no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Bonds. Further, in our opinion, interest on the Bonds and any gain on the sale thereof are not included in gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act. These opinions are based on existing statutes, regulations, administrative pronouncements and judicial decisions.

This opinion is issued as of the date hereof. We assume no obligation to update, revise or supplement this opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may come to our attention or any changes in law or interpretations thereof that may occur after the date of this opinion or for any reason whatsoever.

Very truly yours,