

PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT

RENEWAL ISSUE

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES

In the opinion of WJ Marquardt PLLC, Bond Counsel to the District, under existing statutes and court decisions and assuming continuing compliance with certain tax certifications described herein, (i) interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and (ii) interest on the Notes is not treated as a preference item in calculating the alternative minimum tax under the Code, however, interest on the Notes is included in the "adjusted financial statement income" of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. In addition, under existing statutes, interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes of New York State and its political subdivisions, including the City of New York. Bond counsel expresses no opinion regarding any other tax consequences related to the ownership or disposition of, or the accrual of interest on the Notes. (See "TAX MATTERS" herein.)

The Notes will be deemed designated as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

\$4,600,000

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK



GENERAL OBLIGATIONS
CUSIP BASE #: 187000

\$4,600,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, 2025 (Renewals) (the "Notes")

Dated: July 30, 2025

Due: June 26, 2026

The Notes are general obligations of the Clifton-Fine Central School District, St. Lawrence County, New York (the "District"). All the taxable real property within the District is subject to the levy of ad valorem taxes to pay the Notes and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount. See "NATURE OF THE OBLIGATION" and "TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW" herein. **The Notes are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.**

At the option of the purchaser(s), the Notes will be issued in (i) registered certificated form registered in the name of the purchaser(s) or (ii) registered book-entry-only form registered to Cede & Co., as the partnership nominee for The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC").

If the Notes are issued as registered in the name of the purchaser, principal of and interest on the Notes will be payable in Federal Funds at the office of the District. The Notes will be issued in denominations of \$5,000 or multiples thereof. A single note certificate will be issued for Notes bearing the same rate of interest in the aggregate principal amount awarded to such purchaser at such interest rate.

If the Notes are issued in book-entry-only form, such notes will be delivered to DTC, which will act as securities depository for the Notes. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their interest in the Notes. Individual purchases may be made in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof. A single note certificate will be issued for those Notes bearing the same rate of interest and CUSIP number in the aggregate principal amount awarded to such purchaser(s) at such interest rate. Principal of and interest on said Notes will be paid in Federal Funds by the District to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC, which will in turn remit such principal and interest to its participants for subsequent distribution to the beneficial owners of the Notes as described herein. Transfer of principal and interest payments to beneficial owners by participants of DTC will be the responsibility of such participants and other nominees of beneficial owners. The District will not be responsible or liable for payments by DTC to its participants or by DTC participants to beneficial owners or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing the records maintained by DTC, its participants or persons acting through such participants. (See "BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY SYSTEM" herein).

The Notes are offered when, as and if issued and received by the purchaser(s) and subject to the receipt of the approving legal opinion as to the validity of the Notes of WJ Marquardt PLLC, Bond Counsel, Skaneateles, New York. It is anticipated that the Notes will be available for delivery through the facilities of DTC in Jersey City, New Jersey, or at such place as may be agreed upon with the purchaser(s) on or about July 30, 2025.

ELECTRONIC BIDS for the Notes must be submitted via Fiscal Advisors Auction website ("Fiscal Advisors Auction") accessible via www.FiscalAdvisorsAuction.com on July 16, 2025 by no later than 11:00 A.M., Eastern Time, pursuant to the Notice of Sale. Bids may also be submitted by facsimile at (315) 930-2354. No other form of electronic bidding services will be accepted. Once the bids are communicated electronically via Fiscal Advisors Auction or via facsimile to the District, each bid will constitute an irrevocable offer to purchase the Notes pursuant to the terms provided in the Notice of Sale.

July 10, 2025

THE DISTRICT DEEMS THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO BE FINAL FOR PURPOSES OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RULE 15c2-12, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN OMITTED HEREFROM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAID RULE AND THAT WILL BE SUPPLIED WHEN THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT IS UPDATED FOLLOWING THE SALE OF THE OBLIGATIONS HEREIN DESCRIBED. THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT WILL BE SO UPDATED UPON REQUEST OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER(S), AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE NOTICES OF SALE WITH RESPECT TO THE OBLIGATIONS HEREIN DESCRIBED. THE DISTRICT WILL COVENANT IN AN UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF CERTAIN MATERIAL EVENTS AS DEFINED IN THE RULE. SEE "APPENDIX-C - MATERIAL EVENT NOTICES" HEREIN.



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS

2025-2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION

NICOLE E. CURRY

President

ROGER BENJAMIN

Vice President

LYNN BACKUS
JUDY BENZEL
JOHN PERRAULT
PARKER PERRAULT
MELISSA STREETER

* * * * *

MATTHEW SOUTHWICK

Superintendent

GLEENDA MORALES-HANLEY

School Business Official

ALISON FRIZZELL

School District Clerk



School District Attorney



FISCAL ADVISORS & MARKETING, INC.

Municipal Advisors

WJ MARQUARDT PLLC

Bond Counsel

No person has been authorized by the Clifton-Fine Central School District to give any information or to make any representations not contained in this Official Statement, and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized. This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy any of the Notes in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. The information, estimates and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice, and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Clifton-Fine Central School District.

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PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF



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OFFICIAL STATEMENT
of the
CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Relating To
\$4,600,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, 2025 (Renewals)

This Official Statement, which includes the cover page, has been prepared by the Clifton-Fine Central School District, St. Lawrence County, New York (the "School District" or "District", "County", and "State", respectively) in connection with the sale by the District of \$4,600,000 principal amount of Bond Anticipation Notes, 2025 (Renewals) (referred to herein as the "Notes").

The factors affecting the District's financial condition and the Notes are described throughout this Official Statement. Inasmuch as many of these factors, including economic and demographic factors, are complex and may influence the District tax base, revenues, and expenditures, this Official Statement should be read in its entirety, and no one factor should be considered more or less important than any other by reason of its relative position in this Official Statement.

All quotations from and summaries and explanations of provisions of the Constitution and laws of the State and acts and proceedings of the District contained herein do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the official compilations thereof, and all references to the Notes and the proceedings of the District relating thereto are qualified in their entirety by reference to the definitive forms of the Notes and such proceedings.

NATURE OF OBLIGATION

Each Note when duly issued and paid for will constitute a contract between the District and the holder thereof.

Holders of any series of notes or bonds of the District may bring an action or commence a proceeding in accordance with the civil practice law and rules to enforce the rights of the holders of such series of notes or bonds.

The Notes will be general obligations of the District and will contain a pledge of the faith and credit of the District for the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon as required by the Constitution and laws of the State. For the payment of such principal and interest, the District has power and statutory authorization to levy ad valorem taxes on all real property within the District subject to such taxation by the District, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Although the State Legislature is restricted by Article VIII, Section 12 of the State Constitution from imposing limitations on the power to raise taxes to pay "interest on or principal of indebtedness theretofore contracted" prior to the effective date of any such legislation, the New York State Legislature may from time to time impose additional limitations or requirements on the ability to increase a real property tax levy or on the methodology, exclusions or other restrictions of various aspects of real property taxation (as well as on the ability to issue new indebtedness). On June 24, 2011, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 was signed into law by the Governor (the "Tax Levy Limitation Law" or "Chapter 97"). The Tax Levy Limitation Law applies to local governments and school districts in the State (with certain exceptions) and imposes additional procedural requirements on the ability of municipalities and school districts to levy certain year-to-year increases in real property taxes.

Under the Constitution of the State, the District is required to pledge its faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and is required to raise real estate taxes, and without specification, other revenues, if such levy is necessary to repay such indebtedness. While the Tax Levy Limitation Law imposes a statutory limitation on the District's power to increase its annual tax levy, with the amount of such increase limited by the formulas set forth in the Tax Levy Limitation Law, it also provides the procedural method to surmount that limitation. See "TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW" herein.

The Constitutionally-mandated general obligation pledge of municipalities and school districts in New York State has been interpreted by the Court of Appeals, the State's highest court, in Flushing National Bank v. Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York, 40 N.Y.2d 731 (1976), as follows:

"A pledge of the City's faith and credit is both a commitment to pay and a commitment of the City's revenue generating powers to produce the funds to pay. Hence, an obligation containing a pledge of the City's "faith and credit" is secured by a promise both to pay and to use in good faith the City's general revenue powers to produce sufficient funds to pay the principal and interest of the obligation as it becomes due. That is why both words, "faith" and "credit" are used and they are not tautological. That is what the words say and this is what the courts have held they mean... So, too, although the Legislature is given the duty to restrict municipalities in order to prevent abuses in taxation, assessment, and in contracting of indebtedness, it may not constrict the City's power to levy taxes on real estate for the payment of interest on or principal of indebtedness previously contracted... While phrased in permissive language, these provisions, when read together with the requirement of the pledge and faith and credit, express a constitutional imperative: debt obligations must be paid, even if tax limits be exceeded".

In addition, the Court of Appeals in the Flushing National Bank (1976) case has held that the payment of debt service on outstanding general obligation bonds and notes takes precedence over fiscal emergencies and the police power of political subdivisions in New York State.

The pledge has generally been understood as a promise to levy property taxes without limitation as to rate or amount to the extent necessary to cover debt service due to language in Article VIII Section 10 of the Constitution, which provides an exclusion for debt service from Constitutional limitations on the amount of a real property tax levy, insuring the availability of the levy of property tax revenues to pay debt service. As the Flushing National Bank (1976) Court noted, the term "faith and credit" in its context is "not qualified in any way". Indeed, in Flushing National Bank v. Municipal Assistance Corp., 40 N.Y.2d 1088 (1977) the Court of Appeals described the pledge as a direct constitutional mandate. In Quirk v. Municipal Assistance Corp., 41 N.Y.2d 644 (1977), the Court of Appeals stated that, while holders of general obligation debt did not have a right to particular revenues such as sales tax, "with respect to traditional real estate tax levies, the bondholders are constitutionally protected against an attempt by the State to deprive the city of those revenues to meet its obligations." According to the Court in Quirk, the State Constitution "requires the city to raise real estate taxes, and without specification other revenues, if such a levy be necessary to repay indebtedness."

In addition, the Constitution of the State requires that every county, city, town, village, and school district in the State provide annually by appropriation for the payment of all interest and principal on its serial bonds and certain other obligations, and that, if at any time the respective appropriating authorities shall fail to make such appropriation, a sufficient sum shall be set apart from the first revenues thereafter received and shall be applied to such purposes. In the event that an appropriating authority were to make an appropriation for debt service and then decline to expend it for that purpose, this provision would not apply. However, the Constitution of the State does also provide that the fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village, or school district may be required to set apart and apply such first revenues at the suit of any holder of any such obligations.

In Quirk v. Municipal Assistance Corp., the Court of Appeals described this as a "first lien" on revenues, but one that does not give holders a right to any particular revenues. It should thus be noted that the pledge of the faith and credit of a political subdivision in New York State is a pledge of an issuer of a general obligation bond or note to use its general revenue powers, including, but not limited to, its property tax levy to pay debt service on such obligations, but that such pledge may not be interpreted by a court of competent jurisdiction to include a constitutional or statutory lien upon any particular revenues.

While the courts in New York State have historically been protective of the rights of holders of general obligation debt of political subdivisions, it is not possible to predict what a future court might hold.

THE NOTES

Description of the Notes

The Notes are general obligations of the District, and will contain a pledge of its faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes as required by the Constitution and laws of the State of New York (State Constitution, Art. VIII, Section 2; Local Finance Law, Section 100.00). All the taxable real property within the District is subject to the levy of ad valorem taxes to pay the Notes and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount. See "NATURE OF OBLIGATION" hereunder and "TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW" herein.

The Notes are to be dated July 30, 2025 and will mature, without option of prior redemption, on June 26, 2026. Interest will be calculated on a 30-day month and 360-day year basis, payable at maturity.

The Notes will be issued in either (i) the name of the purchaser(s), as may be determined by the successful bidder(s) with principal and interest payable in Federal Funds at such bank(s) or trust company(ies) located and authorized to do business in the State as may be selected by such successful bidder(s); or (ii) at the option of the purchaser(s), registered in the name of Cede & Co. as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC") which will act as the securities depository for the Notes. See "BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY SYSTEM" herein.

No Optional Redemption

The Notes are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.

Purpose of Issue

The Notes are issued pursuant to the Constitution and Status of the State of New York, including the Education Law and the Local Finance Law, and a bond resolution duly adopted by the Board of Education on December 19, 2022 authorizing a capital improvement project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of various District buildings and facilities and the sites thereof, at a cost not to exceed \$5,600,000. The project will be funded with \$1,000,000 from capital reserves and the issuance and sale of serial bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$4,600,000.

On September 25, 2024 the District issued \$4,600,000 bond anticipation notes, the proceeds of which represented the initial borrowing against the aforementioned authorization. The proceeds of the Notes will fully redeem and renew the outstanding bond anticipation notes that mature on July 31, 2025.

BOOK-ENTRY-ONLY SYSTEM

The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), New York, NY, will act as securities depository for the Notes, if so requested. The Notes 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 note certificate will be issued for each note bearing the same rate of interest and CUSIP number and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC, the world's largest 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, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). 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 and www.dtc.org.

Purchases of Notes under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Notes 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 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 or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in Notes, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Notes is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Notes 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 Notes with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Notes; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Notes are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and 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. Beneficial Owners of Notes may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the Notes, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the Note documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of Notes may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Notes for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

Principal and interest payments on the Notes 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 corresponding detail information from the School District, on payable date 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 is 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 nor its nominee, or the School District, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of principal and interest payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the School District, 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 and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to the School District. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, bond and note certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

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

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

Source: The Depository Trust Company.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CANNOT AND DOES NOT GIVE ANY ASSURANCES THAT DTC, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC WILL DISTRIBUTE TO THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE NOTES (1) PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL OF OR INTEREST OR REDEMPTION PREMIUM ON THE NOTES (2) CONFIRMATIONS OF THEIR OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN THE NOTES OR (3) OTHER NOTICES SENT TO DTC OR CEDE & CO., ITS PARTNERSHIP NOMINEE, AS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE NOTES, OR THAT THEY WILL DO SO ON A TIMELY BASIS, OR THAT DTC, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL SERVE AND ACT IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL NOT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATIONS TO DTC, THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, THE INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OR THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS WITH RESPECT TO (1) THE ACCURACY OF ANY RECORDS MAINTAINED BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC; (2) THE PAYMENT BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OF ANY AMOUNT DUE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER IN RESPECT OF THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF OR INTEREST OR REDEMPTION PREMIUM ON THE NOTES; (3) THE DELIVERY BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OF ANY NOTICE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER THAT IS REQUIRED OR PERMITTED TO BE GIVEN TO OWNERS, OR (4) ANY CONSENT GIVEN OR OTHER ACTION TAKEN BY DTC AS THE REGISTERED HOLDER OF THE NOTES.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN CONCERNING DTC AND ITS BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM DTC AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKES NO REPRESENTATION AS TO THE COMPLETENESS OR THE ACCURACY OF SUCH INFORMATION OR AS TO THE ABSENCE OF MATERIAL ADVERSE CHANGES IN SUCH INFORMATION SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE HEREOF.

Certificated Notes

If the book-entry form is initially chosen by the purchaser of the Notes, DTC may discontinue providing its services with respect to the Notes at any time by giving notice to the District and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law, or the District may terminate its participation in the system of book-entry-only system transfers through DTC at any time. In the event that such book-entry-only system is utilized by a purchaser of the Notes upon issuance and later discontinued, the following provisions will apply:

The Notes will be issued in registered form in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof. Principal of and interest on the Notes will be payable at the option of the School District at the offices of the School District or, at the option of the purchaser, at a principal corporate trust office of a bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State of New York to be named as fiscal agent by the District, with paying agent fees to be paid by the purchaser. The Notes will remain not subject to redemption prior to their stated final maturity date.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

General Information

The District is located in the Towns of Clifton, Fine, Pitcairn, and Russell in the southwest sector of St. Lawrence County. The District covers approximately 320 square miles.

The District provides public education for grades PK-12. Opportunities for higher education are provided by the State Universities at Potsdam and Canton, St. Lawrence University, Clarkson University, New York State Ranger School at Wanakena and the North Country Community College.

The District is served by a network of State highways. Bus service is available in the City of Watertown. Air transportation is available at the Watertown and Syracuse Airports. Water and Sewer services are provided by private wells, the Star Lake Water District, and septic systems. Electricity is provided by National Grid; telephone service by SLIC Network Solutions. Police protection is provided by the County Sherriff’s Department and the New York State Police. Fire protection and ambulance services are provided by various volunteer organizations.

District residents find commercial and financial services in the hamlet of Star Lake. The District’s location in the Adirondack State Park assures that the area is a center for outdoor recreational activities.

Source: District officials.

District Population

The population of the District is estimated to be 1,948. (Source: 2023 U.S. Census Bureau.)

Selected Wealth and Income Indicators

Per capita income statistics are not available for the District as such. The smallest areas for which such statistics are available, which include the District, are the below listed Towns, County and State. The figures set below with respect to such Towns and County are included for information only. It should not be inferred from the inclusion of such data in this Official Statement that the Towns or the County are necessarily representative of the District, or vice versa.

	Per Capita Income			Median Family Income		
	2006-2010	2016-2020	2019-2023	2006-2010	2016-2020	2019-2023
Towns of:						
Clifton	\$ 18,817	\$ 26,244	\$ 33,786	\$ 41,477	\$ 48,333	\$ 51,786
Fine	19,736	23,863	29,100	41,944	43,889	65,156
Pitcairn	16,275	22,228	28,438	41,207	55,200	60,833
Russell	20,295	28,467	28,312	44,464	62,321	63,272
County of:						
St. Lawrence	20,143	26,676	31,574	50,384	66,843	80,918
State of:						
New York	30,948	40,898	49,520	67,405	87,270	105,060

Note: 2020-2024 American Community Survey estimates are not available as of the date of this Official Statement.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau2006-2010, 2016-2020, and 2019-2023 5-Year American Community Survey data.

Larger Employers

Some of the major employers located in or in close proximity to the District are as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Approximate # of Employees</u>
Clifton-Fine Hospital	Health Care Facility	85
Clifton-Fine Central School District	Public Education	74
Town of Fine	Government	33
Wanakena Ranger School	Forestry Education	26

Source: District officials.

Unemployment

Rate

Statistics

Unemployment statistics are not available for the District as such. The smallest area for which such statistics are available (which includes the District) is St. Lawrence County. The information set forth below with respect to County and the State of New York is included for informational purposes only. It should not be inferred from the inclusion of such data in this Official Statement that County or State is necessarily representative of the District, or vice versa.

	<u>Annual Averages</u>						
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
St. Lawrence County	5.6%	5.4%	7.7%	5.1%	4.1%	4.3%	4.6%
New York State	4.1%	3.9%	9.8%	7.1%	4.3%	4.1%	4.3%

	<u>2025 Monthly Figures</u>						
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>
St. Lawrence County	5.7%	5.6%	5.2%	4.2%	3.9%	N/A	N/A
New York State	4.6%	4.3%	4.1%	3.6%	3.5%	N/A	N/A

Note: Unemployment rates for June and July of 2025 are unavailable as of the date of this Official Statement.

Source: Department of Labor, State of New York. (Note: Figures not seasonally adjusted).

Financial Organization

Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the President of the Board is the chief fiscal officer of the School District. However, certain of the financial management functions of the School District are the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator.

Form of School Government

The Board of Education, which is the policy-making body of the District, consists of seven members with overlapping three-year terms so that as nearly as possible an equal number is elected to the Board each year. Each Board member must be a qualified voter of the School District and no Board member may hold certain other district offices or position while serving on the Board of Education. The President and the Vice President are selected by the Board members.

Budgetary Procedures

Pursuant to the Education Law, the Board of Education annually prepares or causes to be prepared, a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. A public hearing on such budget is held not less than seven days and not more than fourteen days prior to the vote. The Board of Education causes notice of such public hearing to be published four times beginning seven weeks prior to the vote. After the public hearing, but not less than six days prior to the budget vote, the District must mail a school budget notice to all qualified voters which contains the total budget amount, the dollar and percentage increase or decrease in the proposed budget (or contingency budget) as compared to the current budget, the percentage increase or decrease in the consumer price index, the estimated property tax levy, the basic STAR exemption impact and the date, time and place of the vote.

After the budget hearing and subsequent notice, a referendum upon the question of the adoption of the budget is held on the third Tuesday in May each year. All qualified District residents are eligible to participate.

Pursuant to Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 (“Chapter 97”), beginning with the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year, if the proposed budget requires a tax levy increase that does not exceed the lesser of 2% or the rate of inflation (the “School District Tax Cap”), then a majority vote is required for approval. If the proposed budget requires a tax levy that exceeds the School District Tax Cap, the budget proposition must include special language and a 60% vote is required for approval. Any separate proposition that would cause the School District to exceed the School District Tax Cap must receive at least 60% voter approval.

If the proposed budget is not approved by the required margin, the Board of Education may resubmit the original budget or a revised budget to the voters on the 3rd Tuesday in June, or adopt a contingency budget (which would provide for ordinary contingent expenses, including debt service) that levies a tax levy no greater than that of the prior fiscal year (i.e. a 0% increase in the tax levy).

If the resubmitted and/or revised budget is not approved by the required margin, the Board of Education must adopt a budget that requires a tax levy no greater than that of the prior fiscal year (i.e. a 0% increase in the tax levy). For a complete discussion of Chapter 97, see “TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW” herein.

Recent Budget Vote Results

The budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year was approved by the qualified voters on May 21, 2024 by a vote of 120 to 15. The District’s budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year remained within the Tax Cap imposed by Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011. The budget called for a total tax levy increase of 1.00%, which was below the District tax levy limit of 3.35%.

The budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year was approved by the qualified voters on May 20, 2025 by a vote of 163 to 50. The District’s budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year remained within the Tax Cap imposed by Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011. The budget called for a total tax levy increase of 2.85% which was below the District tax levy limit of 3.41%

Investment Policy

Pursuant to the statutes of the State of New York, the District is permitted to invest only in the following investments: (1) special time deposit accounts in, or certificates of deposit issued by a bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State of New York; (2) obligations of the United States of America; (3) obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America where the payment of principal and interest is guaranteed by the United States of America; (4) obligations of the State of New York; (5) obligations issued pursuant to Local Finance Law Sections 24.00 (tax anticipation notes) or 25.00 (revenue anticipation notes) with approval of the State Comptroller, by any municipality, school district or district corporation other than the District; and (6) in the case of the District moneys held in certain reserve funds established pursuant to law, obligations issued by the District. These statutes further require that all bank deposits, in excess of the amount insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, be secured by a pledge of eligible securities, an eligible letter of credit or an eligible surety bond, as each such term is defined in the law.

Consistent with the above statutory limitations, it is the District’s current policy to invest in: (1) certificates of deposit or time deposit accounts that are fully secured as required by statute, (2) obligations of the United States of America or (3) obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America where the payment of principal and interest is guaranteed by the United States of America. In the case of obligations of the United States government, the District may purchase such obligations pursuant to a written repurchase agreement that requires the purchased securities to be delivered to a third-party custodian.

The District has adopted its own Investment Policy, which, in addition to incorporating all of the provisions of statute enumerated above, further restricts trading partners to commercial banks or trust companies licensed and doing business in New York State. The Policy prohibits investing through any private entity or brokerage firm and provides for written Security Agreements and/or Custodial Agreements with each commercial bank or trust company.

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State Aid

The District receives financial assistance from the State. In its proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, approximately 55.49% of the revenues of the District are estimated to be received in the form of State aid. If the State should not adopt its budget in a timely manner in any year municipalities and school districts in the State, including the District, may be affected by a delay in the payment of State aid.

The State is not constitutionally obligated to maintain or continue State aid to the District. No assurance can be given that present State aid levels will be maintained in the future. State budgetary restrictions which could eliminate or substantially reduce State aid could have a material adverse effect upon the District, requiring either a counterbalancing increase in revenues from other sources to the extent available, or a curtailment of expenditures (See also "MARKET AND RISK FACTORS").

There can be no assurance that the State appropriation for building aid and other State aid to school districts will be continued in future years, either pursuant to existing formulas or in any form whatsoever. State aid, including building aid appropriated and apportioned to the School District, can be paid only if the State has such monies available therefor. The availability of such monies and the timeliness of such payment could be affected by a delay in the adoption of the State budget or their elimination therefrom.

There can be no assurance that the State's financial position will not change materially and adversely from current projections. If this were to occur, the State would be required to take additional gap-closing actions. Such actions may include, but are not limited to: reductions in State agency operations; delays or reductions in payments to local governments or other recipients of State aid including school districts in the State. Reductions in the payment of State aid could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State.

The amount of State aid to school districts can vary from year to year and is dependent in part upon the financial condition of the State. During the 2011 to 2019 fiscal years of the State, State aid to school districts was paid in a timely manner; however, during the State's 2010 and 2020 fiscal years, State budgetary restrictions resulted in delayed payments of State aid to school districts in the State. In addition, the availability of State aid and the timeliness of payment of State aid to school districts could be affected by a delay in the adoption of the State budget, which is due at the start of the State's fiscal year of April 1. With the exception of the State's fiscal year 2025-26 Enacted Budget (which was adopted on May 9, 2025, thirty-eight (38) days after the April 1 deadline, the State's fiscal year 2024-25 Enacted Budget (which was adopted on April 22, 2024, twenty-one (21) days after the April 1 deadline) and the State's fiscal year 2023-24 Enacted Budget (which was adopted on May 2, 2023, thirty-one (31) days after the April 1 deadline), the State's budget has been adopted by April 1 or shortly thereafter for over ten (10) years. No assurance can be given that the State will not experience delays in the adoption of the budget in future fiscal years. Significant delays in the adoption of the State budget could result in delayed payment of State aid to school districts in the State which could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State.

Should the District fail to receive State aid expected from the State in the amounts and at the times expected, occasioned by a delay in the payment of such monies or by a mid-year reduction in State aid, the District is authorized by the Local Finance Law to provide operating funds by borrowing in anticipation of the receipt of uncollected State aid.

Federal Aid Received by the State

The State receives a substantial amount of Federal aid for health care, education, transportation and other governmental purposes, as well as Federal funding to respond to, and recover from, severe weather events and other disasters. Many of the policies that drive this Federal aid may be subject to change under the Federal administration and Congress. Current Federal aid projections, and the assumptions on which they rely, are subject to revision in the future as a result of changes in federal policy, the general condition of the global and national economies and other circumstances.

Reductions in Federal funding levels could have a materially adverse impact on the State budget. In addition to the potential fiscal impact of policies that may be proposed and adopted by the new administration and Congress, the State budget may be adversely affected by other actions taken by the Federal government, including audits, disallowances, and changes to Federal participation rates or other Medicaid rules.

President Trump signed an executive order that directs the Secretary of Education to take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the U.S. Department of Education. The executive order aims to minimize the federal role in education but stops short of completely closing the Department as this would require 60 votes in the U.S. Senate. President Trump also indicated his preference that critical functions, like distributing Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funding, would be the responsibility of other federal agencies. The impact that the executive order will have on the State and school districts in the State is unknown at this time.

Building Aid

A portion of the District's State aid consists of building aid which is related to outstanding indebtedness for capital project purposes. In order to receive building aid, the District must have building plans and specifications approved by the Facilities Planning Unit of the State Education Department. A maximum construction and incidental cost allowance is computed for each building project that takes into account a pupil construction cost allowance and assigned pupil capacity. For each project financed with debt obligations, a bond percentage is computed. The bond percentage is derived from the ratio of total approved cost allowances to the total principal borrowed. Approved cost allowances are estimated until a project final cost report is completed.

Building Aid is paid over fifteen years for reconstruction work, twenty years for building additions, or thirty years for new building construction. Building Aid for a specific building project is eligible to begin eighteen months after State Commissioner of Education approval date, for that project, and is paid over the previously described timeframe, assuming all necessary building aid forms are filed with the State in a timely manner. The building aid received is equal to the assumed debt service for that project, which factors in the bond percent, times the building aid ratio that is assigned to the District, and amortized over the predefined timeframe. The building aid ratio is calculated based on a formula that involves the full valuation per pupil in the District compared to a State-wide average.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 760 of the Laws of 1963, the District is eligible to receive a Building Aid Estimate from the New York State Department of Education. Since the gross indebtedness of the District is within the debt limit, the District is not required to apply for a Building Aid Estimate. Based on 2025-2026 preliminary building aid ratios, the District expects to receive State building aid of approximately 71.6% of debt service on State Education Department approved expenditures from July 1, 2004 to the present.

The State building aid ratio is calculated each year based upon a formula which reflects Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA) and the full value per pupil compared with the State average. Consequently, the estimated aid will vary over the life of each issue. State building aid is further dependent upon the continued apportionment of funds by the State Legislature.

State Aid History

School district fiscal year (2021-2022): The State's 2021-22 Budget included \$29.5 billion in state aid to school districts, and significantly increased funding for schools and local governments, including a \$1.4 billion increase in Foundation Aid and a three-year phase-in of the full restoration to school districts of Foundation Aid that was initially promised in 2007. Additionally, the budget included the use of \$13 billion of federal funds for emergency relief, along with the Governor's Emergency Education Relief, which included, in part, the allocation of \$629 million to school districts as targeted grants in an effort to address learning loss as a result of the loss of enrichment and after-school activities. In addition, \$105 million of federal funds were allocated to expand full-day kindergarten programs. Under the budget, school districts were reimbursed for the cost of delivering school meals and instructional materials in connection with COVID-19-related school closures in spring 2020, along with the costs of keeping transportation employees and contractors on stand-by during the short-term school closures prior to the announcement of the closure of schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 year. Under the budget, local governments also received full restoration of proposed cuts to Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding, and full restoration of \$10.3 million in proposed Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) aid cuts, where applicable.

School district fiscal year (2022-2023): The State's 2022-23 Budget provided \$31.5 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2022-23 school year. This represented an increase of \$2.1 billion or 7.2 percent compared to the 2021-22 school year, and included a \$1.5 billion or 7.7 percent Foundation Aid increase. The State's 2022-23 Budget also programed \$14 billion of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief and Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds to public schools. This funding, available for use over multiple years, is designed to assist schools to reopen for in-person instruction, address learning loss, and respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs due to the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State's 2022-23 Budget allocated \$100 million over two years for a new State matching fund for school districts with the highest needs to support efforts to address student well-being and learning loss. In addition, the State's 2022-23 Budget increased federal funds by \$125 million to expand access to full-day prekindergarten programs for four-year-old children in school districts statewide in the 2022-23 school year.

School district fiscal year (2023-2024): The State's 2023-24 Budget included \$34.5 billion for school aid, an increase of \$3.1 billion or 10%. The States 2023-24 Budget also provided a \$2.6 billion increase in Foundation Aid, fully funding the program for the first time in history. The State's 2023-24 Budget provided \$134 million to increase access to free school meals. An additional \$20 million in grant funding established new Early College High School and Pathways in Technology Early College High School Programs. An investment of \$10 million over two years in competitive funding for school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, and community colleges was made to promote job readiness. An additional \$150 million was used to expand high-quality full-day prekindergarten, resulting in universal prekindergarten to be phased into 95% of the State.

School district fiscal year (2024-2025): The State's 2024-25 Budget provided \$35.9 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2024-25 school year. This represented an increase of \$1.3 billion compared to the 2023-24 school year and included a \$934 million or 3.89 percent Foundation Aid increase. The State's 2024-25 Budget maintained the "save harmless" provision, which ensured a school district received at least the same amount of Foundation Aid as it received in the prior year. The State's 2024-25 Budget also authorized a comprehensive study by the Rockefeller Institute and the State Department of Education to develop a modernized school funding formula.

School district fiscal year (2025-2026): The State's 2025-26 Budget includes approximately \$37.6 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2025-2026 school year, an estimated year-to-year funding increase of \$1.7 billion. The State's 2025-26 Budget provides an estimated \$26.3 billion in Foundation Aid, a year over year increase of \$1.42 billion and includes a 2% minimum increase in Foundation Aid to all school districts. The State's 2025-26 Budget also makes a number of alterations to the Foundation Aid formula to more accurately reflect low-income student populations and provide additional aid to low-wealth school districts.

Provisions in the State's 2025-26 Budget grant the State Budget Director the authority to withhold all or some of the amounts appropriated therein, including amounts that are to be paid on specific dates prescribed in law or regulation (such as State Aid) if, on a cash basis of accounting, a "general fund imbalance" has or is expected to occur in fiscal year 2025-26. Specifically, the State's 2025-26 Budget provides that a "general fund imbalance" has occurred, and the State Budget Director's powers are activated, if any State fiscal year 2025-26 quarterly financial plan update required by Subdivision 4 of Section 23 of the New York State Finance Law reflects, or if at any point during the final quarter of State fiscal year 2025-26 the State Budget Director projects, that estimated general fund receipts and/or estimated general fund disbursements have or will vary from the estimates included in the State's 2025-26 Budget financial plan required by sections 22 and 23 of the New York State Finance Law results in a cumulative budget imbalance of \$2 billion or more. Any significant reductions or delays in the payment of State aid could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State.

State Aid Litigation

In January 2001, the State Supreme Court issued a decision in *Campaign for Fiscal Equity v. New York* mandating that the system of apportionment of State aid to school districts within the State be restructured by the Governor and the State Legislature. On June 25, 2002, the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court reversed that decision. On June 26, 2003, the State Court of Appeals, the highest court in the State, reversed the Appellate Division, holding that the State must, by July 30, 2004, ascertain the actual cost of providing a sound basic education, enact reforms to the system of school funding and ensure a system of accountability for such reforms. The Court of Appeals further modified the decision of the Appellate Division by deciding against a Statewide remedy and instead limited its ruling solely to the New York City school system.

After further litigation, on appeal in 2006, the Court of Appeals held that \$1.93 billion of additional funds for the New York City schools – as initially proposed by the Governor and presented to the Legislature as an amount sufficient to provide a sound basic education – was reasonably determined. State legislative reforms in the wake of *The Campaign for Fiscal Equity* decision included increased accountability for expenditure of State funds and collapsing over 30 categories of school aid for school districts in the State into one classroom operating formula referred to as foundation aid. The stated purpose of foundation aid is to prioritize funding distribution based upon student need. As a result of the Court of Appeals ruling schools were to receive \$5.5 billion increase in foundation aid over a four fiscal year phase-in covering 2007 to 2011.

A case related to the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc. v. State of New York* was heard on appeal on May 30, 2017 in *New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights v. State of New York* ("NYSER") and a consolidated case on the right to a sound basic education. The NYSER lawsuit asserts that the State has failed to comply with the original decision in the Court of Appeals in the CFE case, and asks the Court of Appeals to require the State to develop new methodologies, formulas and mechanisms for determining State aid, to fully fund the foundation aid formula, to eliminate the supermajority requirement for voter approval of budgets which increase school district property tax levies above the property tax cap limitation, and related matters. On June 27, 2017, the Court of Appeals held that the plaintiffs causes of action were properly dismissed by the earlier Appellate Division decision except insofar as two causes of action regarding accountability mechanisms and sufficient State funding for a "sound basic education" as applicable solely to the school districts in New York City and Syracuse. The Court emphasized its previous ruling in the CFE case that absent "gross education inadequacies", claims regarding state funding for a "sound basic education" must be made on a district-by-district basis based on the specific facts therein. On October 14, 2021 Governor Hochul announced that New York State reached an agreement to settle and discontinue the NYSER case, following through on the State's commitment to fully fund the current Foundation Aid formula to New York's school districts over three years and ending the State's prior opposition to providing such funding. The litigation, which has been ongoing since 2014, sought to require New York State to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula that was put into place following the CFE cases, and had been previously opposed by the State. Foundation Aid was created in 2007 and takes school district wealth and student need into account to create an equitable distribution of state funding to schools, however, New York State has never fully funded Foundation Aid. The new settlement requires New York State to phase-in full funding of Foundation Aid by the FY 2024 budget. In the FY 2022 Enacted State Budget approved in April 2022, the Executive and Legislature agreed to fully fund Foundation Aid by the FY 2024 and FY 2025 budget and enacted this commitment into law.

A breakdown of currently anticipated Foundation Aid funding is available below:

- FY 2022: \$19.8 billion, covering 30% of the existing shortfall.
- FY 2023: Approximately \$21.3 billion, covering 50% of the anticipated shortfall.
- FY 2024: Approximately \$23.2 billion, eliminating the anticipated shortfall, and funding the full amount of Foundation Aid for all school districts.
- FY 2025: Funding the full amount of Foundation Aid for all school districts.
- FY 2026: \$26.3 billion in Foundation Aid, a year over year increase of \$1.42 billion and a 2% minimum increase in Foundation Aid to all school districts.

The State’s 2025-26 Budget also makes a number of alterations to the Foundation Aid formula to more accurately reflect low-income student populations and provide additional aid to low-wealth school districts.

State Aid Revenues

The following table illustrates the percentage of total revenues of the District for the below fiscal years comprised of State aid.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>Total State Aid</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Revenues Consisting of State Aid</u>
2019-2020	\$ 9,638,351	\$ 5,170,138	53.64%
2020-2021	10,149,130	5,320,680	52.42
2021-2022	10,295,783	5,464,333	53.07
2022-2023	10,474,098	5,614,925	53.61
2023-2024	10,793,241	5,771,974	53.48
2024-2025 (Budgeted)	10,260,575	5,712,676	55.68
2024-2025 (Unaudited)	10,309,337	5,710,341	55.39
2025-2026 (Budgeted)	10,583,685	5,872,892	55.49

⁽¹⁾ General fund only, figures do not include appropriated reserves or interfund transfers.

Source: Audited Financial Statements for the 2019-2020 fiscal year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year and the adopted budget and unaudited financials for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and adopted budget of the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This table is not audited.

District Facilities

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Year(s) Built/Renovations</u>
Clifton Fine Central School	Pre-K-12	950	1950, 2009

Source: District officials.

Enrollment Trends

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Actual Enrollment</u>	<u>School Year</u>	<u>Projected Enrollment</u>
2020-2021	283	2025-2026	255
2021-2022	255	2026-2027	255
2022-2023	248	2027-2028	250
2023-2024	250	2028-2029	250
2024-2025	241	2029-2030	250

Source: District officials.

Employees

The number of persons employed by the District, the collective bargaining agents, if any, which represent them and the dates of expirations of the various collective bargaining agreements are presented in the table below.

<u>Number of Employees</u>	<u>Bargaining Unit</u>	<u>Contract Expiration Date</u>
33	Clifton Fine NYSUT Educational Association	June 30, 2028
33	Clifton Fine NYSUT Supportive Association	June 30, 2028
2	Clifton Fine Administrators & Supervisors Association	June 30, 2028

Source: District officials.

Status and Financing of Employee Pension Benefits

Substantially all employees of the District are members of either the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System ("ERS") (for non-teaching and non-certified administrative employees) or the New York State Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS") (for teachers and certified administrators). (Both Systems are referred to together hereinafter as the "Retirement Systems" where appropriate.) These Retirement Systems are cost-sharing multiple public employer retirement systems. The obligation of employers and employees to contribute and the benefits to employees are governed by the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law (the "Retirement System Law"). The Retirement Systems offer a wide range of plans and benefits which are related to years of service and final average salary, vesting of retirement benefits, death and disability benefits and optional methods of benefit payments. All benefits generally had vested after ten years of credited service; however, this was changed to five years as of April 9, 2022. The Retirement System Law generally provides that all participating employers in each retirement system are jointly and severally liable for any unfunded amounts. Such amounts are collected through annual billings to all participating employers. Generally, all employees, except certain part-time employees, participate in the Retirement Systems. The Retirement Systems are non-contributory with respect to members hired prior to July 27, 1976. All members working less than ten years must contribute 3% (ERS) or 3.5% (TRS) of gross annual salary towards the cost of retirement programs.

On December 12, 2009, a new Tier V was signed into law. The legislation created a new Tier V pension level, the most significant reform of the State's pension system in more than a quarter-century. Key components of Tier V include:

- Raising the minimum age at which most civilians can retire without penalty from 55 to 62 and imposing a penalty of up to 38% for any civilian who retires prior to age 62.
- Requiring ERS employees to continue contributing 3% of their salaries and TRS employees to continue contributing 3.5% toward pension costs so long as they accumulate additional pension credits.
- Increasing the minimum years of service required to draw a pension from 5 years to 10 years, which has since been changed to 5 years as of April 9, 2022 (for both Tier V and Tier VI).
- Capping the amount of overtime that can be considered in the calculation of pension benefits for civilians at \$15,000 per year, and for police and firefighters at 15% of non-overtime wages.

On March 16, 2012, the Governor signed into law the new Tier VI pension program, effective for new ERS and TRS employees hired after April 1, 2012. The Tier VI legislation provides for increased employee contribution rates of between 3% and 6% and contributions at such rates continue so long as such employee continues to accumulate pension credits, an increase in the retirement age from 62 years to 63 years, a readjustment of the pension multiplier, and a change in the time period for the final average salary calculation from 3 years to 5 years. Tier VI employees would vest in the system after ten years of employment; and employees will continue to make employee contribution throughout employment. As of April 9, 2022, vesting requirements were modified, resulting in employees becoming vested after five years.

The District is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The actual contributions for the last completed five years are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>ERS</u>	<u>TRS</u>
2019-2020	\$ 120,892	\$ 298,658
2020-2021	124,300	260,412
2021-2022	143,700	269,072
2022-2023	97,024	301,267
2023-2024	100,614	303,213
2024-2025 (Budgeted)	175,000	320,000
2023-2024 (Unaudited)	122,806	300,001
2024-2025 (Budgeted)	175,000	350,000

Source: District officials.

Pursuant to various laws enacted between 1991 and 2002, the State Legislature authorized local governments to make available certain early retirement incentive programs to its employees. The District has not offered early retirement incentives since the 2016-2017 fiscal year, and does not anticipate doing so in the current fiscal year.

The District offered early retirement incentives as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Staff Participants</u>	<u>Replacement Cost</u>	<u>Savings</u>
2015-2016	2	\$ 154,703	\$ 23,261
2016-2017	2	161,898	13,714

Historical Trends and Contribution Rates. Historically there has been a State mandate requiring full (100%) funding of the annual actuarially required local governmental contribution out of current budgetary appropriations. With the strong performance of the Retirement System in the 1990s, the locally required annual contribution declined to zero. However, with the subsequent decline in the equity markets, the pension system became underfunded. As a result, required contributions increased substantially to 15% to 20% of payroll for the employees' and the police and fire retirement systems, respectively. Wide swings in the contribution rate resulted in budgetary planning problems for many participating local governments.

A chart of average ERS and TRS rates as a percent of payroll (2020 to 2026) is shown below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>ERS</u>	<u>TRS</u>
2019-20	14.6%	8.86%
2020-21	14.6	9.53
2021-22	16.2	9.80
2022-23	16.1	10.29
2023-24	13.1	9.76
2024-25	15.2	10.11
2025-26	16.5	9.59*

*Estimated

In 2003, Chapter 49 of the Laws of 2003 amended the Retirement and Social Security Law and the Local Finance Law. The amendments empowered the State Comptroller to implement a comprehensive structural reform program for ERS. The reform program established a minimum contribution for any local governmental employer equal to 4.5% of pensionable salaries for bills which were due December 15, 2003 and for all fiscal years thereafter, as a minimum annual contribution where the actual rate would otherwise be 4.5% or less due to the investment performance of the fund. In addition, the reform program instituted a billing system to match the budget cycle of municipalities and school districts that will advise such employers over one year in advance concerning actual pension contribution rates for the next annual billing cycle. Under the previous method, the requisite ERS contributions for a fiscal year could not be determined until after the local budget adoption process was complete. Under the new system, a contribution for a given fiscal year is based on the valuation of the pension fund on the prior April 1 of the calendar year preceding the contribution due date instead of the following April 1 in the year of contribution so that the exact amount may now be included in a budget.

Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2010 (Part TT) amended the Retirement and Social Security Law to authorize participating employers, if they so elect, to amortize an eligible portion of their annual required contributions to ERS when employer contribution rates rise above certain levels. The option to amortize the eligible portion began with the annual contribution due February 1, 2011. The amortizable portion of an annual required contribution is based on a "graded" rate by the State Comptroller in accordance with formulas provided in Chapter 57. Amortized contributions are to be paid in equal annual installments over a ten-year period, but may be prepaid at any time. Interest is to be charged on the unpaid amortized portion at a rate to be determined by State Comptroller, which approximates a market rate of return on taxable fixed rate securities of a comparable duration issued by comparable issuers. The interest rate is established annually for that year's amortized amount and then applies to the entire ten years of the amortization cycle of that amount. When in any fiscal year, the participating employer's graded payment eliminates all balances owed on prior amortized amounts, any remaining graded payments are to be paid into an employer contribution reserve fund established by the State Comptroller for the employer, to the extent that amortizing employer has no currently unpaid prior amortized amounts, for future such use.

The District is not amortizing any pension payments nor does it intend to do so in the foreseeable future.

Stable Rate Pension Contribution Option: The 2013-14 State Budget included a provision that provides local governments and school districts, including the District, with the option to “lock-in” long-term, stable rate pension contributions for a period of years determined by the State Comptroller and ERS and TRS. The stable rates would be 12% for ERS and 14% for TRS. The pension contribution rates under this program would reduce near-term payments for employers, but will require higher than normal contributions in later years.

The District did not participate in the Stable Rate Pension Contribution Option nor does it intend to do so in the foreseeable future.

The investment of monies, and assumptions underlying same, of the Retirement Systems covering the District’s employees is not subject to the direction of the District. Thus, it is not possible to predict, control or prepare for future unfunded accrued actuarial liabilities of the Retirement Systems (“UAALs”). The UAAL is the difference between total actuarially accrued liabilities and actuarially calculated assets available for the payment of such benefits. The UAAL is based on assumptions as to retirement age, mortality, projected salary increases attributed to inflation, across-the-board raises and merit raises, increases in retirement benefits, cost-of-living adjustments, valuation of current assets, investment return and other matters. Such UAALs could be substantial in the future, requiring significantly increased contributions from the District which could affect other budgetary matters. Concerned investors should contact the Retirement Systems administrative staff for further information on the latest actuarial valuations of the Retirement Systems.

The State’s 2019-2020 Enacted Budget, which was signed into law as Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2019, includes a provision that will allow school districts in the State to establish a reserve fund for the purpose of funding the cost of TRS contributions, as a sub-fund of retirement contribution reserve funds presently authorized for amounts payable to the ERS by a school district. School districts will be permitted to pay into such reserve fund during any particular fiscal year, an amount not to exceed two percent of the total compensation or salaries of all district-employed teachers who are members of the TRS paid during the immediately preceding fiscal year; provided that the balance of such fund may not exceed ten percent of the total compensation or salaries of all district-employed teachers who are members of the TRS paid during the immediately preceding fiscal year. The District has established a reserve fund.

Other Post-Employment Benefits

Healthcare Benefits. It should also be noted that the District provides employment healthcare benefits to various categories of former employees. These costs may be expected to rise substantially in the future. There is now an accounting rule that requires governmental entities, such as the District, to account for employment healthcare benefits as it accounts for vested pension benefits.

School districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, unlike other municipal units of government in the State, have been prohibited from reducing health benefits received by or increasing health care contributions paid by retirees below the level of benefits or contributions afforded to or required from active employees since the implementation of Chapter 729 of the Laws of 1994. Legislative attempts to provide similar protection to retirees of other local units of government in the State have not succeeded as of this date. Nevertheless, many such retirees of all varieties of municipal units in the State do presently receive such benefits.

OPEB. OPEB refers to "other post-employment benefits," meaning other than pension benefits, disability benefits and OPEB consist primarily of health care benefits, and may include other benefits such as disability benefits and life insurance. Until now, these benefits have generally been administered on a pay-as-you-go basis and have not been reported as a liability on governmental financial statements.

GASB 75. In 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") released new accounting standards for public Other Post-Employment Benefits (“OPEB”) plans and participating employers. These standards, GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions* ("GASB 75"), have substantially revised the valuation and accounting requirements previously mandated under GASB Statements No. 43 and 45. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, the District implemented GASB 75. The implementation of this statement requires District’s to report OPEB liabilities, OPEB expenses, deferred outflow of resources and deferred inflow of resources related to OPEB. GASB Statement No. 75 replaced GASB Statement 45, which also required the District to calculate and report a net OPEB obligation. However, under GASB 45 districts could amortize the OPEB liability over a period of years, whereas GASB 75 requires districts to report the entire OPEB liability on the statement of net position.

The District contracted with Armory Associates, an actuarial firm, to calculate its actuarial valuation under GASB 75.

The following outlines the changes to the Total OPEB Liability during the past two fiscal years, by source.

	Balance beginning at June 30:	2022	2023
		\$ 49,089,393	\$ 46,048,453
<u>Changes for the year:</u>			
Service cost		1,802,857	1,253,033
Interest		1,075,239	1,650,369
Changes of benefit terms		-	(977,630)
Differences between expected and actual experience		-	(947,484)
Changes in assumptions or other inputs		(4,624,175)	255,386
Benefit payments		(1,294,861)	1,102,431
Net Changes		\$ (3,040,940)	\$ 2,336,105
	Balance ending at June 30:	2023	2024
		\$ 46,048,453	\$ 48,384,558

Note: The above table is not audited. For additional information see “APPENDIX – C” attached hereto.

There is no authority in current State law to establish a trust account or reserve fund for this liability. The District has reserved \$0 towards its OPEB liability. The District funds this liability on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The District’s unfunded actuarial accrued OPEB liability could have a material adverse impact upon the District’s finances and could force the District to reduce services, raise taxes or both.

Actuarial valuation will be required every 2 years for OPEB plans with more than 200 members, every 3 years if there are fewer than 200 members.

Other Information

The statutory authority for the power to spend money for the object or purpose, or to accomplish the object or purpose, for which bonds and notes are to be issued is the Education Law and the Local Finance Law.

No principal or interest upon any obligation of the District is past due.

The fiscal year of the District is July 1 to June 30.

Except for as shown under “STATUS OF INDEBTEDNESS – Estimated Overlapping Indebtedness”, this Official Statement does not include the financial data of any political subdivision having power to levy taxes within the District.

Financial Statements

The District retains independent certified public accountants. The last audited report covers the period ending June 30, 2023 and may be found attached hereto as “APPENDIX – C” to this Official Statement. In addition, the State Comptroller's office, i.e., the Department of Audit and Control, periodically performs a compliance review to ascertain whether the School District has complied with the requirements of various State and Federal statutes. Certain financial information of the School District may be found in the appendices to this Official Statement.

The District complies with the Uniform System of Accounts as prescribed for school districts in New York State. This system differs from generally accepted accounting principles as prescribed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Industry Audit Guide, "Audits of State and Local Governmental Units", and codified in Government Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting (GAAFR), published by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003 the School District is required to issue its financial statements in accordance with GASB Statement No. 34. Statement No. 34 includes reporting of all assets including infrastructure and depreciation in the Government Wide Statement of Activities, as well as the Management’s Discussion and Analysis. The District is in compliance with Statement No. 34.

Unaudited Results of Operations for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

Based upon preliminary estimates, the District expects to end the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 with a cumulative unappropriated unreserved fund balance of \$1,399,000.

Summary of estimated and unaudited information for the General Fund for the period ended June 30, 2025 is as follows:

Revenues:	\$ 10,309,337
Expenditures:	<u>10,320,000</u>
Excess (Deficit) Revenues Over Expenditures:	\$ (10,633)
Beginning Fund Balance June 30, 2024:	<u>\$ 6,852,469</u>
Total Fund Balance (including reserves):	<u>\$ 6,840,000</u>

Note: These projections are based upon certain current assumptions and estimates, and the audited results may vary therefrom.

New York State Comptroller Reports of Examination

The State Comptroller's office, i.e., the Department of Audit and Control, periodically performs a compliance review to ascertain whether the District has complied with the requirements of various State and Federal statutes. These audits can be found by visiting the Audits of Local Governments section of the Office of the State Comptroller website.

There are no recent State Comptroller's audits of the District, nor are there any that are currently in progress or pending release.

Source: Website of the Office of the New York State Comptroller.

Note: Reference to website implies no warranty of accuracy of information therein, and the website is not incorporated herein by reference.

The State Comptroller's Fiscal Stress Monitoring System

The New York State Comptroller has reported that New York State's school districts and municipalities are facing significant fiscal challenges. As a result, the Office of the State Comptroller has developed a Fiscal Stress Monitoring System ("FSMS") to provide independent, objectively measured and quantifiable information to school district and municipal officials, taxpayers and policy makers regarding the various levels of fiscal stress under which the State's school districts and municipalities are operating.

The fiscal stress scores are based on financial information submitted as part of each school district's ST-3 report filed with the State Education Department annually, and each municipality's annual report filed with the State Comptroller. Using financial indicators that include year-end fund balance, cash position and patterns of operating deficits, the system creates an overall fiscal stress score which classifies whether a school district or municipality is in "Significant Fiscal Stress", in "Moderate Fiscal Stress," as "Susceptible To Fiscal Stress" or "No Designation". Entities that do not accumulate the number of points that would place them in a stress category will receive a financial score but will be classified in a category of "no designation." This classification should not be interpreted to imply that the entity is completely free of fiscal stress conditions. Rather, the entity's financial information, when objectively scored according to the FSMS criteria, did not generate sufficient points to place them in one of the three established stress categories.

The reports of the State Comptroller for the past three fiscal years of the District are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending In</u>	<u>Stress Designation</u>	<u>Fiscal Score</u>
2024	No Designation	0.0
2023	No Designation	0.0
2022	No Designation	0.0

Source: Website of the Office of the New York State Comptroller.

Note: Reference to website implies no warranty of accuracy of information therein, and the website is not incorporated herein by reference.

TAX INFORMATION

Taxable Assessed Valuations

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30:</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Towns of:					
Clifton	\$ 186,994,980	\$ 188,503,305	\$ 190,673,343	\$ 195,905,302	\$ 197,402,782
Fine	170,276,279	172,349,625	169,856,852	170,510,953	173,854,930
Pitcairn	6,150,879	6,167,065	6,468,347	7,271,893	7,384,941
Russell	395,427	395,427	395,424	395,393	396,188
Total Assessed Values	<u>\$ 363,817,565</u>	<u>\$ 367,415,422</u>	<u>\$ 367,393,966</u>	<u>\$ 374,083,541</u>	<u>\$ 379,038,841</u>
State Equalization Rates					
Towns of:					
Clifton	90.00%	90.00%	85.00%	78.00%	70.00%
Fine	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	93.00%	89.00%
Pitcairn	100.00%	100.00%	98.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Russell	69.00%	70.00%	65.50%	62.00%	52.00%
Total Taxable Full Valuation	<u>\$ 384,772,441</u>	<u>\$ 388,529,702</u>	<u>\$ 401,382,487</u>	<u>\$ 442,415,378</u>	<u>\$ 485,493,433</u>

Tax Rate Per \$1,000 (Assessed)

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30:</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Towns of:					
Clifton	\$ 12.51	\$ 12.39	\$ 12.82	\$ 12.77	\$ 13.10
Fine	11.26	10.63	10.90	10.71	10.30
Pitcairn	11.26	11.15	11.12	9.96	9.17
Russell	16.31	15.93	16.63	16.07	17.64

Tax Collection Procedure

School taxes are due November 2. If paid by September 30, no penalty is imposed. There is a 2% penalty if paid by November 30. Approximately mid-November, a list of all unpaid taxes is given to the County for re-levy on County/Town tax rolls with a 3% penalty. The District is reimbursed by the County for all unpaid taxes the first week of April in each year and is thus assured of 100% collection of its annual levy.

Tax Levy and Tax Collection Record

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30:</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Total Tax Levy	\$ 4,331,437	\$ 4,332,178	\$ 4,375,500	\$ 4,408,316	\$ 4,467,090
Amount Uncollected ⁽¹⁾	257,568	219,321	230,258	223,973	-
% Uncollected	5.95%	5.06%	5.26%	5.08%	0.00%

⁽¹⁾ The District is reimbursed by the Counties for all unpaid taxes to assure 100% collection of its tax levy each year. See "Tax Collection Procedure" herein.

Note: Uncollected amount for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 is not available as of this Official Statement

Larger Taxpayers 2024 for 2024-25 Tax Roll

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Estimated Full Valuation</u>
New York State Ref. Adirondack Park	State Lands	\$ 109,050,955
New York State Reforestation	State Lands	17,586,021
Niagara Mohawk Power Corp	Utility	16,730,156
Erie Boulevard Hydropower	Utility	11,060,003
State of New York	State Lands	3,218,245
The Conservation Fund	Forestry	8,093,717
New York State Transition Asst	State Lands	4,928,813
Long Pond Club, Inc.	Forestry	1,778,064
Cranberry Renewable Timber LLC	Forestry	5,108,461
MWF Adirondacks LLC	Forestry	2,266,909

The ten larger taxpayers listed above have a total estimated full valuation of \$179,821,344, which represents 37.04% of the tax base of the District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

As of the date of this Official Statement, the District is aware of TWO pending tax certioraris with Erie Hydro Blvd, SLIC, however, the District does not reasonably expect the outstanding tax certiorari claims to have a material impact on the District.

Source: District Tax Rolls.

Real Property Tax Revenues

The following table illustrates the percentage of total revenues of the District for each of the below completed fiscal years and budgeted figures comprised of Real Property Taxes.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>Total Real Property Taxes & Tax Items</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Revenues Consisting of Real Property Tax</u>
2019-2020	\$ 9,638,351	\$ 4,253,884	44.13%
2020-2021	10,149,130	4,336,795	42.73
2021-2022	10,295,783	4,121,629	40.03
2022-2023	10,474,098	4,380,158	41.82
2023-2024	10,793,241	4,413,382	40.89
2024-2025 (Budgeted)	10,260,575	4,452,399	43.39
2023-2024 (Unaudited)	10,309,377	4,472,429	43.38
2024-2025 (Budgeted)	10,583,685	4,579,293	43.27

⁽¹⁾ General fund only, figures do not include appropriated reserves or interfund transfers.

Source: Audited financial statements for the 2019-2020 fiscal year through and including the 2023-2024 fiscal year, unaudited financials for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and the adopted budgets for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal years of the District. This table is not audited.

STAR – School Tax Exemption

The STAR (School Tax Relief) program provides State-funded exemptions from school property taxes to homeowners for their primary residences. School districts are reimbursed by the State for real property taxes exempted pursuant to the STAR Program.

The STAR (School Tax Relief) program provides State-funded exemptions from school property taxes to homeowners for their primary residences. School districts are reimbursed by the State for real property taxes exempted pursuant to the STAR Program. Homeowners over 65 years of age with household adjusted gross incomes, less the taxable amount of total distributions from individual retirement accounts and individual retirement annuities (“STAR Adjusted Gross Income”) of \$98,700 or less in 2024-2025 and \$107,300 or less in 2025-2026, increased annually according to a cost of living adjustment, are eligible for a “full value” exemption of the first \$84,000 of the full value of a home for the 2024-2025 school year and the first \$86,100 of the full value of a home for the 2025-2026 school year (adjusted annually). Other homeowners with household STAR Adjusted Gross income not in excess of \$250,000 (\$500,000 in the case of a STAR credit, as discussed below) are eligible for a \$30,000 “full value” exemption on their primary residence.

The 2019-20 Enacted State Budget made several changes to the STAR program, which went into effect immediately. The changes are intended to encourage homeowners to switch from the STAR exemption to the STAR credit. The income limit for the exemption was lowered to \$250,000, compared with a \$500,000 limit for the credit. The amount received for the STAR exemption will remain the same each year, while the amount of the STAR credit can increase up to two percent annually. Homeowners with STAR Adjusted Gross Income of \$250,000 or less have the option to select the credit or the exemption.

The 2020-21 Enacted State Budget further modified the STAR program. Under such legislation, property owners with property tax delinquencies greater than one year are not eligible for the Basic STAR exemption or the Basic STAR credit. Recipients of the Enhanced STAR exemptions and credits are not impacted by this program; they may continue to receive STAR benefits even if their property taxes are delinquent.

The below table lists the basic and enhanced exemption amounts for the municipalities applicable to the District:

<u>Towns of:</u>	<u>Enhanced Exemption</u>	<u>Basic Exemption</u>	<u>Date Certified</u>
Clifton	\$ 60,270	\$ 21,000	4/10/2025
Fine	76,630	26,700	4/10/2025
Pitcairn	86,100	30,000	4/10/2025
Russell	46,350	16,550	4/10/2025

\$172,306 of the District's \$4,467,090 school tax levy for 2024-2025 was exempted by the STAR Program. The District received full reimbursement of such exempt taxes from the State in January, 2025.

Approximately \$170,000 of the District's \$4,579,293 school tax levy for 2025-2026 is expected to be exempt by the STAR Program. The District anticipates receiving full reimbursement of such exempt taxes from the State in January, 2026.

Additional Tax Information

Real property located in the District is assessed by the Towns.

Senior citizens' exemptions are offered to those who qualify.

Total assessed valuation of the District is estimated to be categorized as follows: Residential-53%; Land- 23%, Commercial- 2%; Agricultural- 2%, Industrial- 1%, and Other-19%.

The estimated total annual property tax bill of a typical \$50,000 market value residential property located in the District is approximately \$1,065 with the reduction of STAR and \$1,400 without the reduction of STAR including County, Town, School District and Fire District taxes.

TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW

On June 24, 2011, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 was signed into law by the Governor ("Chapter 97" or the "Tax Levy Limitation Law"). The Tax Levy Limitation Law applies to all local governments, including school districts (with the exception of New York City, and the counties comprising New York City and school districts in New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers.)

Prior to the enactment of the Tax Levy Limitation Law, there was no statutory limitation on the amount of real property taxes that a school district could levy as part of its budget if its budget had been approved by a simple majority of its voters. In the event the budget had been defeated by the voters, the school district was required to adopt a contingency budget. Under a contingency budget, school budget increases were limited to the lesser of four percent (4%) of the prior year's budget or one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the consumer price index ("CPI").

Chapter 97 requires that a school district submit its proposed tax levy to the voters each year beginning with the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Chapter 97 restricts, among other things, the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by or on behalf of a school district in a particular year. It was set to expire on June 15, 2020; recent legislation has made it permanent. Pursuant to the Tax Levy Limitation Law, the tax levy of a school district cannot increase by more than the lesser of (i) two percent (2%) or (ii) the annual increase in the CPI, over the amount of the prior year's tax levy. Certain adjustments are permitted for taxable real property full valuation increases or changes in physical or quantity growth in the real property base as defined in Section 1220 of the Real Property Tax Law. A school district can exceed the tax levy limitation for the coming fiscal year only if the voters of such school district first approve a tax levy by at least 60% affirmative vote of those voting to override such limitation for such coming fiscal year only. Tax

levies that do not exceed the limitation will only require approval by at least 50% of those voting. In the event that the voters reject a tax levy and the district does not go out for a second vote, or if a second vote is likewise defeated, Chapter 97 provides that the tax levy for the new fiscal year may not exceed the tax levy for the prior fiscal year.

See “State Aid” for a discussion of the New Yorkers for Students’ Educational Rights v. State of New York case which includes a challenge to the supermajority requirements regarding school district property tax increases. Reductions in federal funding levels could have a materially adverse impact on the State budget. In addition to the potential fiscal impact of policies that may be proposed and adopted by the federal administration and Congress, the State budget may be adversely affected by other actions taken by the federal government, including audits, disallowances, and changes to federal participation rates or other Medicaid rules.

STATUS OF INDEBTEDNESS

Constitutional Requirements

The New York State Constitution limits the power of the District (and other municipalities and certain school districts of the State) to issue obligations and to contract indebtedness. Such constitutional limitations in summary form and as generally applicable to the District include the following:

Purpose and Pledge. The District shall not give or loan any money or property to or in aid of any individual or private undertaking or give or loan its credit to or in aid of any of the foregoing or any public corporation.

The District may contract indebtedness only for a District purpose and shall pledge its faith and credit for the payment of principal of and interest thereon.

Payment and Maturity. Except for certain short-term indebtedness contracted in anticipation of taxes or to be paid within three fiscal year periods, indebtedness shall be paid in annual installments commencing no later than two years after the date such indebtedness shall have been contracted and ending no later than the expiration of the period of probable usefulness of the object or purpose as determined by statute; unless substantially level or declining annual debt service is utilized, no installment may be more than fifty percent in excess of the smallest prior installment. The District is required to provide an annual appropriation for the payment of interest due during the year on its indebtedness and for the amounts required in such year for amortization and redemption of its serial bonds and such required annual installments on its notes.

Statutory Procedure

In general, the State Legislature has, by the enactment of the Local Finance Law, authorized the powers and procedure for the District to borrow and incur indebtedness subject, of course, to the constitutional provisions set forth above. The power to spend money, however, generally derives from other law, including the Education Law.

Debt Limit. Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the School District has the power to contract indebtedness for any School District purpose authorized by the Legislature of the State of New York provided the aggregate principal amount thereof shall not exceed ten per centum of the full valuation of the taxable real estate of the District and subject to certain enumerated deductions such as State aid for building purposes. The constitutional and statutory method for determining full valuation is by taking the assessed valuation of taxable real estate for the last completed assessment roll and applying thereto the ratio (equalization rate) which such assessed valuation bears to the full valuation; such ratio is determined by the State Board of Real Property Services. The Legislature also is required to prescribe the manner by which such ratio shall be determined by such authority.

The District is generally required by such laws to submit propositions for the expenditure of money for capital purposes to the qualified electors of the District. Upon approval thereby, the Board of Education may adopt a bond resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds, and notes in anticipation of the bonds. No down payment is required in connection with the issuance of District obligations.

Each bond resolution usually authorizes the construction, acquisition or installation of the object or purpose to be financed, sets forth the plan of financing and specifies the maximum maturity of the bonds subject to the legal (Constitution, Local Finance Law and case law) restrictions relating to the period of probable usefulness with respect thereto.

The Local Finance Law also provides that where a bond resolution is published with a statutory form of notice, the validity of the bonds authorized thereby, including bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale thereof, may be contested only if:

- (1) Such obligations are authorized for a purpose for which the School District is not authorized to expend money, or
- (2) There has not been substantial compliance with the provisions of law which should have been complied within the authorization of such obligations and an action contesting such validity, is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- (3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

The District has complied with this estoppel procedure in connection with the Notes.

The Board of Education, as the finance board of the District, has the power to enact bond resolutions. In addition, such finance board has the power to authorize the sale and issuance of obligations. However, such finance board may delegate the power to sell the obligations to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District, pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

The District is further subject to constitutional limitation by the general constitutionally imposed duty on the State Legislature to restrict the power of taxation and contracting indebtedness; however, the State Legislature is prohibited by a specific constitutional provision from restricting the power of the District to levy taxes on real estate for the payment of interest on or principal of indebtedness theretofore contracted.

Debt Outstanding End of Fiscal Year

<u>Fiscal Years Ending:</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Bonds	\$ 1,485,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 3,245,000	\$ 2,725,000
Bond Anticipation Notes	3,850,000	3,590,000	0	0	4,600,000
Other Debt	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Debt Outstanding	\$ 5,335,000	\$ 4,690,000	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 3,245,000	\$ 7,325,000

Details of Outstanding Indebtedness

The following table sets forth the indebtedness of the District as of July 10, 2025:

<u>Type of Indebtedness</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Bonds</u>	2022-2025	\$ 2,725,000
<u>Bond Anticipation Notes</u>		
Capital Project	June 29, 2022	<u>4,600,000</u>
Total Indebtedness:		<u>\$ 7,325,000</u>

Debt Statement Summary

Summary of Indebtedness, Debt Limit and Net Debt-Contracting Margin prepared as of July 10, 2025:

Full Valuation of Taxable Real Property	\$ 485,493,433
Debt Limit 10% thereof	48,549,343

Inclusions:

Bonds.....	\$ 2,725,000	
Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs):	4,600,000	
Total Inclusions prior to issuance of the Notes	7,325,000	
Less: BANs being redeemed from appropriations	0	
Add: New money proceeds of the Notes	0	
Total Net Inclusions after issuance of the Notes		\$ 7,325,000

Exclusions:

State Building Aid ⁽¹⁾	\$ 0	
Total Exclusions.....		\$ 0

Total Net Indebtedness <u>after issuance of the Notes</u>	\$ 7,325,000
Net Debt-Contracting Margin	\$ 41,224,343
The percent of debt contracting power exhausted is	15.09%

- ⁽¹⁾ Based on preliminary 2024-2025 building aid estimates, the District anticipates State Building aid of 71.6% for debt service on State Education Department approved expenditures from July 1, 2004 to the present. The District has no reason to believe that it will not ultimately receive all of the building aid it anticipates; however, no assurance can be given as to when and how much building aid the District will receive in relation to the outstanding bonds.

Note: The State Constitution does not provide for the inclusion of tax anticipation or revenue anticipation notes in the computation of the net indebtedness of the District.

Bonded Debt Service

A schedule of bonded debt service may be found in “APPENDIX – B” to this Official Statement.

Cash Flow Borrowings

The District has not issued either revenue or tax anticipation notes in the recent past, and does not reasonably expect to issue such notes in the foreseeable future.

Capital Project Plans

The District annually completes a \$100,000 capital outlay project.

On November 17, 2022 District voters approved a capital project for the improvement of buildings. The capital project is anticipated to have an approximate cost of \$5,600,000, with the use of \$1,000,000 capital reserve funds. On September 25, 2024 the District issued \$4,600,000 bond anticipation notes as the initial borrowing for this project. The proceeds of the Notes will fully redeem and renew the outstanding bond anticipation notes.

The district is in the preliminary planning phases of a capital project, having an estimated cost of \$5.4 million, that will go to vote in November 2025, the full scope and timeline of such project are currently in development.

Other than as stated above, there are no other capital projects authorized or unissued by the District.

Estimated Overlapping Indebtedness

In addition to the District, the following political subdivisions have the power to issue bonds and to levy taxes or cause taxes to be levied on taxable real property in the District. The estimated outstanding indebtedness of such political subdivisions is as follows:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Status of Debt as of</u>	<u>Gross Indebtedness</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>Exclusions</u> ⁽²⁾	<u>Net Indebtedness</u>	<u>District Share</u>	<u>Net Overlapping Indebtedness</u>
County of:						
St. Lawrence	6/30/2025	\$ 19,800,000 ⁽³⁾	\$ 470,000 ⁽³⁾	\$ 19,330,000	6.01%	\$ 1,161,733
Town of:						
Clifton	12/31/2023	1,618,844 ⁽⁴⁾	- ⁽⁵⁾	1,618,844	100.00%	1,618,844
Fine	12/31/2023	4,460,997 ⁽⁴⁾	- ⁽⁵⁾	4,460,997	97.26%	4,338,766
Pitcairn	12/31/2023	- ⁽⁴⁾	- ⁽⁵⁾	-	9.10%	-
Russell	12/31/2023	- ⁽⁴⁾	- ⁽⁵⁾	-	0.62%	-
Total:						<u>\$ 7,119,343</u>

- (1) Outstanding bonds and bond anticipation notes of the respective municipality. Not adjusted to include subsequent issuances, if any, from the date of the status of indebtedness stated in the table above for each respective municipality.
- (2) Water debt, sewer debt and budgeted appropriations as applicable to the respective municipality. Water Indebtedness excluded pursuant to Article VIII, Section 5B of the New York State Constitution. Sewer Indebtedness excluded pursuant to Article VIII, Section 5E of the New York State Constitution, as further prescribed under section 124.10 of the Local Finance Law. Appropriations are excluded pursuant to Section 136.00 of the Local Finance Law.
- (3) Gross indebtedness, exclusions, and net-indebtedness sourced from available annual financial information & operating data filings and/or official statements of the respective municipality.
- (4) Gross indebtedness sourced from local government data provided by the State Comptroller's office for the most recent fiscal year such data is available for the respective municipality.
- (5) Information regarding excludable debt not available.

Debt Ratios

The following table sets forth certain ratios relating to the District's net indebtedness as of July 10, 2025:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per Capita</u> ^(a)	<u>Percentage of Full Value</u> ^(b)
Net Indebtedness ^(c)	\$ 7,325,000	\$ 3,760.27	1.51%
Net Indebtedness Plus Net Overlapping Indebtedness ^(c)	14,444,343	7,414.96	2.98

- (a) The current estimated population of the District is 1,948. (See "THE SCHOOL DISTRICT - Population" herein.)
- (b) The District's full value of taxable real estate for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is \$485,493,433. (See "TAX INFORMATION – Taxable Assessed Valuations" herein.)
- (c) See "Debt Statement Summary" for the Calculation of Net Indebtedness, herein.
- (d) The District's applicable share of Net Overlapping Indebtedness is estimated to be \$7,119,343. (See "Estimated Overlapping Indebtedness" herein.)

Note: The above ratios do not take into account State building aid the District will receive for past and current construction building projects.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS AFFECTING REMEDIES UPON DEFAULT

State Aid Intercept For School Districts. In the event of a default in the payment of the principal of and/or interest on the Notes, the State Comptroller is required to withhold, under certain conditions prescribed by Section 99-b of the State Finance Law, state aid and assistance to the School District and to apply the amount thereof so withheld to the payment of such defaulted principal and/or interest, which requirement constitutes a covenant by the State with the holders from time to time of the Notes. The covenant between the State of New York and the purchasers and the holders and owners from time to time of the notes and bonds issued by the school districts in the State for school purposes provides that it will not repeal, revoke or rescind the provisions of Section 99-b, or amend or modify the same so as to limit, impair or impede the rights and remedies granted thereby.

Said section provides that in the event a holder or owner of any bond issued by a school district for school purposes shall file with the State Comptroller a verified statement describing such bond and alleging default in the payment thereof or the interest thereon or both, it shall be the duty of the State Comptroller to immediately investigate the circumstances of the alleged default and prepare and file in his office a certificate setting forth his determinations with respect thereto and to serve a copy thereof by registered mail upon the chief fiscal officer of the school district which issued the bond. Such investigation by the State Comptroller shall cover the current status with respect to the payment of principal of and interest on all outstanding bonds of such school district issued for school purposes and the statement prepared and filed by the State Comptroller shall set forth a description of all such bonds of the school district found to be in default and the amount of principal and interest thereon past due.

Upon the filing of such a certificate in the office of the State Comptroller, he shall thereafter deduct and withhold from the next succeeding allotment, apportionment or payment of such State aid or assistance due to such school district such amount thereof as may be required to pay (a) the school district's contribution to the State teachers retirement system, and (b) the principal of and interest on such bonds of such school district then in default. In the event such State aid or assistance initially so withheld shall be insufficient to pay said amounts in full, the State Comptroller shall similarly deduct and withhold from each succeeding allotment, apportionment or payment of such State aid or assistance due such school district such amount or amounts thereof as may be required to cure such default. Allotments, apportionments and payments of such State aid so deducted or withheld by the State Comptroller for the payment of principal and interest on bonds shall be forwarded promptly to the paying agent or agents for the bonds in default of such school district for the sole purpose of the payment of defaulted principal of and interest on such bonds. If any of such successive allotments, apportionments or payments of such State Aid so deducted or withheld shall be less than the amount of all principal and interest on the bonds in default with respect to which the same was so deducted or withheld, then the State Comptroller shall promptly forward to each paying agent an amount in the proportion that the amount of such bonds in default payable to such paying agent bears to the total amount of the principal and interest then in default on such bonds of such school district. The State Comptroller shall promptly notify the chief fiscal officer of such school district of any payment or payments made to any paying agent or agents of defaulted bonds pursuant to said Section 99-b.

General Municipal Law Contract Creditors' Provision. Each Note when duly issued and paid for will constitute a contract between the School District and the holder thereof. Under current law, provision is made for contract creditors of the School District to enforce payments upon such contracts, if necessary, through court action. Section 3-a of the General Municipal Law provides, subject to exceptions not pertinent, that the rate of interest to be paid by the School District upon any judgment or accrued claim against it on an amount adjudged due to a creditor shall not exceed nine per centum per annum from the date due to the date of payment. This provision might be construed to have application to the holders of the Notes in the event of a default in the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes.

Execution/Attachment of Municipal Property. As a general rule, property and funds of a municipal corporation serving the public welfare and interest have not been judicially subjected to execution or attachment to satisfy a judgment, although judicial mandates have been issued to officials to appropriate and pay judgments out of certain funds or the proceeds of a tax levy. In accordance with the general rule with respect to municipalities, judgments against the School District may not be enforced by levy and execution against property owned by the School District.

Authority to File For Municipal Bankruptcy. The Federal Bankruptcy Code allows public bodies, such as municipalities, recourse to the protection of a Federal Court for the purpose of adjusting outstanding indebtedness. Section 85.80 of the Local Finance Law contains specific authorization for any municipality in the State or its emergency control board to file a petition under any provision of Federal bankruptcy law for the composition or adjustment of municipal indebtedness. While this Local Finance Law provision does not apply to school districts, there can be no assurance that it will not be made so applicable in the future.

Constitutional Non-Appropriation Provision. There is in the Constitution of the State, Article VIII, Section 2, the following provision relating to the annual appropriation of monies for the payment of due principal of and interest on indebtedness of every county, city, town, village and school district in the State: "If at any time the respective appropriating authorities shall fail to make such appropriations, a sufficient sum shall be set apart from the first revenues thereafter received and shall be applied to such purposes. The fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village or school district may be required to set aside and apply such revenues as aforesaid at the suit of any holder of obligations issued for any such indebtedness." This constitutes a specific non-exclusive constitutional remedy against a defaulting municipality or school district; however, it does not apply in a context in which monies have been appropriated for debt service but the appropriating authorities decline to use such monies to pay debt service. However, Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State also provides that the fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village or school district may be required to set apart and apply such revenues at the suit of any holder of any obligations of indebtedness issued with the pledge of the faith of the credit of such political subdivision. See "General Municipal Law Contract Creditors' Provision" herein.

The Constitutional provision providing for first revenue set asides does not apply to tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes or bond anticipation notes.

Default Litigation. In prior years, certain events and legislation affecting a holder's remedies upon default have resulted in litigation. While courts of final jurisdiction have upheld and sustained the rights of bondholders, such courts might hold that future events including financial crises as they may occur in the State and in political subdivisions of the State require the exercise by the State or its political subdivisions of emergency and police powers to assure the continuation of essential public services prior to the payment of debt service.

No Past Due Debt. No principal of or interest on School District indebtedness is past due. The School District has never defaulted in the payment of the principal of and interest on any indebtedness.

MARKET AND RISK FACTORS

There are various forms of risk associated with investing in the Notes. The following is a discussion of certain events that could affect the risk of investing in the Notes. In addition to the events cited herein, there are other potential risk factors that an investor must consider. In order to make an informed investment decision, an investor should be thoroughly familiar with the entire Official Statement, including its appendices, as well as all areas of potential risk.

The financial condition of the School District as well as the market for the Notes could be affected by a variety of factors, some of which are beyond the School District's control. There can be no assurance that adverse events in the State or in other jurisdictions in the country, including, for example, the seeking by a municipality or large taxable property owner of remedies pursuant to the Federal Bankruptcy Code or otherwise, will not occur which might affect the market price of and the market for the Notes. If a significant default or other financial crisis should occur in the affairs of the State or any of its agencies or political subdivisions thereby further impairing the acceptability of obligations issued by borrowers within the State, both the ability of the School District to arrange for additional borrowings, and the market for and market value of outstanding debt obligations, including the Notes, could be adversely affected.

The School District is dependent in part on financial assistance from the State. However, if the State should experience difficulty in borrowing funds in anticipation of the receipt of State taxes in order to pay State aid to municipalities and school districts in the State, including the School District, in any year, the School District may be affected by a delay, until sufficient taxes have been received by the State to make State aid payments to the School District. In several recent years, the School District has received delayed payments of State aid which resulted from the State's delay in adopting its budget and appropriating State aid to municipalities and school districts, and consequent delay in State borrowing to finance such appropriations. (See also "THE SCHOOL DISTRICT - State Aid").

There are a number of general factors which could have a detrimental effect on the ability of the District to continue to generate revenues, particularly property taxes. For instance, the termination of a major commercial enterprise or an unexpected increase in tax certiorari proceedings could result in a significant reduction in the assessed valuation of taxable real property in the District. Unforeseen developments could also result in substantial increases in District expenditures, thus placing strain on the District's financial condition. These factors may have an effect on the market price of the Notes.

The District's credit rating could be affected by circumstances beyond the District's control. Economic conditions such as the rate of unemployment and inflation, termination of commercial operations by corporate taxpayers and employers, as well as natural catastrophes, could adversely affect the assessed valuation of District property and its ability to maintain fund balances and other statistical indices commensurate with its current credit rating. Accordingly, a decline in the District's credit rating could adversely affect the market value of the Notes.

If a holder elects to sell his investment prior to its scheduled maturity date, market access or price risk may be incurred. If and when a holder of any of the Notes should elect to sell a Note prior to its maturity, there can be no assurance that a market shall have been established, maintained and be in existence for the purchase and sale of any of the Notes. Recent global financial crises have included limited periods of significant disruption. In addition, the price and principal value of the Notes is dependent on the prevailing level of interest rates; if interest rates rise, the price of a bond or note will decline, causing the bondholder or noteholder to incur a potential capital loss if such bond or note is sold prior to its maturity.

An outbreak of disease or similar public health threat, such as the COVID-19 outbreak, or fear of such an event, could have an adverse impact on the District's financial condition and operating results by potentially delaying the receipt of real property taxes or resulting in a delay or reduction by the State in the payment of State aid. Should the District fail to receive State aid expected from the State in the amounts or at the times expected, occasioned by a delay in the payment of such monies or by a reduction in State aid, the District is authorized by the Local Finance Law to provide operating funds by borrowing on account of the uncollected State aid.

The enactment of the Tax Levy Limitation Law, which imposes a tax levy limitation upon municipalities, school districts and fire districts in the State, including the School District could have an impact upon the market price of the Notes. See "TAX LEVY LIMITATION LAW" herein.

Future legislative proposals, if enacted into law, or clarification of the Code or court decisions may cause interest on the Notes to be subject, directly or indirectly, to federal income taxation or to be subject to or exempted from state income taxation, or otherwise prevent the beneficial owners of the Notes from realizing the full current benefit of the tax status of such interest. No assurance can be given that pending or future legislation or amendments to the Code, if enacted into law, or any proposed legislation or amendments to the Code, will not adversely affect the value of the Notes, or the tax status of interest on the Notes. See “TAX MATTERS” herein.

Cybersecurity

The District, like many other public and private entities, relies on a large and complex technology environment to conduct its operations. As such, it may face multiple cybersecurity threats including, but not limited to, hacking, viruses, malware and other attacks on computer or other sensitive digital systems and networks. There can be no assurances that any security and operational control measures implemented by the District will be completely successful to guard against and prevent cyber threats and attacks. The result of any such attacks could impact business operations and/or digital networks and systems and the costs of remedying any such damage could be significant.

TAX MATTERS

In the opinion of WJ Marquardt PLLC, Bond Counsel to the District (“Bond Counsel”), under existing statutes and court decisions and assuming continuing compliance with certain tax certifications described herein, (i) interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and (ii) interest on the Notes is not treated as a preference item in calculating the alternative minimum tax under the Code, however, interest on the Notes is included in the “adjusted financial statement income” of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. In addition, under existing statutes, interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes of New York State and its political subdivisions, including the City of New York. Bond counsel expresses no opinion regarding any other tax consequences related to the ownership or disposition of, or the accrual of interest on the Notes. The proposed form of opinion of Bond Counsel is set forth in “Appendix -D.”

The Code imposes various restrictions, conditions and requirements relating to the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest on obligations such as the Notes. The School District has covenanted to comply with certain restrictions designed to insure that interest on the Notes will not be included in federal gross income. Failure to comply with these covenants will result in interest on the Notes being included in gross income for federal income tax purposes as well as adjusted gross income for purposes of personal income taxes imposed by the State of New York or the City of New York, from the date of original issuance of the Notes. The opinion of Bond Counsel assumes compliance with these covenants. Bond Counsel has not undertaken to determine (or to inform any person) whether any actions taken (or not taken) or events occurring (or not occurring) after the date of issuance of the Notes may adversely affect the value of, or the tax status of interest on, the Notes. Further, no assurance can be given that pending or future legislation or amendments to the Code, if enacted into law, or any proposed legislation or amendments to the Code, will not adversely affect the value of, or the tax status of interest on, the Notes.

Certain requirements and procedures contained or referred to in the Arbitrage Certificate, and other relevant documents may be changed and certain actions (including, without limitation, economic defeasance of the Notes) may be taken or omitted under the circumstances and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in such documents. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion as to any Notes or the interest thereon if any such change occurs or action is taken or omitted.

Although Bond Counsel is of the opinion that interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and is excluded from adjusted gross income for federal income taxes imposed by the State of New York and the City of New York, the ownership or disposition of, or the accrual or receipt of interest on, the Notes may otherwise affect an Owner’s federal or state tax liability. The nature and extent of these other tax consequences will depend upon the particular tax status of the owner or the owner’s other items of income or deduction. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion regarding any such other tax consequences.

Future legislative proposals, if enacted into law, or clarification of the Code or court decisions may cause interest on the Notes to be subject, directly or indirectly, to federal income taxation or to be subject to or exempted from state income taxation, or otherwise prevent beneficial owners from realizing the full current benefit of the tax status of such interest. For example, legislative proposals have been advanced that would limit the exclusion from gross income of interest on obligations like the Notes to some extent for taxpayers who are individuals whose income is subject to higher marginal income tax rates. Other proposals have been made that could significantly reduce the benefit of, or otherwise affect, the exclusion from gross income of interest on obligations like the Notes. The introduction or enactment of any such legislative proposals, clarification of the Code or court decisions may also affect, perhaps significantly, the market price for, or marketability of, the Notes. Prospective purchasers of the Notes should consult their own tax advisors regarding any pending or proposed federal or state tax legislation, regulations or litigation, and regarding the impact of future legislation, regulations or litigation, as to which Bond Counsel expresses no opinion.

LEGAL MATTERS

Legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance and sale of the Notes are subject to the approving legal opinion of WJ Marquardt PLLC, Bond Counsel. Bond Counsel's opinion will be in substantially the form attached hereto as "APPENDIX – E".

WJ Marquardt PLLC, Skaneateles, New York, Bond Counsel to the School District, expresses no opinions as to the accuracy or completeness of information in any documents prepared by or on behalf of the School District for use in connection with the offer and sale of the Notes, including, but not limited to, the financial information in this Official Statement.

LITIGATION

The District is subject to a number of lawsuits in the ordinary conduct of its affairs. The District does not believe, however, that such suits, individually or in the aggregate, are likely to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the District.

There is no action, suit, proceedings or investigation, at law or in equity, before or by any court, public board or body pending or, to the best knowledge of the District, threatened against or affecting the District to restrain or enjoin the issuance, sale or delivery of bonds or notes or the levy and collection of taxes or assessments to pay same, or in any way contesting or affecting the validity of bonds or notes or any proceedings or authority of the District taken with respect to the authorization, issuance or sale of bonds or notes or contesting the corporate existence or boundaries of the District.

CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

In order to assist the purchasers in complying with Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Rule 15c2-12"), the District will enter into an Undertaking to Provide Notice of certain Material Events, the description of which is attached hereto as "APPENDIX – C".

Historical Compliance

The District is in compliance, in all material respects, within the last five years with all previous undertakings made pursuant to the Rule 15c2-12.

MUNICIPAL ADVISOR

Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. (the "Municipal Advisor") is a Municipal Advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. The Municipal Advisor serves as independent financial advisor to the District on matters relating to debt management. The Municipal Advisor is a financial advisory and consulting organization and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, marketing, or trading municipal securities or any other negotiated instruments. The Municipal Advisor has provided advice as to the plan of financing and the structuring of the Notes. The advice on the plan of financing and the structuring of the Notes was based on materials provided by the District and other sources of information believed to be reliable. The Municipal Advisor has not audited, authenticated, or otherwise verified the information provided by the District or the information set forth in this Official Statement or any other information available to the District with respect to the appropriateness, accuracy, or completeness of disclosure of such information and no guarantee, warranty, or other representation is made by the Municipal Advisor respecting the accuracy and completeness of or any other matter related to such information and this Official Statement. The fees to be paid by the District to Fiscal Advisors are partially contingent on the successful closing of the Notes.

CUSIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

The Municipal Advisor intends to provide the purchaser of the issue with CUSIP identification numbers, in compliance with MSRB Rule G-34, (a)(i) (A)-(H). As is further discussed in Rule G-34 the purchaser, as the "dealer who acquires" the issue, is responsible for the registration fee to the CUSIP Bureau for this service. It is anticipated that CUSIP (an acronym that refers to Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures) identification numbers will be printed on the Notes. All expenses in relation to the printing of CUSIP numbers on the Notes will be paid for by the District; provided, however, the District assumes no responsibility for any CUSIP Service Bureau charge or other charge that may be imposed for the assignment of such numbers.

RATINGS

The Notes are NOT rated. The purchaser(s) of the Notes may choose to request that a rating be assigned after the sale pending the approval of the District and applicable rating agency, and at the expense of the purchaser(s), including any rating agency and other fees to be incurred by the District, as such rating action may result in a material event notice to be posted to EMMA and/or the provision of a Supplement to the final Official Statement. (See “APPENDIX – C” herein).

The District does not currently have a general obligation or long term underlying rating with any rating agency.

Generally, rating agencies base their ratings on the information and materials furnished to it and on investigations, studies and assumptions by the respective rating agency. There is no assurance that a rating will continue for any given period of time or that it will not be revised downward or withdrawn entirely by such rating agency if, in its judgment, circumstances so warrant. Any downward revision or withdrawal of the rating of the District’s outstanding serial bonds may have an adverse effect on the market price of the outstanding bonds or the issuance of the Notes.

MISCELLANEOUS

So far as any statements made in this Official Statement involve matters of opinion or estimates whether or not expressly stated, they are set forth as such and not as representations of fact, and no representation is made that any of the statements will be realized. Neither this Official Statement nor any statement which may have been made verbally or in writing is to be construed as a contract with the holders of the Notes.

Statements in this official statement, and the documents included by specific reference, that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements, which are based on the District management’s beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, the District’s management and staff. Because the statements are based on expectations about future events and economic performance and are not statements of fact, actual results may differ materially from those projected. Important factors that could cause future results to differ include legislative and regulatory changes, changes in the economy, and other factors discussed in this and other documents that the District’s files with the repositories. When used in District documents or oral presentation, the words “anticipate”, “estimate”, “expect”, “objective”, “projection”, “forecast”, “goal”, or similar words are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

To the extent any statements made in this Official Statement involve matters of opinion or estimates, whether or not expressly stated, they are set forth as such and not as representations of fact, and no representation is made that any of the statements will be realized. Neither this Official Statement nor any statement which may have been made verbally or in writing is to be construed as a contract with the holder of the Notes.

WJ Marquardt PLLC, Skaneateles, New York, Bond Counsel to the District, expresses no opinions as to the accuracy or completeness of information in any documents prepared by or on behalf of the District for use in connection with the offer and sale of the Notes, including but not limited to, the financial or statistical information in this Official Statement.

References herein to the Constitution of the State and various State and federal laws are only brief outlines of certain provisions thereof and do not purport to summarize or describe all of such provisions.

Concurrently with the delivery of the Notes, the District will furnish a certificate to the effect that as of the date of the Official Statement, the Official Statement did not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements herein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, subject to a limitation as to information in the Official Statement obtained from sources other than the District.

The Official Statement is submitted only in connection with the sale of the Notes by the District and may not be reproduced or used in whole or in part for any other purpose.

The District hereby disclaims any obligation to update developments of the various risk factors or to announce publicly any revision to any of the forward-looking statements contained herein or to make corrections to reflect future events or developments except to the extent required by Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. may place a copy of this Official Statement on its website at www.fiscaladvisors.com. Unless this Official Statement specifically indicates otherwise, no statement on such website is included by specific reference or constitutes a part of this Official Statement. Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. has prepared such website information for convenience, but no decisions should be made in reliance upon that information. Typographical or other errors may have occurred in converting original source documents to digital format, and neither the District nor Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. assumes any liability or responsibility for errors or omissions on such website. Further, Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. and the District disclaim any duty or obligation either to update or to maintain that information or any responsibility or liability for any damages caused by viruses in the electronic files on the website. Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. and the District also assume no liability or responsibility for any errors or omissions or for any updates to dated website information.

The District contact information is as follows: Glenda Morales-Hanley, Assistant Business Manager, 11 Hall Avenue, Star Lake, New York 13690, Phone: (315) 848-3333, Fax: (315) 848-3378, Email: gmoraleshanley@sllboces.org.

Additional copies of the Notice of Sale and the Official Statement may be obtained upon request from the offices of Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc., Phone: (315) 752-0051, or at www.fiscaladvisors.com.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dated: July 10, 2025

NICOLE E. CURRY
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND
CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER

GENERAL FUND

Balance Sheets

Fiscal Years Ending June 30:	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>					
Unrestricted Cash	\$ 2,001,535	\$ 2,862,981	\$ 2,550,104	\$ 2,752,483	\$ 2,299,143
Restricted Cash	2,457,531	2,459,146	3,411,068	3,384,923	4,376,777
Unrestricted Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Investments	-	-	-	-	-
State and Federal Aid Receivable	63,600	200,573	65,529	67,696	169,212
Due from Other Funds	265,797	196,809	581,782	331,551	438,215
Due from Fiduciary Funds	4,144	-	2,667	2,844	-
Due from Other Governments	148,847	163,179	392,806	191,258	161,088
Accounts Receivables	1,858	2,409	86,080	9,661	26,788
Prepaid Expenses	5,403	5,403	5,403	5,403	5,403
Inventories	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 4,948,715</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,890,500</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,095,439</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 6,745,819</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,476,626</u></u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</u>					
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,633	\$ 8,037	\$ 11,511	\$ 22,747	\$ 175,881
Accrued Liabilities	28,297	47,166	49,653	44,697	53,114
Compensated Absences	511	511	511	511	511
Due to Other Funds	12,294	77,638	222,368	4,353	5,325
Due to Fiduciary Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Due to Teachers' Retirement System	260,412	269,072	301,267	303,215	328,964
Due to Employee Retirement System	42,924	40,477	23,260	30,720	35,245
Deferred Revenues	41,464	-	1,308	485	485
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u><u>388,535</u></u>	<u><u>442,901</u></u>	<u><u>609,878</u></u>	<u><u>406,728</u></u>	<u><u>599,525</u></u>
<u>FUND EQUITY</u>					
Nonspendable	\$ 5,403	\$ 5,403	\$ 5,403	\$ 5,403	\$ 5,403
Reserved	2,457,531	2,459,146	3,411,068	3,384,923	4,376,777
Assigned	1,031,304	1,008,670	1,044,713	1,076,445	1,157,379
Unassigned	1,065,942	1,974,380	2,024,377	1,872,320	1,337,542
TOTAL FUND EQUITY	<u><u>4,560,180</u></u>	<u><u>5,447,599</u></u>	<u><u>6,485,561</u></u>	<u><u>6,339,091</u></u>	<u><u>6,877,101</u></u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY	<u><u>\$ 4,948,715</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,890,500</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,095,439</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 6,745,819</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,476,626</u></u>

Source: Audited financial reports of the School District. This Appendix is not itself audited.

GENERAL FUND

Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Fiscal Years Ending June 30:	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>					
Real Property Taxes	\$ 3,934,283	\$ 4,002,277	\$ 4,096,109	\$ 4,121,629	\$ 4,176,086
Other Tax Items	266,509	251,607	240,686	215,399	204,072
Charges for Services	54,169	-	96,493	238,535	40
Use of Money & Property	105,299	65,380	9,796	17,005	244,326
Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss	3,500	-	-	83	1,207
Miscellaneous	163,476	148,949	236,555	196,499	156,319
Revenues from State Sources	5,052,084	5,170,138	5,320,680	5,464,333	5,614,925
Revenues from Federal Sources	-	-	148,811	42,300	54,123
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 9,579,320</u>	<u>\$ 9,638,351</u>	<u>\$ 10,149,130</u>	<u>\$ 10,295,783</u>	<u>\$ 10,451,098</u>
Other Sources:					
Interfund Transfers	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,000</u>	<u>23,000</u>
Total Revenues and Other Sources	<u>9,579,320</u>	<u>9,638,351</u>	<u>10,149,130</u>	<u>10,318,783</u>	<u>10,474,098</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
General Support	\$ 1,187,151	\$ 1,217,043	\$ 1,227,117	\$ 1,294,580	\$ 1,353,473
Instruction	3,640,523	3,779,612	3,512,777	3,587,140	3,761,020
Pupil Transportation	646,215	606,765	475,836	452,001	549,090
Community Services	-	140	-	56	-
Employee Benefits	3,107,410	3,169,185	3,198,591	3,102,527	3,095,045
Debt Service	521,479	509,782	710,022	704,325	700,542
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 9,102,778</u>	<u>\$ 9,282,527</u>	<u>\$ 9,124,343</u>	<u>\$ 9,140,629</u>	<u>\$ 9,459,170</u>
Other Uses:					
Interfund Transfers	<u>1,115,298</u>	<u>157,083</u>	<u>137,368</u>	<u>140,192</u>	<u>1,161,398</u>
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>10,218,076</u>	<u>9,439,610</u>	<u>9,261,711</u>	<u>9,280,821</u>	<u>10,620,568</u>
Excess (Deficit) Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>(638,756)</u>	<u>198,741</u>	<u>887,419</u>	<u>1,037,962</u>	<u>(146,470)</u>
<u>FUND BALANCE</u>					
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	5,000,195	4,361,439	4,560,180	5,447,599	6,485,561
Prior Period Adjustments (net)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$ 4,361,439</u>	<u>\$ 4,560,180</u>	<u>\$ 5,447,599</u>	<u>\$ 6,485,561</u>	<u>\$ 6,339,091</u>

Source: Audited financial reports of the School District. This Appendix is not itself audited.

GENERAL FUND

Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual

Fiscal Years Ending June 30:

	2024			2025	2026
	Adopted Budget	Modified Budget	Actual	Adopted Budget	Adopted Budget
REVENUES					
Real Property Taxes	\$ 4,408,316	\$ 4,408,316	\$ 4,226,961	\$ 4,452,399	\$ 4,579,293
Other Tax Items	5,000	5,000	186,421	3,500	2,500
Charges for Services	-	-	-	-	-
Use of Money & Property	40,000	40,000	367,781	41,000	109,000
Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss	150	150	14,876	-	-
Miscellaneous	30,000	30,000	225,228	20,000	20,000
Revenues from State Sources	5,771,179	5,771,179	5,771,974	5,712,676	5,872,892
Revenues from Federal Sources	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 10,254,645</u>	<u>\$ 10,254,645</u>	<u>\$ 10,793,241</u>	<u>\$ 10,229,575</u>	<u>\$ 10,583,685</u>
Other Sources:					
Appropriated Reserves	300,000	300,000	-	285,000	300,000
Interfund Transfers	20,000	20,000	20,000	31,000	71,698
Total Revenues and Other Sources	<u>10,574,645</u>	<u>10,574,645</u>	<u>10,813,241</u>	<u>10,545,575</u>	<u>10,955,383</u>
EXPENDITURES					
General Support	\$ 1,570,996	\$ 1,631,572	\$ 1,449,034	\$ 1,536,421	\$ 1,570,721
Instruction	4,575,843	4,606,835	4,076,211	4,735,982	4,949,244
Pupil Transportation	657,900	660,512	579,134	697,076	759,730
Community Services	-	-	-	-	-
Employee Benefits	3,892,300	3,803,318	3,241,172	3,837,300	3,846,800
Debt Service	788,853	788,853	788,229	681,113	812,925
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 11,485,892</u>	<u>\$ 11,491,090</u>	<u>\$ 10,133,780</u>	<u>\$ 11,487,892</u>	<u>\$ 11,939,420</u>
Other Uses:					
Interfund Transfers	160,000	160,000	141,451	158,000	160,000
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>11,645,892</u>	<u>11,651,090</u>	<u>10,275,231</u>	<u>11,645,892</u>	<u>12,099,420</u>
Excess (Deficit) Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>(1,071,247)</u>	<u>(1,076,445)</u>	<u>538,010</u>	<u>(1,100,317)</u>	<u>(1,144,037)</u>
FUND BALANCE					
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	1,071,247	1,076,445	6,339,091	1,100,317	1,144,037
Prior Period Adjustments (net)	-	-	-	-	-
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 6,877,101</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Source: Audited financial report and budgets of the School District. This Appendix is not itself audited.

APPENDIX - B
Clifton-Fine CSD

BONDED DEBT SERVICE

Fiscal Year Ending June 30th	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 195,000	\$ 136,250.00	\$ 331,250.00
2027	205,000	126,500	331,500
2028	215,000	116,250	331,250
2029	225,000	105,500	330,500
2030	240,000	94,250	334,250
2031	250,000	82,250	332,250
2032	260,000	69,750	329,750
2033	285,000	56,750	341,750
2034	300,000	42,500	342,500
2035	310,000	27,500	337,500
2036	75,000	12,000	87,000
2037	80,000	8,250	88,250
2038	85,000	4,250	89,250
TOTALS	\$ 2,725,000	\$ 882,000.00	\$ 3,607,000.00

CURRENT BONDS OUTSTANDING

Fiscal Year Ending June 30th	2023A DASNY School Districts Revenue Bond		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 195,000	\$ 136,250.00	\$ 331,250.00
2027	205,000	126,500.00	331,500.00
2028	215,000	116,250.00	331,250.00
2029	225,000	105,500.00	330,500.00
2030	240,000	94,250.00	334,250.00
2031	250,000	82,250.00	332,250.00
2032	260,000	69,750.00	329,750.00
2033	285,000	56,750.00	341,750.00
2034	300,000	42,500.00	342,500.00
2035	310,000	27,500.00	337,500.00
2036	75,000	12,000.00	87,000.00
2037	80,000	8,250.00	88,250.00
2038	85,000	4,250.00	89,250.00
2039	-	-	-
TOTALS	\$ 2,725,000	\$ 882,000.00	\$3,607,000.00

MATERIAL EVENT NOTICES

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 15c2-12, as the same may be amended or officially interpreted from time to time (the "Rule"), promulgated by the Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the District has agreed to provide or cause to be provided, in a timely manner not in excess of ten (10) business days after the occurrence of the event, during the period in which the Notes are outstanding, to the EMMA system of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB") or any other entity designated or authorized by the Commission to receive reports pursuant to the Rule, notice of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Notes:

- (a) principal and interest payment delinquencies
- (b) non-payment related defaults, if material
- (c) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties
- (d) in the case of credit enhancement, if any, provided in connection with the issuance of the securities, unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties
- (e) substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform
- (f) 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 securities, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Notes
- (g) modifications to rights of security holders, if material
- (h) note calls, if material and tender offers
- (i) defeasances
- (j) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the securities
- (k) rating changes
- (l) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the District
- (m) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the District or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the District, 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
- (n) appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material
- (o) incurrence of a financial obligation of the District, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation of the School District, any of which affect security holders, if material; and
- (p) default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a financial obligation of the District, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

Event (c) is included pursuant to a letter from the SEC staff to the National Association of Bond Lawyers dated September 19, 1995. However, event (c) is not applicable, since no "debt service reserves" will be established for the Notes.

With respect to event (d) the District does not undertake to provide any notice with respect to credit enhancement added after the primary offering of the Notes.

With respect to event (l) above, the event is considered to occur when any of the following occur: the appointment of a receiver, fiscal agent or similar officer for the District in a proceeding under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or in any other proceeding under state or federal law in which a court or government authority has assumed jurisdiction over substantially all of the assets or business of the District, 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 District.

With respect to events (o) and (p), the term “financial obligation” means a (i) debt obligation; (ii) derivative instrument entered into in connection with, or pledged as security or a source of payment for, an existing or planned debt obligation; or (iii) guarantee of (i) or (ii). The term “financial obligation” shall not include municipal securities as to which a final official statement has been provided to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board consistent with the Rule.

The District has agreed to provide, or cause to be provided, during the period in which the Notes are outstanding in a timely manner, to EMMA or any other entity designated or authorized by the SEC to receive reports pursuant to the Rule, notice of its failure to provide the aforescribed material event notices, if any, on or before the date specified.

The District may from time to time choose to provide notice of the occurrence of certain other events, in addition to those listed above, if the District determines that any such other event is material with respect to the Notes; but the District does not undertake to commit to provide any such notice of the occurrence of any material event except those events listed above.

The District reserves the right to terminate its obligation to provide the aforescribed notices of material events, as set forth above, if and when the District no longer remains an obligated person with respect to the Notes within the meaning of the Rule. The District acknowledges that its undertaking pursuant to the Rule described under this heading is intended to be for the benefit of the holders of the Notes (including holders of beneficial interests in the Notes). The right of holders of the Notes to enforce the provisions of the undertaking will be limited to a right to obtain specific enforcement of the District’s obligations under its material event notices undertaking and any failure by the District to comply with the provisions of the undertaking will neither be a default with respect to the Notes nor entitle any holder of the Notes to recover monetary damages.

The District reserves the right to modify from time to time the specific types of information provided or the format of the presentation of such information, to the extent necessary or appropriate in the judgment of the District; provided that the District agrees that any such modification will be done in a manner consistent with the Rule.

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**CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED

JUNE 30, 2024

The Audited Financial Statements, including opinion, were prepared as of date thereof and have not been reviewed and/or updated in connection with the preparation and dissemination of this Official Statement.

C LIFTON-FINE CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

BOARD OF EDUCATION CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clifton-Fine Central School District, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clifton-Fine Central School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clifton-Fine Central School District, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Clifton-Fine Central School District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Clifton-Fine Central School District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clifton-Fine Central School District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Clifton-Fine Central School District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis (pages 5-17), Schedule of Changes in the District's Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios (page 73), Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual – General Fund (page 74), Schedule of District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability) – NYSLRS Pension Plan (page 75), and Schedule of District's Contributions – NYSLRS Pension Plan (page 76) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

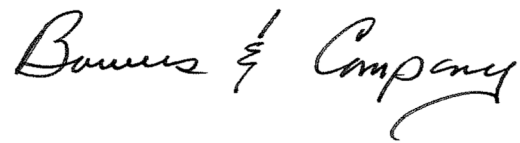
Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Clifton-Fine Central School District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Change from Adopted Budget to Final Budget and the Real Property Tax Limit – General Fund, Schedule of Capital Projects Fund – Project Expenditures and Financing Resources, Combined Balance Sheet – Non-Major Governmental Funds, Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Non-Major Governmental Funds, and Net Investment in Capital Assets (pages 77-81) and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (pages 88-89), as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The 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 Schedule of Change from Adopted Budget to Final Budget and the Real Property Tax Limit – General Fund, Schedule of Capital Projects Fund – Project Expenditures and Financing Resources, Combined Balance Sheet – Non-Major Governmental Funds, Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Non-Major Governmental Funds, and Net Investment in Capital Assets (pages 77-81), and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (pages 88-89) are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 10, 2024, on our consideration of the Clifton-Fine Central School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clifton-Fine Central School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Clifton-Fine Central School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bowles & Company". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the main body of text.

Watertown, New York
October 10, 2024

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The following is a discussion and analysis of the Clifton-Fine Central School District's financial performance for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This section is a summary of the School District's financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions, or conditions. It is also based on the government-wide and fund-based financial statements. This section is only an introduction and should be read in conjunction with the School District's financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE

Located in southern St. Lawrence County and within the boundaries of the Adirondack Park, the Clifton-Fine Central School district is valued for its natural scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. The community provides many opportunities for business development to support the seasonal and recreational population in addition to serving the needs of the year-round residents. The surrounding cities provide shopping and cultural amenities.

Clifton-Fine Central School District serves students from the communities of Star Lake, Cranberry Lake, Wanakena, Newton Falls, Fine and Oswegatchie. An instructional staff (teachers and assistants) of 49 and support staff of 21 administered by a staff of 3, serve 278 elementary and secondary students. A budget of \$11,645,892 was approved by the voters for the 2024-2025 school year. The school is centrally located in Star Lake and serves as a center for many community activities.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total net position decreased by \$599,265 due to the expense from net changes of the Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB), Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), and Employees' Retirement System (ERS) balances.

The School District had \$12.7 million in expenses related to governmental activities. General and Program revenues (primarily taxes and state aid) of \$12.1 million were \$0.6 million less than general expenditures due to changes in the OPEB, TRS, and ERS balances.

Enrollment numbers for UPK through grade 12 remained relatively stable with a slight increase from June 2023 to June 2024.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of three parts: MD&A (this section), the basic financial statements, and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the School District:

- The first two statements are district-wide financial statements that provide both short-term and long-term information about the School District's overall financial status.
- The remaining statements are fund financial statements that focus on individual parts of the School District's operations in more detail than the district-wide statements. The fund financial statements concentrate on the School District's most significant funds.
- The governmental fund statements tell how basic services such as regular and special education were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements with a comparison of the School District's budget for the year.

Figure A-1 summarizes the major features of the School District's financial statements, including the portion of the School District's activities they cover and the types of information they contain. The remainder of this overview section of the MD&A highlights the structure and contents of each of the statements.


CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – Continued

Figure A-1 Major Features of the District-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Table A-1	Major Features of the District-Wide and Fund Financial Statement		
		Fund Financial Statements	
	District-Wide	Governmental Funds	Fiduciary Funds
Scope	Entire District (except fiduciary funds)	The activities of the School District that are not fiduciary, such as instruction, special education and building maintenance	Instances in which the School District acts as a trustee or acts as an agent for resources that belong to others but does not have administrative control, such as property taxes collected on behalf of other governments or scholarships in a trust
Required Financial Statements	1. Statement of Net Position 2. Statement of Activities	3. Balance Sheet 4. Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance	5. Statement of Fiduciary Net Position 6. Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Accounting Basis and Measurement Focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Modified accrual accounting and current financial focus	Accrual accounting and economic focus
Type of Asset / Liability Information	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, short term and long-term	Generally, assets expected to be used up and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets or long-term liabilities included	All assets and liabilities both short-term and long-term; funds do not currently contain capital assets, although they can
Type of Inflow / Outflow Information	All revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when cash is received or paid	Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures when goods or services have been received and the related liability is due and payable	Additions and deductions during the year, regardless of when cash is received or paid

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – Continued

District-Wide Statements

The District-wide statements report information about the School as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of net position includes all the School District's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two district-wide statements report the School District's net position and how they have changed. Net position – the difference between the School District's assets and deferred outflows, and liabilities and deferred inflows – are one way to measure the School District's financial health or position.

- Over time, increases or decreases in the school District's net position are an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating, respectively.
- To assess the School District's overall health, you need to consider additional non-financial factors such as changes in the School District's property tax base and the condition of the school buildings and other facilities.

In the District-wide financial statements, the School District's activities are shown as Governmental activities. Most of the School District's basic services are included here, such as regular and special education, transportation, and administration. Property taxes and State formula aid finance most of these activities. The Food Service Operation is also shown here.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the School District's funds, focusing on its most significant or "major" funds – not the School District as a whole. Funds are accounting devices the School District uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending on particular programs:

- Some funds are required by State law and by bond covenants.
- The School District establishes other funds to control and to manage money for particular purposes (such as the school lunch fund) or to show that it is properly using certain revenues (such as Federal Grants).

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – Continued

The district has one kind of fund:

- **Governmental Funds:** Most of the School District's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on (1) how cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out and (2) the balances left at year end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the School District's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus on the district-wide statements, additional information in the form of reconciliations explains the relationship (or differences) between them.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

Net Position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of the School District, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources exceeded assets and deferred outflows of resources by \$23,325,437 at the close of the most recent fiscal year. This represents a \$599,265 decrease in the statement of net position for the year. The overall deficit is largely due to the District's Other Postemployment Benefit ("OPEB") liability. As of June 30, 2024, the OPEB liability was \$43,235,031 compared to \$46,048,453 reported at the close of the prior fiscal year. The overall decrease in net position in the current fiscal year is due to the loss from the net changes of the OPEB, TRS, and ERS balances with a combined impact of a \$1.35 million dollar decrease to net position.

The largest portion of the School District's Net Position reflects its investment in capital assets less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The School District used capital assets to provide services; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the School District's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A
WHOLE – Continued**

An additional portion of the School District's Net Position represents resources subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining unrestricted (deficit) in net position is the result of the OPEB liability.

Figure A-2 (Statement of Net Position)

	Governmental Activities		Total Dollar Change
	2024	2023	2024-2023
Assets			
Current and Other Assets	\$ 9,303,031	\$ 8,755,476	\$ 547,555
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	16,438,517	16,579,466	(140,949)
Total Assets	\$ 25,741,548	\$ 25,334,942	\$ 406,606
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Pensions	\$ 1,604,126	\$ 1,973,332	\$ (369,206)
Deferred Charge on Bond Refunding	10,674	13,342	(2,668)
Other Postemployment Benefits	4,620,106	6,142,294	(1,522,188)
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 6,234,906	\$ 8,128,968	\$ (1,894,062)
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	\$ 803,884	\$ 531,977	\$ 271,907
Long-Term Liabilities	47,687,132	51,366,421	(3,679,289)
Total Liabilities	\$ 48,491,016	\$ 51,898,398	\$ (3,407,382)
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Pensions	\$ 356,442	\$ 202,812	\$ 153,630
Other Postemployment Benefits	6,454,433	4,088,872	2,365,561
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 6,810,875	\$ 4,291,684	\$ 2,519,191
Net Position			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 12,776,142	\$ 12,304,161	\$ 471,981
Restricted for Debt Services	645,830	586,583	59,247
Restricted for Other Reserves	5,342,986	4,676,855	666,131
Unrestricted	(42,090,395)	(40,293,771)	(1,796,624)
Total Net Position	\$ (23,325,437)	\$ (22,726,172)	\$ (599,265)

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A
WHOLE – Continued**

Figure A-3 below shows the change in Net Position for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024 and 2023 and Figure A-4 and Figure A-5 are graphs depicting this information.

Figure A-3 (Condensed Statement of Activities)

	Governmental Activities		Total Dollar Change	Total Percentage
	2024	2023	2024-2023	2024-2023
Revenues				
Program Revenues				
Charges for Services	\$ 25,791	\$ 26,247	\$ (456)	-1.74%
Operating Grants	1,150,403	1,123,842	26,561	2.36%
General Revenues				
Property Taxes	4,413,382	4,380,158	33,224	0.76%
Use of Money and Property	454,261	299,874	154,387	51.48%
Sale of Property and Comp. for Loss	14,876	1,207	13,669	100.00%
Gain on Disposition of Property	-	33,000	(33,000)	-100.00%
State Sources	5,771,974	5,614,925	157,049	2.80%
Other Revenues	303,068	238,744	64,324	26.94%
Total Revenues	\$ 12,133,755	\$ 11,717,997	\$ 415,758	3.55%
Expenses				
General Support	\$ 2,149,022	\$ 2,275,559	\$ (126,537)	-5.56%
Instruction	8,804,983	9,106,508	(301,525)	-3.31%
Pupil Transportation	1,226,862	1,092,015	134,847	12.35%
Debt Service - Interest	171,186	95,581	75,605	79.10%
School Food Service	380,966	368,026	12,940	3.52%
Total Expenses	12,733,020	12,937,689	(204,669)	-1.58%
Total Change in Net Position	\$ (599,265)	\$ (1,219,692)	\$ 620,427	-50.87%

Net position of the School District's governmental activities decreased by \$599,265. The School District is in a stable operating position. The decrease is largely due to the changes to the assumptions and other inputs to the OPEB actuarial valuation including a change in the discount rate and changes in future retiree contribution rates.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A WHOLE – Continued

Figure A-4

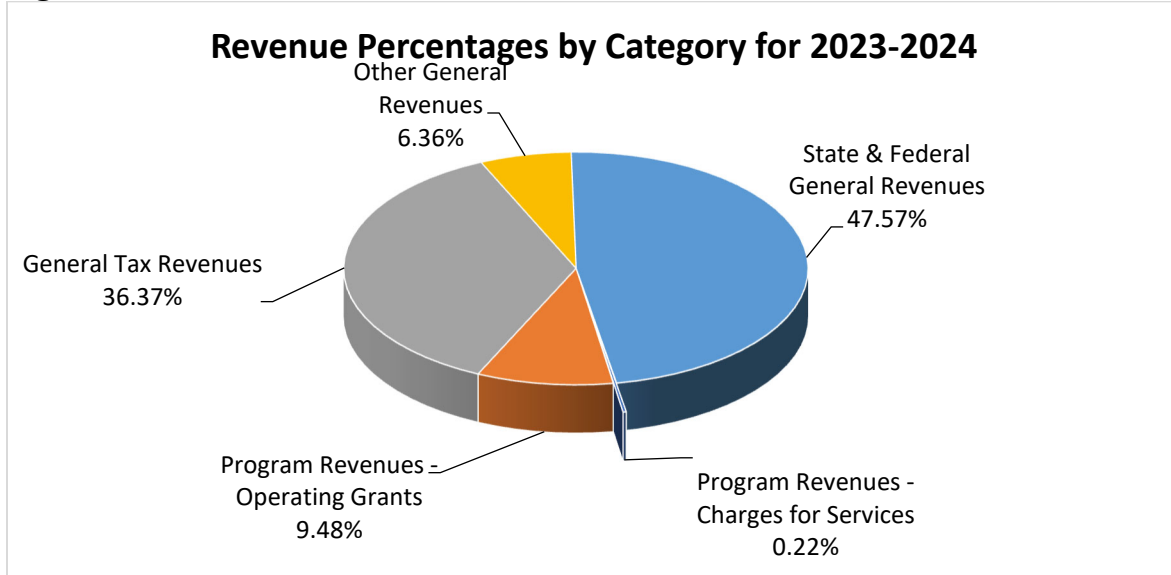
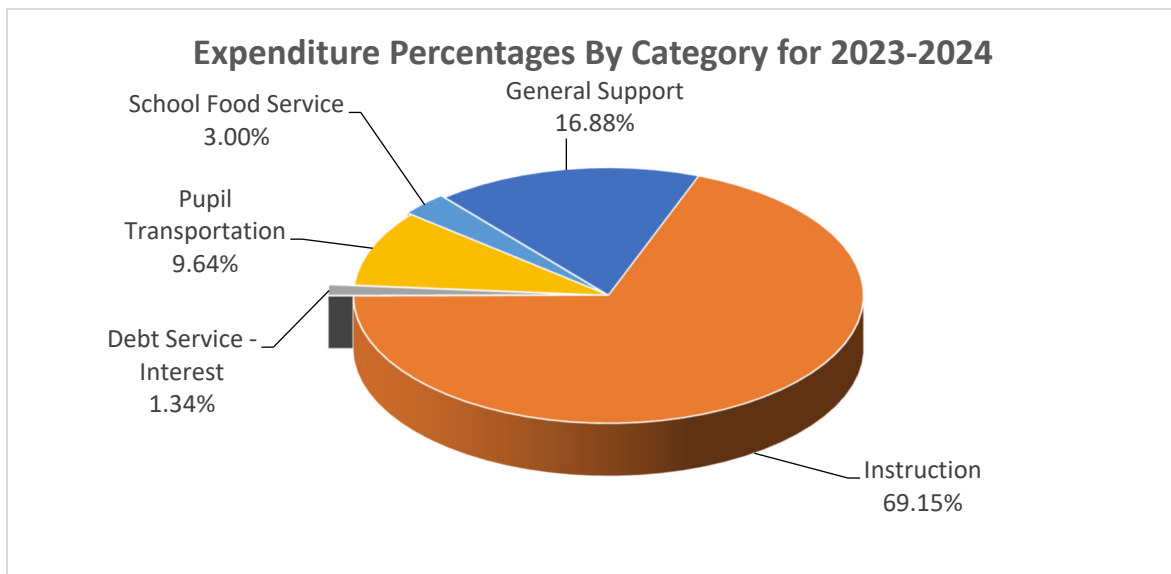


Figure A-5



CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A WHOLE – Continued

The School District is heavily dependent on both state and federal aid for its funding. State and Federal General Revenues combined account for 48% of total revenues. General Tax Revenues account for 36% of revenues received for the year. These two sources account for 84% of the total revenues received in the 2023-2024 school year.

Instruction, transportation and general support account for 96% of the total expenses of the School District, which is comparative to prior year percentages.

The financial statements also include the Special Aid Fund and School Food Service, which are primarily funded by state and federal aid and food sales.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The School District's budget of \$11,645,892 for 2023-2024 was approved by referendum on May 17th, 2023. The School District's total budget increase for 2023-2024 was \$162,252 or a 1.41% increase from the prior year budget.

Revenues

Revenues from Local, State and Federal Sources amounted to \$538,596 over final budget figures. The difference between actual and budgeted amounts is due interest earnings as well as local grant funding made available to the district.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

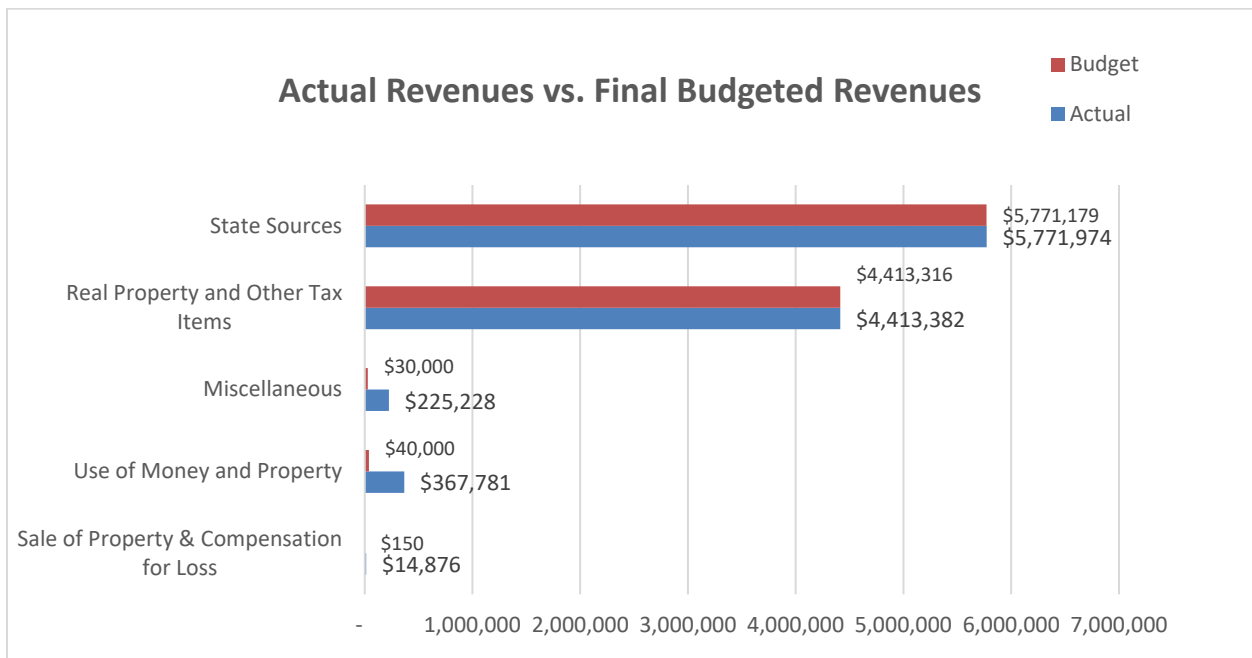
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A WHOLE – Continued

Revenues - Continued

The graph below shows actual 2023-2024 revenues compared to budgeted amounts.



Expenditures

As the following graph portrays, expenditures and other financing uses were below the 2023-2024 final budget amounts by \$1,318,797. Total year-end encumbrances at June 30, 2024 are \$57,062.

The under-spent budgeted appropriations of \$1,318,797 netted with the revenue variances of \$538,596 are used to fund the Assigned Fund Balance for the subsequent year. The 2024-2025 Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance and encumbrances is \$1,157,379. The Unassigned Fund Balance is 11.49% of the 2024-2025 school budget.

The Assigned Fund Balance needs to be maintained to help the School District with cash flow at the end of the school year. In order to decrease assigned fund balance, without raising the tax levy in the subsequent year, other revenue sources would need to increase.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

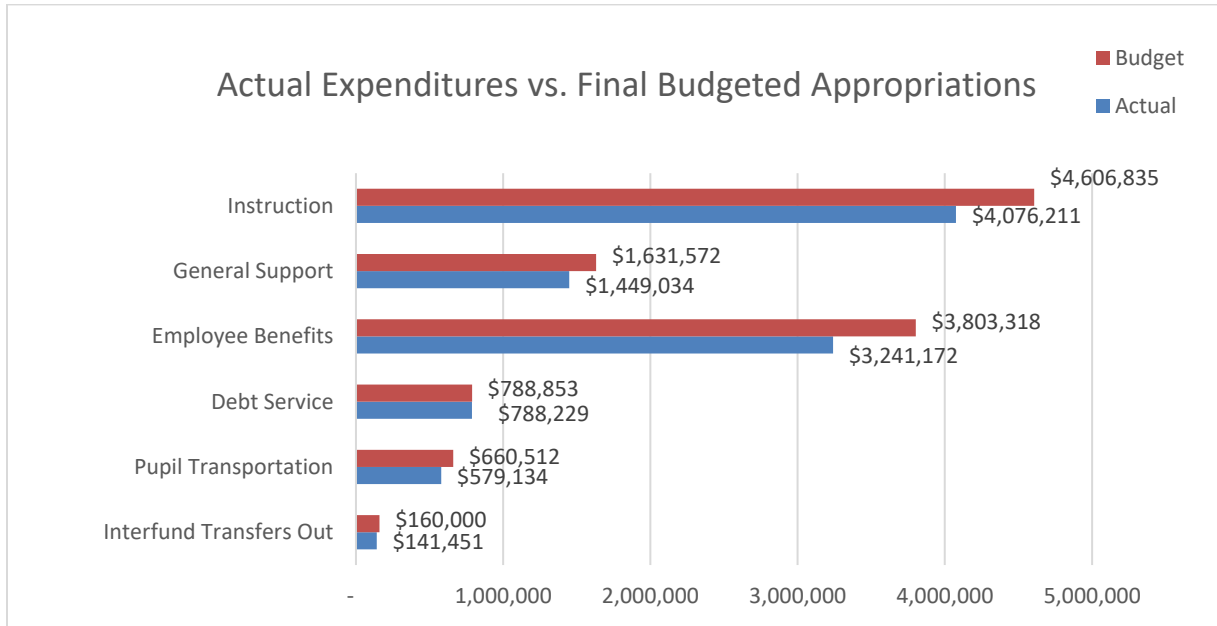
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A WHOLE – Continued

Expenditures - Continued

The following graph compares actual expenditures with final budgeted appropriations. Refer to Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Budget and Actual - General Fund in the financial statements for more detailed information.



CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Education established a fixed asset policy to capitalize fixed assets of at least \$5,000. Capital Assets net of depreciation totaled \$16,438,517 at June 30, 2024.

	Balance June 30, 2023	Additions	Retirements / Reclassifications	Balance June 30, 2024
Land	\$ 9,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,200
Construction in Progress	1,526,136	432,735	(1,554,618)	404,253
Building & Improvements	28,646,297	30,344	1,554,618	30,231,259
Furniture & Equipment	2,126,757	56,344	(56,260)	2,126,841
Less:				
Accumulated Depreciation	15,728,924	660,372	(56,260)	16,333,036
Capital Assets, Net	\$ 16,579,466	\$ (140,949)	\$ -	\$ 16,438,517

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION – Continued

Long-Term Debt

The School District has bonds outstanding on capital projects originally issued from 2012 to 2023. The last date that bonds will be paid is June 15, 2038.

The School District had the following breakdown of debt as of June 30, 2024 and 2023:

Category	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2023	Total Change
General Obligation Bonds, Net	\$ 3,673,049	\$ 4,288,647	\$ (615,598)
Compensated Absences	162,583	166,502	(3,919)
Other Postemployment Benefits Payable	43,235,031	46,048,453	(2,813,422)
Net Pension Liability - Proportionate Share	616,469	862,819	(246,350)
Total	\$ 47,687,132	\$ 51,366,421	\$ (3,679,289)

FACTORS BEARING ON THE DISTRICT'S FUTURE

The Clifton-Fine Central School District is currently financially stable. As the preceding information shows, the School District relies heavily on its property taxpayers, state and federal aid, and grants.

Over the past three years, the district has expended approximately \$900,000 of its total allocation. The district will spend the remaining balance in the Summer of 2024 as funds for these federal COVID funds are to be obligated by September 30, 2024. The District was strategic in the spending of these funds to ensure that the District did not set itself up to be fiscally strapped once the funds go away. The district was able to absorb a majority of any recurring personnel expenses within the federal COVID funds.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

June 30, 2024

FACTORS BEARING ON THE DISTRICT'S FUTURE – Continued

The District's enrollment was as anticipated this year. There are families that continue with the home-schooling environment. We will continue district efforts to re-enroll these families.

Clifton-Fine Central School District is anticipating the continuation of increases in salaries, benefits, and BOCES services in the upcoming years. These three items constitute much of our budget. Special Education costs also continue to rise. In addition, the cost of materials and supplies are higher than this time last year. The district continues to have out-of-district transportation runs which will contribute to the increase in transportation costs. The district will continue to create and embrace community partnerships in order to continue offering the additional after-school activities that were initially funded with COVID federal funds.

CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This report is designed to provide the School District's citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the School District's finances and to demonstrate the School District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact:

Glenda Morales-Hanley
Clifton-Fine Central School District
11 Hall Ave.
Star Lake, NY 13690

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION – GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

June 30, 2024

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	
Unrestricted	\$ 2,306,651
Restricted	6,131,278
Investments	23,687
Receivables	
State and Federal Aid	640,490
Other Receivables	27,943
Due from Other Governments	161,088
Prepaid Expenses	5,403
Inventories	6,491
Capital Assets, Net	16,438,517
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 25,741,548
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pensions	\$ 1,604,126
Deferred Charge on Bond Refunding	10,674
Other Postemployment Benefits	4,620,106
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	\$ 6,234,906
LIABILITIES	
Payables	
Accounts Payable	\$ 320,530
Accrued Liabilities	111,436
Compensated Absences	511
Accrued Interest on Bonds Payable	6,713
Due to Teachers' Retirement System	328,964
Due to Employees' Retirement System	35,245
Unearned Credits	
Unearned Revenues - Other	485
Long-Term Liabilities	
Due and Payable Within One Year	
Bonds Payable	580,599
Due and Payable After One Year	
Bonds Payable	3,092,450
Net Pension Liability-Proportionate Share	616,469
Other Postemployment Benefits Payable	43,235,031
Compensated Absences Payable	162,583
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 48,491,016
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pensions	\$ 356,442
Other Postemployment Benefits	6,454,433
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	\$ 6,810,875
NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 12,776,142
Restricted	5,988,816
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(42,090,395)
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ (23,325,437)

See notes to audited basic financial statements.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION –
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

Year Ended June 30, 2024

FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants	
General Support	\$ 2,149,022	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,149,022)
Instruction	8,804,983	-	874,488	(7,930,495)
Pupil Transportation	1,226,862	-	-	(1,226,862)
Debt Service-Interest	171,186	-	-	(171,186)
School Food Service Program	380,966	25,791	275,915	(79,260)
Total Functions and Programs	<u>\$ 12,733,020</u>	<u>\$ 25,791</u>	<u>\$ 1,150,403</u>	<u>(11,556,826)</u>

GENERAL REVENUES

Real Property Taxes	4,226,961
Other Tax Items	186,421
Use of Money and Property	454,261
Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss	14,876
Miscellaneous	303,068
State Sources	<u>5,771,974</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>10,957,561</u>
Change in Net Position	(599,265)
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>(22,726,172)</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u>\$ (23,325,437)</u>

See notes to audited basic financial statements.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

June 30, 2024

	General	Capital Project - Main 2022	Special Aid Fund	Non-Major Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and Cash Equivalents					
Unrestricted	\$ 2,299,143	\$ -	\$ 3,684	\$ 3,824	\$ 2,306,651
Restricted	4,376,777	892,622	-	861,879	6,131,278
Investments					
Restricted	-	-	-	23,687	23,687
Receivables					
State and Federal Aid Receivable	169,212	-	453,630	17,648	640,490
Other Receivables	26,788	-	-	1,155	27,943
Due from Other Funds	438,215	-	-	170,493	608,708
Due from Other Governments	161,088	-	-	-	161,088
Prepaid Expenses	5,403	-	-	-	5,403
Inventories	-	-	-	6,491	6,491
Total Assets	<u>\$ 7,476,626</u>	<u>\$ 892,622</u>	<u>\$ 457,314</u>	<u>\$ 1,085,177</u>	<u>\$ 9,911,739</u>
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Accounts Payable	\$ 175,881	\$ 140,438	\$ 2,958	\$ 1,253	\$ 320,530
Accrued Liabilities	53,114	-	52,539	5,783	111,436
Compensated Absences	511	-	-	-	511
Due to Other Funds	5,325	161,021	401,817	40,545	608,708
Due to Teachers' Retirement System	328,964	-	-	-	328,964
Due to Employees' Retirement System	35,245	-	-	-	35,245
Unearned Credits					
Unearned Revenues - Other	485	-	-	-	485
Total Liabilities	<u>599,525</u>	<u>301,459</u>	<u>457,314</u>	<u>47,581</u>	<u>1,405,879</u>
FUND BALANCES					
Nonspendable	5,403	-	-	6,491	11,894
Restricted	4,376,777	591,163	-	1,020,876	5,988,816
Assigned	1,157,379	-	-	10,229	1,167,608
Unassigned	1,337,542	-	-	-	1,337,542
Total Fund Balance	<u>6,877,101</u>	<u>591,163</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,037,596</u>	<u>8,505,860</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 7,476,626</u>	<u>\$ 892,622</u>	<u>\$ 457,314</u>	<u>\$ 1,085,177</u>	<u>\$ 9,911,739</u>

See notes to audited basic financial statements.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET TO THE
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

June 30, 2024

Total Fund Balance - Governmental Funds \$ 8,505,860

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Proportionate share of long-term assets and liabilities associated with participation in state retirement systems are not current financial resources or obligations and are not reported in the fund statements.

Net Pension Liability - Proportionate Share - TRS	\$ 165,306	
Net Pension Liability - Proportionate Share - ERS	451,163	(616,469)

Deferred inflows of resources are not available to pay for current-period expenditures, and therefore, are not reported in the fund statements consist of:

Pensions	\$ 356,442	
Other Postemployment Benefits	6,454,433	(6,810,875)

Deferred outflows of resources are not available to pay for current-period expenditures, and therefore, are not reported in the fund statements consist of:

Pensions	\$ 1,604,126	
Deferred Charge on Bond Refunding	10,674	
Other Postemployment Benefits	4,620,106	6,234,906

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds:

The Cost of Capital Assets is	\$ 32,771,553	
Accumulated Depreciation is	(16,333,036)	16,438,517

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

Long-term liabilities, at year end, consist of:

Bonds Payable	\$ 3,245,000	
Premium on Bond Issue	428,049	
Accrued Interest on Bonds Payable	6,713	
Compensated Absences Payable	162,583	
Other Postemployment Benefits Payable	43,235,031	(47,077,376)

Total Net Position - Governmental Activities		<u>\$ (23,325,437)</u>
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CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General	Capital Project - Main 2022	Special Aid Fund	Non-Major Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Real Property Taxes	\$ 4,226,961	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,226,961
Other Tax Items	186,421	-	-	-	186,421
Use of Money and Property	367,781	-	-	86,480	454,261
Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss	14,876	-	-	-	14,876
Miscellaneous	225,228	-	-	77,840	303,068
State Sources	5,771,974	-	114,113	15,164	5,901,251
Federal Sources	-	-	760,375	260,751	1,021,126
Sales - School Food Service	-	-	-	25,791	25,791
Total Revenues	<u>10,793,241</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>874,488</u>	<u>466,026</u>	<u>12,133,755</u>
EXPENDITURES					
General Support	1,449,034	-	84,236	101,817	1,635,087
Instruction	4,076,211	-	751,030	-	4,827,241
Pupil Transportation	579,134	-	39,222	-	618,356
Employee Benefits	3,241,172	-	-	98,008	3,339,180
Debt Service:			-		
Principal	555,000	-	-	-	555,000
Interest	233,229	-	-	-	233,229
Food Service Program - Cost of Sales	-	-	-	144,261	144,261
Capital Outlay	-	305,958	-	126,777	432,735
Other Expenditures	-	-	-	77,131	77,131
Total Expenditures	<u>10,133,780</u>	<u>305,958</u>	<u>874,488</u>	<u>547,994</u>	<u>11,862,220</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>659,461</u>	<u>(305,958)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(81,968)</u>	<u>271,535</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND (USES)					
Operating Transfers In	20,000	-	-	141,451	161,451
Operating Transfers (Out)	<u>(141,451)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>(161,451)</u>
Total Other Financing Sources and (Uses)	<u>(121,451)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121,451</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	538,010	(305,958)	-	39,483	271,535
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	<u>6,339,091</u>	<u>897,121</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>998,113</u>	<u>8,234,325</u>
Fund Balances - End of Year	<u>\$ 6,877,101</u>	<u>\$ 591,163</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,037,596</u>	<u>\$ 8,505,860</u>

See notes to audited basic financial statements.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES TO STATEMENT OF
ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION**

Year Ended June 30, 2024

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$ 271,535
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Net Position, assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$5,000 are capitalized and in the Statement of Activities the cost is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlays in the current period.

Capital Outlays	\$ 519,423	
Depreciation Expense	<u>(660,372)</u>	(140,949)

Repayment of bond principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the payment reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position and does not affect the Statement of Activities.	555,000
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reported in the governmental funds because interest is recorded as an expenditure in the funds when it is paid, and thus requires the use of current financial resources. In the Statement of Activities, however, interest expense is recognized as the interest accrues, regardless of when it is paid. The interest reported in the Statement of Activities is decreased by the decrease in accrued interest on bonds and amortization of premium on bond issue, less the amortization of deferred charge on bond refunding.	62,043
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CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES TO STATEMENT OF
ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION - CONTINUED**

Year Ended June 30, 2024

In the Statement of Activities, certain operating expenses--compensated absences (vacations and certain sick pay), special termination benefits (early retirement) --are measured by the amount earned during the year. In the governmental funds, however, expenditures for these items are measured by the amount of financial resources used (essentially, the amounts actually paid). 3,919

On the Statement of Activities, the actual and projected long-term expenditures for postemployment benefits and related deferred outflows/inflows are reported, whereas, on the government funds only the actual expenditures are recorded for postemployment benefits. (1,074,327)

(Increase) decrease in proportionate share of net pension asset (liability) and related deferred inflows and outflows reported in the Statement of Activities do not provide for or require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as revenues or expenditures in the governmental funds.

Teachers' Retirement System	\$ (190,571)	
Employees' Retirement System	<u>(85,915)</u>	<u>(276,486)</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities		<u><u>\$ (599,265)</u></u>

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of Clifton-Fine Central School District (the District) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. Those principles are prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), which is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. Significant accounting principles and policies used by the District are described below:

Reporting Entity

The Clifton-Fine Central School District is governed by the laws of New York State. The District is an independent entity governed by an elected Board of Education consisting of seven members. The President of the Board serves as the chief fiscal officer and the Superintendent is the chief executive officer. The Board is responsible for, and controls all activities related to public school education within the District. Board members have authority to make decisions, power to appoint management, and primary accountability for all fiscal matters.

The reporting entity of the District is based upon criteria set forth by GASB Statement 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*, as amended by GASB 39, *Component Units*, GASB 61, *The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus an Amendment of GASB No. 14 and No. 39*, GASB Statement 80 - *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14*, GASB 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, and GASB 97, *Certain Component Unit Criteria*, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans—An Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 And No. 84, and a Supersession of GASB 32. The financial reporting entity consists of the primary government, organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

The accompanying financial statements present the activities of the District. The District is not a component unit of another reporting entity. The decision to include a potential component unit in the District's reporting entity is based on several criteria including legal standing, fiscal dependency, and financial accountability. Based on the application of these criteria, the following is a brief description of certain entities included in the District's reporting entity.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Reporting Entity - Continued

Extra Classroom Activity Funds

The Extra Classroom Activity Funds of the District represent funds of the students of the District. The Board of Education exercises general oversight of these funds. The Extra Classroom Activity Funds are independent of the District with respect to its financial transactions and the designation of student management. Separate audited financial statements (cash basis) of the Extra Classroom Activity Funds can be found at the District's business office. The District accounts for assets held as an agent for various student organizations in a miscellaneous special revenue fund.

Joint Venture

The District is a component district in the St. Lawrence-Lewis Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). A BOCES is a voluntary, cooperative association of school districts in a geographic area that shares planning, services, and programs which provide educational and support activities. There is no authority or process by which a school district can terminate its status as a BOCES component.

BOCES are organized under §1950 of the New York State Education Law. A BOCES Board is considered a corporate body. Members of a BOCES Board are nominated and elected by their component member boards in accordance with provisions of §1950 of the New York State Education Law. All BOCES property is held by the BOCES Board as a corporation (§1950(6)). In addition, BOCES Boards also are considered municipal corporations to permit them to contract with other municipalities on a cooperative basis under §119-n(a) of the New York State General Municipal Law.

A BOCES' budget is comprised of separate budgets for administrative, program and capital costs. Each component district's share of administrative and capital costs is determined by resident public school district enrollment, as defined in the New York State Education Law, §1950(4)(b)(7). In addition, component districts pay tuition or a service fee for programs in which its students participate.

During the year, the District was billed \$1,579,181 for BOCES administrative and program costs.

The District's share of BOCES aid amounted to \$472,255. This represents state aid distributions of \$344,917 and 2023 fund balance returned to schools of \$127,338.

Financial statements for the BOCES are available from the BOCES administrative office.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Basis of Presentation

District-Wide Statements

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities present financial information about the District's governmental activities. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government in its entirety, except those that are fiduciary. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal transactions. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, Federal and State aid, intergovernmental revenues, and other exchange and non-exchange transactions. Operating grants include operating-specific and discretionary (either operating or capital) grants, while the capital grants column reflects capital – specific grants.

The Statement of Net Position presents the financial position of the District at fiscal year-end. The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct program expenses and revenues for each function of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with and are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Indirect expenses, principally employee benefits, are allocated to functional areas in proportion to the payroll expended for those areas. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs, and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Statements

The fund statements provide information about the District's funds. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental funds are aggregated and reported as non-major funds.

The District reports the following governmental funds:

General Fund: This is the District's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial transactions that are not required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds: These funds account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources, such as Federal and State grants, that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes, child nutrition, extra classroom activity funds which the District has administrative involvement or other activities whose funds are restricted as to use. These legal restrictions may be imposed either by governments that provide the funds, or by outside parties.

Special Aid Fund: Used to account for proceeds received from state and federal grants that are restricted for specific educational programs.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Basis of Presentation – Continued

School Food Service Fund: Used to account for child nutrition activities whose funds are restricted as to use.

Extra Classroom Activity Funds: Used to account for funds operated by and for the students of the District. The Board exercises general oversight of these funds. The extra classroom activity funds are independent of the District with respect to its financial transactions and the designation of student management.

Scholarships and Awards Fund: Used to account for proceeds received from various individuals and organizations that are restricted for specific scholarship and award programs not under specific trust arrangements.

Capital Projects Funds: These funds are used to account for the financial resources used for acquisition, construction, or major repair of capital facilities. For these funds each capital project is assessed to determine whether it is a major or non-major fund. Those capital projects that are determined to be major are reported in separate columns in the financial statements. Those that are determined to be non-major are reported in the supplemental schedules either separately or in the aggregate.

Debt Service Fund: This fund accounts for the accumulation of resources and the payment of principal and interest on long-term general obligation debt of governmental activities. When a capital asset is sold and all or a portion of the bonds used to finance the sale of capital asset are outstanding, this fund must be used to account for the proceeds from the sale of capital assets up to the balance of related bonds outstanding.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

Accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by the applicable measurement focus and basis of accounting. Measurement focus indicates the type of resources being measured such as current financial resources or economic resources. The basis of accounting indicates the timing of transactions or events for recognition in the financial statements.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting – Continued

The District-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash transaction takes place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the District gives or receives value without directly receiving or giving equal value in exchange, include property taxes, State Aid, grants and donations.

On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenues from State Aid is recognized in the fiscal year it is appropriated by the State. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

The fund statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The District considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year as it matches the liquidation of related obligations.

Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims and judgments, and compensated absences, pensions, and other post-employment benefits which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. General capital asset, intangible lease asset, and intangible subscription asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions of leases and subscriptions with terms greater than one year are reported as other financing sources.

Property Taxes

Real property taxes are levied annually by the Board of Education no later than September 1, and became a lien on September 1, 2023. Taxes are collected during the period September 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023.

Uncollected real property taxes are subsequently enforced by the County of St. Lawrence, in which the District is located. The County pays an amount representing uncollected real property taxes transmitted to the County for enforcement to the District no later than the following April 1.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Restricted Resources

When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available, the District's policy concerning which to apply first varies with the intended use, and with the associated legal requirements, many of which are described elsewhere in these Notes.

Interfund Transactions

The operations of the District include transactions between funds. These transactions may be temporary in nature, such as with interfund borrowings. The District typically loans resources between funds for the purpose of providing cash flow. These interfund receivables and payables are expected to be repaid within one year. Permanent transfers of funds include the transfer of expenditures and revenues to provide financing or other services.

In the District-wide statements, the amounts reported on the Statement of Net Position for interfund receivables and payables represent amounts due between different fund types (governmental activities and fiduciary funds). Eliminations have been made for all interfund receivables and payables between the funds, with the exception of those due from or to the fiduciary funds.

The governmental funds report all interfund transactions as originally recorded. Interfund receivables and payables may be netted on the accompanying governmental funds balance sheet when it is the District's practice to settle these amounts at a net balance based upon the right of legal offset.

Refer to Note 9 for a detailed disclosure by individual fund for interfund receivables, payables, expenditures, and revenues activity.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Estimates and assumptions are made in a variety of areas, including computation of encumbrances, compensated absences, potential contingent liabilities, useful lives of capital assets, intangible lease assets, and intangible subscription assets.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The District's cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from date of acquisition.

New York State law governs the District's investment policies. Resources must be deposited in FDIC-insured commercial banks or trust companies located within the State. Permissible investments include obligations of the United States Treasury, United States Agencies, repurchase agreements and obligations of New York State or its localities.

Collateral is required for demand and time deposits and certificates of deposit not covered by FDIC insurance. Obligations that may be pledged as collateral are obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of the state and its municipalities and Districts.

Investments are stated at fair value.

Receivables

Receivables are shown gross, with uncollectible amounts recognized under the direct write-off method. No allowance for uncollectible accounts has been provided since it is believed that such allowance would not be material.

Inventories and Prepaid Items

Inventories of food in the School Food Service Fund are recorded at cost on a first-in, first-out basis, or in the case of surplus food, at stated value, which approximates market. Purchases of inventory items in other funds are recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase and are considered immaterial in amount.

Prepaid items represent payments made by the District for which benefits extend beyond year-end. These payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the District-wide and fund financial statements. These items are reported as assets on the Statement of Net Position or Balance Sheet using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amounts is recorded at the time of purchase and an expense/expenditure is reported in the year the goods or services are consumed.

A portion of fund balance in the amount of these non-liquid assets (inventories and prepaid items) has been identified as not available for other subsequent expenditures.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Other Assets

In the District-wide financial statements, bond discounts and premiums, and any prepaid bond insurance costs are deferred and amortized over the life of the debt issue. Bond issuance costs are recognized as an expense in the period incurred.

Capital Assets and Intangible Lease Assets

Capital assets are reported at actual cost or estimated historical cost, based on appraisals conducted by independent third-party professionals. Donated assets are reported at estimated fair market value at the time received.

The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Land and construction in progress are not depreciated. Capitalization thresholds (the dollar value above which asset acquisitions are added to the capital asset accounts), depreciation methods, and estimated useful lives of capital assets reported in the District-wide statements are as follows:

	Capitalization Threshold	Depreciation Method	Estimated Useful Life
Site Improvements	\$ 25,000	SL	50 Years
Buildings	50,000	SL	50 Years
Building Improvements	25,000	SL	20 Years
Furniture and Equipment	5,000	SL	5 - 20 Years

Intangible lease assets are initially measured at an amount equal to the initial measurement of the related lease liability plus any lease payments made prior to the lease term, less lease incentives, plus ancillary charges necessary to place the lease into service. A capitalization threshold of \$5,000 is used for lease acquisitions that are prepaid and have no corresponding lease liability. Intangible lease assets are amortized over the lease term (3-5 years) consistent with the decrease in the related lease liability or using the straight-line method if there is no corresponding lease liability.

The District does not possess any infrastructure.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the Statement of Net Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District has four items that qualify for reporting in this category. The first item is related to pensions reported in the District-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in the District's proportion of the collective net pension asset or liability and difference during the measurement period between the District's contributions and its proportionate share of total contributions to the pension systems not included in pension expense. The second item is the District contributions to the New York State Teachers' and Employees' pension systems and to Other Postemployment Benefit (OPEB) plan subsequent to the measurement date. The third item is the deferred charge on bond refunding reported in the District-wide Statement of Net Position. A deferred charge on bond refunding results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt. The fourth item is related to OPEB reported in the District-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in the actual and expected experience and the changes of assumptions or other inputs.

In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Net Position or Balance Sheet will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position or fund balance that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has two items that qualify for reporting in this category. The first item is related to pensions reported in the District-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in the District's proportion of the collective net pension liability (TRS and ERS system) and difference during the measurement periods between the District's contributions and its proportionate share of total contributions to the pension systems not included in pension expense. The second item is related to OPEB reported in the District-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in the actual and expected experience and the changes of assumptions or other inputs.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Unearned Revenue

The District reports unearned revenues on its Statement of Net Position and its Balance Sheet. On the Statement of Net Position, unearned revenue arises when resources are received by the District before it has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to incurrence of qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, when the District has legal claim to resources, the liability for unearned revenue is removed and revenue is recognized.

Vested Employee Benefits

Compensated Absences

Compensated absences consist of unpaid accumulated annual sick leave and vacation time.

Sick leave eligibility and accumulation is specified in negotiated labor contracts and in individual employment contracts. Upon retirement, resignation or death, employees may contractually receive a payment based on unused accumulated sick leave.

District employees are granted vacation in varying amounts, based primarily on length of service and service position. Some earned benefits may be forfeited if not taken within varying time periods.

Consistent with GASB Statement 16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*, the liability has been calculated using the vesting/termination method and an accrual for that liability is included in the District-wide financial statements. The compensated absences liability is calculated based on the pay rates in effect at year-end.

In the fund statements only the amount of matured liabilities is accrued within the General Fund based upon expendable and available financial resources. These amounts are expensed on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Other Benefits

District employees participate in the New York State Employees' Retirement System and the New York State Teacher's Retirement System.

District employees may choose to participate in the District's elective deferred compensation plans established under Internal Revenue Code Sections 403(b) and 457.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Other Benefits – Continued

In addition to providing pension benefits, the District provides postemployment health insurance coverage and survivor benefits to retired employees and their survivors in accordance with the provision of various employment contracts in effect at the time of retirement. Substantially all of the District's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the District. Health care benefits are provided through plans whose premiums are based on the benefits paid during the year. The cost of providing post-retirement benefits is shared between the District and the retired employee. The District recognizes the cost of providing health insurance by recording its share of insurance premiums as an expenditure.

Short-Term Debt

The District may issue Revenue Anticipation Notes (RAN) and Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN) in anticipation of the receipt of revenues. These notes are recorded as a liability of the fund that will actually receive the proceeds from the issuance of the notes. The RANs and TANs represent a liability that will be extinguished by the use of expendable, available resources of the fund.

The District may issue budget notes up to an amount not to exceed 5% of the amount of the annual budget during any fiscal year for expenditures for which there is an insufficient or no provision made in the annual budget. The budget note must be repaid no later than the close of the second fiscal year succeeding the year in which the note was issued.

The District may issue Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN), in anticipation of proceeds from the subsequent sale of bonds. These notes are recorded as current liabilities of the funds that will actually receive the proceeds from the issuance of bonds. State law requires that BANs issued for capital purposes be converted to long-term financing within five years after the original issue date.

Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations

Payables, accrued liabilities, and long-term obligations are reported in the District-wide financial statements. In the governmental funds, payables and accrued liabilities are paid in full, in a timely manner, from current financial resources. Claims and judgments, other postemployment benefits payable, and compensated absences that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that they are due for payment in the current year. Bonds and other long-term obligations that will be paid from governmental funds are recognized as a liability in the fund financial statements when due.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations – Continued

Long-term obligations represent the District's future obligations or future economic outflows. The liabilities are reported as due in one year or due within more than one year in the Statement of Net Position.

Equity Classifications

District-Wide Statements

In the District-wide statements there are three classes of net position:

Net Investment in Capital Assets – consists of net capital assets (cost less accumulated depreciation) and intangible lease assets (present value of future payments remaining on the term less accumulated amortization) reduced by outstanding balances of related debt obligations from the acquisition, construction or improvements of those assets.

Restricted Net Position – reports net position when constraints placed on the assets or deferred outflows of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted Net Position – reports the balance of net position that do not meet the definition of the above two classifications and are deemed to be available for general use by the District.

Fund Statements

In the fund basis statements, there are five classifications of fund balance:

Nonspendable– Includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Nonspendable fund balance includes the inventory recorded in the School Food Service Fund of \$6,492 and prepaid expenses recorded in General Fund of \$5,403.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Equity Classifications – Continued

Fund Statements – Continued

Restricted – Includes amounts with constraints placed on the use of resources either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments; or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. All encumbrances of funds other than the General fund are classified as restricted fund balance. The District has established the following restricted fund balances:

Employee Benefit Accrued Liability

According to General Municipal Law §6-p, expenditures made from the employee benefit accrued liability reserve must be used for the payment of accrued employee benefit due an employee upon termination of the employee's service. This reserve may be established by a majority vote of the Board and is funded by budgetary appropriations and such other reserves and funds that may be legally appropriated. This reserve is accounted for in the General Fund.

Retirement Contributions

According to General Municipal Law §6-r, expenditures made from the retirement contributions reserve fund must be used for financing retirement contributions to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System. This reserve is established by Board resolution and is funded by budgetary appropriation and such other reserves and funds that may be legally appropriated. The reserve must be accounted for separate and apart from all other funds and a detailed report of the operation and condition of the fund must be provided to the Board. This reserve is accounted for in the General Fund.

Effective April 1, 2019, a Board may adopt a resolution establishing a sub-fund for contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System. During a fiscal year, the Board may authorize payment into the sub-fund of up to 2% of the total covered salaries paid during the preceding fiscal year, with the total amount funded not to exceed 10% of the total covered salaries during the preceding fiscal year. The sub-fund is separately administered, but must comply with all the existing provisions of General Municipal Law §6-r. This reserve is accounted for in the General Fund.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Equity Classifications – Continued**Fund Statements – Continued****Scholarships and Awards Fund**

According to constraints placed on the use of resources established by various scholarship and award programs, must be used for the specific purpose outlined in the program. The monies are accounted for in the Scholarships and Awards Fund.

Unemployment Insurance

According to General Municipal Law §6-m, expenditures made from the unemployment insurance reserve must be used to pay the cost of reimbursement to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund for payments made to claimants where the employer has elected to use the benefit reimbursement method. The reserve may be established by Board action and is funded by budgetary appropriations and such other funds as may be legally appropriated. Within sixty days after the end of any fiscal year, excess amounts may either be transferred to another reserve or the excess applied to the appropriations of the next succeeding fiscal year's budget. If the District elects to convert to tax (contribution) basis, excess resources in the fund over the sum sufficient to pay pending claims may be transferred to any other reserve fund. This reserve is accounted for in the General Fund.

Extra Classroom Activity Funds

According to the regulations of the Commissioner of Education (8 NYCRR Part 172), the Board of Education of the District is required to make the rules and regulations for the establishment, conduct, operation, and maintenance of extra classroom activities and for the safeguarding, accounting and audit of all moneys received. According to the regulations of the Board of Education, the monies represent the funds of the students of the District and must be used by the student organizations of the District. The monies are accounted for in the Extra Classroom Activity Fund.

Workers' Compensation

According to General Municipal Law §6-j, expenditures made from the workers' compensation reserve must be used to pay for compensation benefits and other expenses authorized by Article 2 of the Workers' Compensation Law and for payment of expenses of administering this self-insurance program. The reserve may be established by Board action and is funded by budgetary appropriations and such other funds as may be legally appropriated. Within sixty days after the end of any fiscal year, excess amounts may either be transferred to another reserve or the excess applied to the appropriation of the next succeeding fiscal year's budget. This reserve is accounted for in the General Fund.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Equity Classifications – Continued

Fund Statements – Continued

Capital Projects Funds

According to constraints placed on the use of resources established by approved capital projects, must be used for specific purpose outlined in the approved proposition. These monies are accounted for in the Capital Projects Funds.

Debt Service

According to General Municipal Law §6-1, the Mandatory Reserve for Debt Service must be established for the purpose of retiring the outstanding obligations upon the sale of District property or capital improvement that was financed by obligations that remain outstanding at the time of sale. The funding of the reserve is from the proceeds of the sale of School District property or capital improvement. The monies are accounted for in the Debt Service Fund.

Capital Reserve

According to Education Law §3651, expenditures made from the capital reserve must be used to pay the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued. The creation of a capital reserve fund requires authorization by a majority of the voters establishing the purpose of the reserve, the ultimate amount, its probable term and the source of the funds. Expenditure may be made from the reserve only for a specific purpose further authorized by the voters. The form for the required legal notice for the vote on establishing and funding the reserve and the form of the proposition to be placed on the ballot are set forth in §3651 of the Education Law. This reserve is accounted for in the General Fund.

Tax Certiorari Reserve Fund

According to General Municipal Law §3651.1-a, funds must be used to establish a reserve fund for tax certiorari and to expend from the fund without voter approval. The monies held in the reserve shall not exceed the amount that might reasonably be deemed necessary to meet anticipated judgements and claims arising out of tax certiorari proceedings. Any resources deposited to the reserve which are not expended for tax certiorari proceedings in the year such monies are deposited must be returned to the General Fund on or before the first day of the fourth fiscal year after deposit of these monies. This reserve is accounted for in the General Fund.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Equity Classifications – Continued

Fund Statements – Continued

Restricted fund balance includes the following at June 30, 2024:

General Fund	
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	\$ 190,015
Retirement Contributions - NYSERS	1,392,511
Retirement Contributions - NYSTRS	232,434
Unemployment Insurance	320,100
Workers' Compensation	398,680
Capital Reserve	1,665,829
Tax Certiorari	177,208
Capital Fund	
Main Project 2018	72,080
Main Project 2022	591,163
Extra Classroom Activity Fund	49,030
Scholarship and Awards Fund	253,936
Debt Service Fund	645,830
Total Restricted Funds	<u>\$ 5,988,816</u>

Committed - Includes amounts that can only be used for the specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Districts highest level of decision making authority, i.e., the Board of Education. The District has no committed fund balances as of June 30, 2024.

Assigned - Includes amounts that are constrained by the District's intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed. The purpose of the constraint must be narrower than the purpose of the General Fund, and in funds other than the General Fund. Assigned fund balance represents the residual amount of fund balance. Assigned fund balance also includes an amount appropriated to partially fund the subsequent year's budget, as well as encumbrances not classified as restricted at the end of the fiscal year. All encumbrances of the General Fund are classified as Assigned Fund Balance in the General Fund. Encumbrances reported in the General Fund amounted to \$57,062. Any remaining fund balance in other funds is considered assigned.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Equity Classifications – Continued

Fund Statements – Continued

Unassigned - Includes all other General Fund amounts that do not meet the definition of the above four classifications and are deemed to be available for general use by the District and could report a surplus or deficit. In funds other than the General Fund, the unassigned classification is used to report a deficit fund balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted or assigned.

NYS Real Property Tax Law §1318 limits the amount of unexpended surplus funds, excluding the reserve for tax reduction, a school district can retain to no more than 4% of the District's budget for the General Fund for the ensuing fiscal year. Nonspendable and restricted fund balance of the General Fund are excluded from the 4% limitation. Amounts appropriated for the subsequent year, encumbrances and amounts reserved for insurance recoveries are also excluded from the 4% limitation.

Order of Use of Fund Balance

In circumstances where an expenditure is incurred for a purpose for which amounts are available in multiple fund balance classifications (e.g., expenditures related to reserves) the expenditure is to be spent first from the restricted fund balance to the extent appropriated by either budget vote or board approved budget revision and then from the unrestricted fund balance. Expenditures incurred in the unrestricted fund balances shall be applied first to the assigned fund balance to the extent that there is an assignment and then to the unassigned fund balance.

New Accounting Standards

The District has adopted all current Statements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) that are applicable. At June 30, 2024, the District implemented the following new statement issued by GASB:

GASB has issued Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*, effective for the year ended June 30, 2024.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Continued

Future Changes in Accounting Standards

GASB has issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the year ended June 30, 2025.

GASB has issued Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*, effective for the year ended June 30, 2025.

GASB has issued Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*, effective for the year ended June 30, 2026.

The District will evaluate the impact each of these pronouncements may have on its financial statements and will implement them as applicable and when material.

**NOTE 2 – EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN FUND STATEMENTS AND DISTRICT-WIDE
STATEMENTS**

Due to differences in the measurement focus and basis of accounting used in the governmental fund statements and the District-wide statements, certain financial transactions are treated differently. The basic financial statements contain a full reconciliation of these items. The differences result primarily from the economic focus of the District-wide statements, compared with the current financial resources focus of the governmental funds.

Total Fund Balances of Governmental Funds vs. Net Position of Governmental Activities

Total fund balances of the District's governmental funds differ from "net position" of governmental activities reported in the Statement of Net Position. This difference primarily results from the long-term economic focus of the Statement of Net Position versus the solely current financial resources focus of the governmental fund Balance Sheet, as applied to the reporting of long-term assets and long-term liabilities.

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances vs. Statement of Activities

Differences between the funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances and the Statement of Activities fall into one of five broad categories. The amounts shown below represent:

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

**NOTE 2 – EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN FUND STATEMENTS AND DISTRICT-WIDE
STATEMENTS – Continued**

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances vs. Statement of Activities – Continued

1. Long-Term Revenue & Expense Differences:

Long-term revenue differences arise because governmental funds report revenues only when they are considered “available”, whereas the Statement of Activities reports revenues when earned. Differences in long-term expenses arise because governmental funds report on a modified accrual basis, whereas the accrual basis of accounting is used on the Statement of Activities.

2. Capital Related Differences:

Capital related differences include the difference between proceeds for the sale of capital assets reported on governmental fund statements and the gain or loss on the sale of assets as reported on the Statement of Activities, and the difference between recording an expenditure for the purchase of capital items or financing of intangible lease assets in the governmental fund statements and depreciation or amortization expense on those items as recorded in the Statement of Activities.

3. Long-Term Debt Transaction Differences:

Long-term debt transactions occur because both interest and principal payments are recorded as expenditures in the fund statements, whereas interest payments are recorded in the Statement of Activities as incurred, and principal payments are recorded as a reduction of liabilities in the Statement of Net Position.

4. Pension Differences:

Pension differences occur as a result of the changes in the District’s proportion of the collective net pension asset (liability) and differences between the District’s proportionate share of the total contributions to the pension systems.

5. OPEB Differences:

OPEB difference occur as a result of changes in the District’s total OPEB liability and differences between the District’s contribution and OPEB expense.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

**NOTE 3 – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**

Budgets

The District administration prepares a proposed budget for approval by the Board of Education for the following governmental funds for which legal (appropriated) budgets are adopted:

The voters of the District approved the proposed appropriation budget for the General Fund.

Appropriations are adopted at the program line-item level.

Appropriations established by the adoption of the budget constitute a limitation on expenditures (and encumbrances) that may be incurred. Appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year unless expended or encumbered. Encumbrances will lapse if not expended in the subsequent year. Appropriations authorized for the current year are increased by the planned use of specific reserves, and budget amendments approved by the Board of Education as a result of selected new revenue sources not included in the original budget (when permitted by law). These supplemental appropriations may occur subject to legal restrictions, if the Board approves them because of a need that exists which was not determined at the time the budget was adopted. No supplemental appropriations occurred during the year end June 30, 2024.

Budgets are adopted annually on a basis consistent with GAAP. Appropriations authorized for the year are increased by the amount of encumbrances carried forward from the prior year.

Budgets are established and used for individual capital project fund expenditures as approved by a special referendum of the District's voters. The maximum project amount authorized is based primarily upon the cost of the project, plus any requirements for external borrowings, not annual appropriations. These budgets do not lapse and are carried over to subsequent fiscal years until the completion of the projects.

Special Revenue Funds have not been included in the comparison because they do not have a legally authorized (appropriated) budget.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

**NOTE 3 – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY – Continued**

Encumbrances

Encumbrance accounting is used for budget control and monitoring purposes and is reported as a part of the governmental funds. Under this method, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded to reserve applicable appropriations. Outstanding encumbrances as of year-end are presented as restrictions or assignments of fund balance and do not represent expenditures or liabilities. These commitments will be honored in the subsequent period. Related expenditures are recognized at that time, as the liability is incurred or the commitment is paid.

Other

The District's unreserved undesignated fund balance was in excess of the New York State Real Property Tax Law §318 limit, which restricts it to an amount not greater than 4% of the District's budget for the upcoming school year. Actions the District plans to pursue to address this issue include funding any possible reserves, keeping tax rate increases as minimal as fiscally responsible, as well as fund potential one-time expenditures. In addition, the district will also be absorbing some of the programs and positions currently funded with federal stimulus funds.

**NOTE 4 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - CUSTODIAL
CREDIT, CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT, INTEREST RATE,
AND FOREIGN CURRENCY RISKS**

Cash

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. While the District does not have a specific policy for custodial credit risk, New York State statutes govern the District's investment policies, as discussed previously in these Notes.

The District's aggregate bank balances (disclosed in the financial statements), included balances not covered by depository insurance at year-end, collateralized as follows:

Uncollateralized	<u>\$ -</u>
Collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or its trust department or agent, but not in the District's name.	<u>\$ 310,116</u>

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

**NOTE 4 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - CUSTODIAL
CREDIT, CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT, INTEREST RATE,
AND FOREIGN CURRENCY RISKS – Continued**

Cash – Continued

Restricted cash represents cash and cash equivalents where use is limited by legal requirements. These assets represent amounts required by statute to be reserved for various purposes. Restricted cash as of year-end includes \$4,376,777 restricted for various fund balance reserves in the General Fund, \$892,622 restricted for a voter approved capital project in the Capital Project – Main 2022 Fund, \$510,520 restricted for debt service payments in the Debt Service Fund, \$49,030 restricted for extra classroom in the Extra Classroom Activity Funds, and \$230,249 restricted for scholarships and awards in the Scholarships and Awards Fund within the governmental funds.

Deposits are valued at cost or cost plus interest and are categorized as either (1) insured, or for which the securities are held by the District's agent in the District's name, (2) collateralized, and for which the securities are held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the District's name, or (3) uncollateralized. At June 30, 2024 all deposits were fully insured and collateralized by the District's agent, but not in the District's name.

The District follows an investment and deposit policy, the overall objective of which is to adequately safeguard the principal amount of funds invested or deposited; conformance with Federal, State and other legal requirements; and provide sufficient liquidity of invested funds in order to meet obligations as they become due. Oversight of investment activity is the responsibility of the Business Administrator of the District.

The District does not typically purchase investments for a long enough duration to cause it to believe that it is exposed to any material interest rate risk.

The District does not typically purchase investments denominated in a foreign currency and is not exposed to foreign currency risk.

Investment Pool

The District participates in a multi-municipal cooperative investment pool agreement pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law Article 5-G, whereby it holds a portion of the investments in cooperation with other participants. The investments are highly liquid and are considered to be cash equivalents. At June 30, 2024, the School District held \$6,498,961 in the General Fund, \$964,695 in the Capital Projects Fund, \$510,520 in the Debt Service Fund and \$139,376 in the Scholarship and Awards Fund through the cooperative classified as unrestricted and restricted cash.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 4 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - CUSTODIAL CREDIT, CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT, INTEREST RATE, AND FOREIGN CURRENCY RISKS – Continued

Investment Pool – Continued

The above amounts represent the cost of the investment pool shares and are considered to approximate net asset value. The investment pool is categorically exempt from the New York State collateral requirements. Additional information concerning the cooperative is presented in the annual report of New York Class.

NOTE 5 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset balances and activity for the year ended June 30 are as follows:

Governmental Activities	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements/ Reclassifications	Ending Balance
Capital Assets That Are Not Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 9,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,200
Construction in Progress	1,526,136	432,735	(1,554,618)	404,253
Total Nondepreciable Assets	<u>1,535,336</u>	<u>432,735</u>	<u>(1,554,618)</u>	<u>413,453</u>
Capital Assets That Are Depreciated:				
Building Improvements	598,256	30,344	1,554,618	2,183,218
Buildings	28,048,041	-	-	28,048,041
Furniture, Equipment, and Vehicles	2,126,757	56,344	(56,260)	2,126,841
Total Depreciated Assets	<u>30,773,054</u>	<u>86,688</u>	<u>1,498,358</u>	<u>32,358,100</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Land Improvements	469,602	7,356	-	476,958
Buildings and Improvements	13,812,978	490,300	-	14,303,278
Furniture, Equipment, and Vehicles	1,446,344	162,716	(56,260)	1,552,800
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>15,728,924</u>	<u>660,372</u>	<u>(56,260)</u>	<u>16,333,036</u>
Total Depreciated Assets, Net	<u>15,044,130</u>	<u>(573,684)</u>	<u>1,554,618</u>	<u>16,025,064</u>
Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 16,579,466</u>	<u>\$ (140,949)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 16,438,517</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

General Support	\$ 161,897
Pupil Transportation	138,125
Instruction	349,905
School Food Service Program	10,445
Total Depreciation Expense	<u>\$ 660,372</u>

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 6 – SHORT-TERM DEBT

There were no short-term debt financing transactions during the year ended June 30, 2024.

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM DEBT OBLIGATIONS

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds recognize bond premiums and discounts during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Further, the unmatured principal of general long-term debt does not require current appropriation and expenditure of governmental fund financial resources.

Serial Bonds

The School District borrows money in order to acquire land or equipment, construct buildings, or make improvements. This enables the cost of these capital assets to be borne by the present and future taxpayers receiving the benefit of the capital assets. These long-term liabilities are full faith and credit debt of the local government. The provisions will be in the General Fund's future budgets for capital indebtedness.

Long-term liability balances and activity for the year are summarized below:

Governmental Activities	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Amount Due Within One Year
Bonds and Notes Payable					
General Obligation Debt					
Serial Bonds	\$ 3,800,000	\$ -	\$ 555,000	\$ 3,245,000	\$ 520,000
Premium on Bonds	488,647	-	60,598	428,049	60,599
Total Bonds & Notes Payable	4,288,647	-	615,598	3,673,049	580,599
Other Liabilities					
Compensated Absences Payable	166,502	-	3,919	162,583	-
Other Postemployment Benefits					
Liability	46,048,453	-	2,813,422	43,235,031	-
Net Pension Liability -					
Proportionate Share	862,819	-	246,350	616,469	-
Total Other Liabilities	47,077,774	-	3,063,691	44,014,083	-
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 51,366,421	\$ -	\$ 3,679,289	\$ 47,687,132	\$ 580,599

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM DEBT OBLIGATIONS – Continued

The General Fund has typically been used to liquidate long-term liabilities such as compensated absences.

Existing serial and statutory bond obligations:

Description	Issue Date	Final Maturity	Interest Rate (%)	Balance
Refunding Bond	03/20/20	06/15/25	2.00 - 5.00%	\$ 245,000
Serial Bond	02/15/12	02/15/25	2.50 - 3.25%	65,000
Serial Bond	06/15/23	06/15/38	5.00%	2,935,000
				<u>\$ 3,245,000</u>

The following is a summary of debt service requirements at year-end June 30:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 520,000	\$ 161,112	\$ 681,112
2026	195,000	136,250	331,250
2027	205,000	126,500	331,500
2028	215,000	116,250	331,250
2029	225,000	105,500	330,500
2030-2034	1,335,000	345,500	1,680,500
2035-2038	550,000	52,000	602,000
Total	<u>\$ 3,245,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,043,112</u>	<u>\$ 4,288,112</u>

Interest on long-term debt for the year was composed:

Interest Paid	\$ 233,229
Less: Interest Accrued in the Prior Year	(10,826)
Plus: Interest Accrued in the Current Year	6,713
Plus: Amortization of Deferred Charge on Bond Refunding	2,668
Less: Amortization of Bond Premium	<u>(60,598)</u>
Total Interest on Long-Term Debt	<u>\$ 171,186</u>

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM DEBT OBLIGATIONS – Continued

Advance Refunding

In prior years, the District defeased certain general obligation bonds by placing the proceeds of new bonds in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. Accordingly, the trust account assets and the liability for the defeased bonds are not included in the District's financial statements. At June 30, 2024, the amount of outstanding defeased bonds totaled \$260,000.

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS

General Information

The District participates in the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) and The New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS). These are cost-sharing multiple employer public employee defined benefit retirement systems. The Systems offer a wide range of plans and benefits, which are related to years of service and final average salary, vesting of retirement benefits, death, and disability.

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Plan Description

The District participates in the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). This is a cost-sharing multiple-employer retirement system. The System provides retirement benefits as well as, death and disability benefits to plan members and beneficiaries as authorized by the Education Law and the Retirement and Social Security Law of the State of New York. The System is governed by a 10 member Board of Trustees. System benefits are established under New York State Law. Membership is mandatory and automatic for all full-time teachers, teaching assistants, guidance counselors and administrators employed in New York Public Schools and BOCES who elected to participate in TRS. Once a public employer elects to participate in the System, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a State statute. Additional information regarding the System, may be obtained by writing to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, 10 Corporate Woods Drive, Albany, NY 12211-2395 or by referring to the NYSTRS Annual Comprehensive Financial report which can be found on the System's website at www.nystrs.org.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Plan Description

The District participates in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (ERS). This is a cost-sharing multiple-employer retirement system. The System provides retirement benefits, as well as death and disability benefits. The net position of the System is held in the New York State Common Retirement Fund (the Fund), which was established to hold all net assets and record changes in plan net position allocated to the System. The Comptroller of the State of New York serves as the trustee of the Fund and is the administrative head of the System. System benefits are established under the provisions of the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law (RSSL). Once a public employer elects to participate in the System, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a State statute. The District also participates in the Public Employees' Group Life Insurance Plan (GLIP), which provides death benefits in the form of life insurance. The System is included in the State's financial report as a pension trust fund. That report, including information with regard to benefits provided, may be found at www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php or obtained by writing to the New York State and Local Retirement System, 110 State Street, Albany, NY 12244.

TRS Benefits Provided

Benefits

The benefits provided to members of the System are established by New York State law and may be amended only by the Legislature with the Governor's approval. Benefit provisions vary depending on date of membership and are subdivided into the following six classes:

Tier 1

Members who last joined prior to July 1, 1973 are covered by the provisions of Article 11 of the Education Law.

Tier 2

Members who last joined on or after July 1, 1973 and prior to July 27, 1976 are covered by the provisions of Article 11 of the Education Law and Article 11 of the Retirement and Social Security Law (RSSL).

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

TRS Benefits Provided – Continued

Benefits – Continued

Tier 3

Members who last joined on or after July 27, 1976 and prior to September 1, 1983 are covered by the provisions of Article 14 and Article 15 of the RSSL.

Tier 4

Members who last joined on or after September 1, 1983 and prior to January 1, 2010 are covered by the provisions of Article 15 of the RSSL.

Tier 5

Members who joined on or after January 1, 2010 and prior to April 1, 2012 are covered by the provisions of Article 15 of the RSSL.

Tier 6

Members who joined on or after April 1, 2012 are covered by the provisions of Article 15 of the RSSL.

Service Retirements

Tier 1 members are eligible, beginning at age 55, for a service retirement allowance of approximately 2% per year of credited service times final average salary.

Under Article 19 of the RSSL, eligible Tier 1 and 2 members can receive additional service credit of one-twelfth of a year for each year of retirement credit as of the date of retirement or death up to a maximum of two additional years.

Tiers 2 through 5 are eligible for the same but with the following limitations: (1) Tiers 2 through 4 members receive an unreduced benefit for retirement at age 62 or retirement at ages 55 through 61 with 30 years of service or reduced benefit for retirement at ages 55 through 61 with less than 30 years of service. (2) Tier 5 members receive an unreduced benefit for retirement at age 62 or retirement at ages 57 through 61 with 30 years of service. They receive a reduced benefit for retirement at age 55 and 56 regardless of service credit, or ages 57 through 61 with less than 30 years of service.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

TRS Benefits Provided – Continued

Service Retirements – Continued

Tier 6 members are eligible for a service retirement allowance of 1.75% per year of credited service for the first 20 years of service plus 2% per year for years of service in excess of 20 years times final average salary. Tier 6 members receive an unreduced benefit for retirement at age 63. They receive a reduced benefit at ages 55-62 regardless of service credit.

Vested Benefits

Retirement benefits for Tiers 1-6 are now vested after 5 years of credited service. Prior to April 9, 2022, Tier 5 and 6 members must attain 10 years of state service credit to be vested. Benefits are payable at age 55 or greater with the limitations previously noted for service retirements.

Disability Retirement

Members are eligible for disability retirement benefits after 10 years of credited New York State service except for Tier 3 where disability retirement is permissible after 5 years of credited New York State service pursuant to the provisions of Article 14 of the RSSL. The Tier 3 benefit is integrated with Social Security.

Death Benefits

Death benefits are paid to the beneficiary of active members who die in service and certain retirees. For active members, the benefit is based on final salary, age and the number of years of credited service. For retired members, it is also based on the number of years in retirement.

Prior and Military Service

After 2 years of membership, members of all tiers may claim and receive credit for prior New York State public or teaching service. Only Tier 1 and 2 members may, under certain conditions, claim out-of-state service. Certain members may also claim military service credit prior to or interrupting membership.

Tier Reinstatement

In accordance with Chapter 640 of the Laws of 1998, any active member who had a prior membership may elect to be reinstated to their original date and Tier of membership.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

TRS Benefits Provided – Continued

Permanent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

Section 532-a of the Education Law provides a permanent cost-of-living benefit to both current and future retired members. This benefit will be paid commencing September of each year to retired members who have attained age 62 and have been retired for 5 years or attained age 55 and have been retired for 10 years. Disability retirees must have been retired for 5 years, regardless of age, to be eligible. The annual COLA percentage is equal to 50% of the increase in the consumer price index, not to exceed 3% nor be lower than 1%. It is applied to the first eighteen thousand dollars of maximum annual benefit. The applicable percentage payable beginning September 2022 and 2021 is 3.0% and 1.4%, respectively. Members who retired prior to July 1, 1970 are eligible for a minimum benefit of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars for 35 years of credited full-time New York State service. Certain members who retire pursuant to the provisions of Article 14 of the RSSL are eligible for automatic cost-of-living supplementation based on the increase in the consumer price index with a maximum per annum increase of 3%.

ERS Benefits Provided

Benefits

The System provides retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits.

Tier 1 and 2

Eligibility: Tier 1 members, with the exception of those retiring under special retirement plans, must be at least age 55 to be eligible to collect a retirement benefit. There is no minimum service requirement for Tier 1 members. Tier 2 members, with the exception of those retiring under special retirement plans, must have 5 years of service and be at least age 55 to be eligible to collect a retirement benefit. The age at which full benefits may be collected for Tier 1 is 55, and the full benefit age for Tier 2 is 62.

Benefit Calculation: Generally, the benefit is 1.67 percent of final average salary for each year of service if the member retires with less than 20 years. If the member retires with 20 or more years of service, the benefit is 2 percent of final average salary for each year of service. Tier 2 members with five or more years of service can retire as early as age 55 with reduced benefits. Tier 2 members age 55 or older with 30 or more years of service can retire with no reduction in benefits. As a result of Article 19 of the RSSL, Tier 1 and Tier 2 members who worked continuously from April 1, 1999 through October 1, 2000 received an additional month of service credit for each year of credited service they have at retirement, up to a maximum of 24 additional months.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS - Continued

ERS Benefits Provided – Continued

Benefits – Continued

Final average salary is the average of the wages earned in the 3 highest consecutive years of employment. For Tier 1 members who joined on or after June 17, 1971, each year's compensation used in the final average salary calculation is limited to no more than 20 percent of the previous year. For Tier 2 members, each year of final average salary is limited to no more than 20 percent of the average of the previous 2 years.

Tier 3, 4, and 5

Eligibility: Tier 3, 4 and 5 members, with the exception of those retiring under special retirement plans, must have 5 years of service and be at least age 55 to be eligible to collect a retirement benefit. The full benefit age for Tier 3, 4 and 5 is 62.

Benefit Calculation: Generally, the benefit is 1.67 percent of final average salary for each year of service if the member retires with less than 20 years. If a member retires with between 20 and 30 years of service, the benefit is 2 percent of final average salary for each year of service. If a member retires with more than 30 years of service, an additional benefit of 1.5 percent of final average salary is applied for each year of service over 30 years. Tier 3 and 4 members with five or more years of service and Tier 5 members with 5 or more years of service can retire as early as age 55 with reduced benefits. Tier 3 and 4 members age 55 or older with 30 or more years of service can retire with no reduction in benefits.

Final average salary is the average of the wages earned in the 3 highest consecutive years of employment. For Tier 3, 4 and 5 members, each year's compensation used in the final average salary calculation is limited to no more than 10 percent greater than the average of the previous 2 years.

Tier 6

Eligibility: Tier 6 members, with the exception of those retiring under special retirement plans, must have 5 years of service and be at least age 55 to be eligible to collect a retirement benefit. The full benefit age for Tier 6 is 63 for ERS members.

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

ERS Benefits Provided – Continued

Benefits – Continued

Benefit Calculation: Generally, the benefit is 1.67 percent of final average salary for each year of service if the member retires with less than 20 years. If a member retires with 20 years of service, the benefit is 1.75 percent of final average salary for each year of service. If a member retires with more than 20 years of service, an additional benefit of 2 percent of final average salary is applied for each year of service over 20 years. Tier 6 members with 5 or more years of service can retire as early as age 55 with reduced benefits.

Final average salary is the average of the wages earned in the 5 highest consecutive years of employment. For Tier 6 members, each year's compensation used in the final average salary calculation is limited to no more than 10 percent of the employment average of the previous 4 years.

Vested Benefits

Members who joined the System prior to January 1, 2010 need five years of service to be 100 percent vested. Members who joined on or after January 1, 2010 require ten years of service credit to be 100 percent vested. As of April 9, 2022, legislation was passed that reduced the number of years of service credit from 10 years to 5 years. Therefore, all Members are vested when they reach 5 years of service credit.

Disability Retirement Benefits

Disability retirement benefits are available to ERS members unable to perform their job duties because of permanent physical or mental incapacity. There are three general types of disability benefits: ordinary, performance of duty, and accidental disability benefits. Eligibility, benefit amounts, and other rules such as any offset of other benefits depend on a member's tier, years of service, and plan.

Ordinary Death Benefits

Death benefits are payable upon the death, before retirement, of a member who meets eligibility requirements as set forth by law. The first \$50,000 of an ordinary death benefit is paid in the form of group term life insurance. The benefit is generally three times the member's annual salary. For most members, there is also a reduced post-retirement ordinary death benefit available.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

ERS Benefits Provided – Continued

Post-Retirement Benefit Increases

A cost-of-living adjustment is provided annually to: (i) all retirees who have attained age 62 and have been retired for five years; (ii) all retirees who have attained age 55 and have been retired for 10 years; (iii) all disability retirees, regardless of age, who have been retired for five years; (iv) ERS recipients of an accidental death benefit, regardless of age, who have been receiving such benefit for five years and (v) the spouse of a deceased retiree receiving a lifetime benefit under an option elected by the retiree at retirement. An eligible spouse is entitled to one-half the cost-of-living adjustment amount that would have been paid to the retiree when the retiree would have met the eligibility criteria. This cost-of-living adjustment is a percentage of the annual retirement benefit of the eligible retiree as computed on a base benefit amount not to exceed \$18,000 of the annual retirement benefit. The cost-of-living percentage shall be 50 percent of the annual Consumer Price Index as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor but cannot be less than 1 percent or exceed 3 percent.

Funding Policies

The Systems are noncontributory except for employees who joined after July 27, 1976, who contribute 3 percent of their salary for the first ten years of membership, and employees who joined on or after January 1, 2010 who generally contribute 3.0% to 3.5% of their salary for their entire length of service. In addition, employee contribution rates under ERS tier VI vary based on a sliding salary scale. For TRS, contribution rates are established annually by the New York State Teachers' Retirement Board pursuant to Article 11 of the Education Law. For ERS, the Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions for the ERS' fiscal year ended March 31. The District paid 100% of the required contributions as billed by the TRS and ERS for the current year and each of the two preceding years. (The District chose to prepay the required contributions by December 15, 2023 and received an overall discount of \$775).

The District's share of the required contributions, based on covered payroll paid for the current and two preceding years were:

	NYSTRS	NYSERS
2023-2024	\$ 274,715	\$ 107,816
2022-2023	268,169	97,025
2021-2022	245,394	143,770

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

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

At June 30, 2024, the District reported the following asset (liability) for its proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability) for each of the Systems. The net pension asset (liability) was measured as of March 31, 2024 for ERS and June 30, 2023 for TRS. The total pension asset (liability) used to calculate the net pension asset (liability) was determined by an actuarial valuation. The District's proportion of the net pension asset (liability) was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the Systems relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. This information was provided by the ERS and TRS Systems in reports provided to the District.

	ERS	TRS
Measurement Date	March 31, 2024	June 30, 2023
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension		
Asset (Liability)	\$ (451,163)	\$ (165,306)
District's Portion (%) of the Plan's Total		
Net Pension Asset (Liability)	0.0030641%	0.014455%
Change in Proportion (%) Since the Prior Measurement Date	0.0004227%	-0.000992%

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

Pension Assets, Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions – Continued

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the District recognized pension expense of \$85,915 for ERS and of \$190,571 for TRS. At June 30, 2024, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>		<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>	
	<u>ERS</u>	<u>TRS</u>	<u>ERS</u>	<u>TRS</u>
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 145,319	\$ 400,823	\$ 12,302	\$ 991
Changes of Assumptions	170,575	355,899	-	77,566
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	-	84,501	220,391	-
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between the District's Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	53,223	63,007	29,957	15,235
District's Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	35,245	295,534	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 404,362</u>	<u>\$ 1,199,764</u>	<u>\$ 262,650</u>	<u>\$ 93,792</u>

District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension asset (liability) in the year ended June 30, 2025, if applicable. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense for the year ended as follows:

	ERS	TRS
2025	\$ (76,752)	\$ 78,420
2026	93,933	(77,127)
2027	132,230	674,228
2028	(42,944)	58,448
2029	-	46,084
Thereafter	-	30,385

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension asset (liability) as of the measurement date was determined by using an actuarial valuation as noted in the table below, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to the measurement date.

Significant actuarial assumptions used in the valuations were as follows:

	ERS	TRS
Measurement Date	March 31, 2024	June 30, 2023
Actuarial Valuation Date	April 1, 2023	June 30, 2022
Interest Rate	5.9%	6.95%
Salary Scale	4.4%	1.3%
Decrement Tables	April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2020 System's Experience	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2020 System's Experience
Inflation Rate	2.9%	2.4%

For ERS, annuitant mortality rates are based on April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2020 System's experience with adjustments for mortality improvements based on Society of Actuaries' Scale MP-2021. For TRS, annuitant mortality rates are based on July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020 System's experience with adjustments for mortality improvements based on Society of Actuaries' Scale MP-2021.

For ERS, the actuarial assumptions used in the April 1, 2023 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2020. For TRS, the actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020.

The long-term rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns net of 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 each target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

Actuarial Assumptions – Continued

Best estimates of the arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation are summarized as follows:

	ERS	TRS
Measurement Date	March 31, 2024	June 30, 2023
Asset Type		
Domestic Equity	4.00%	6.80%
International Equity	6.65%	7.60%
Private Equity	7.25%	10.10%
Global Equity		7.20%
Real Estate	4.60%	6.30%
Opportunistic / Absolute Return Strategies Portfolio	5.25%	
Credit	5.40%	
Real Assets	5.79%	
Fixed Income	1.50%	
Cash	0.25%	0.30%
Private Debt		6.00%
Real Estate Debt		3.20%
Domestic Fixed Income Securities		2.20%
Global Bonds		1.60%
High-Yield Bonds		4.40%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to calculate the total pension asset (liability) was 5.9% for ERS and 6.95% for TRS. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based upon the assumptions, the Systems' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension asset (liability).

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability) to the Discount Rate Assumption

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability) calculated using the discount rate of 5.9% for ERS and 6.95% for TRS, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower (4.9% for ERS and 5.95% for TRS) or 1-percentage point higher (6.9% for ERS and 7.95% for TRS) than the current rate:

ERS	1% Decrease (4.9%)	Current Assumption (5.9%)	1% Increase (6.9%)
Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability)	\$ (1,418,502)	\$ (451,163)	\$ 356,766
TRS	1% Decrease (5.95%)	Current Assumption (6.95%)	1% Increase (7.95%)
Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability)	\$ (2,517,692)	\$ (165,306)	\$ 1,813,153

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

The components of the current-year net pension asset (liability) of the employers as of the respective valuation dates, were as follows:

	ERS	(In Thousands) TRS	Total
Measurement Date	March 31, 2024	June 30, 2023	
Employer's Total Pension Asset (Liability)	\$ (240,696,851)	\$ (138,365,122)	\$ (379,061,973)
Plan Net Position	225,972,801	137,221,537	363,194,338
Employer's Net Pension Asset (Liability)	<u>\$ (14,724,050)</u>	<u>\$ (1,143,585)</u>	<u>\$ (15,867,635)</u>
Ratio of Plan Net Position to the Employer's Total Pension Asset (Liability)	93.88%	99.17%	

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLANS – Continued

Payables to the Pension Plan

For ERS, employer contributions are paid annually based on the System's fiscal year which ends on March 31. Accrued retirement contributions as of June 30, 2024 represent the projected employer contribution for the period of April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 based on paid ERS wages multiplied by the employer's contribution rate, by tier. Accrued retirement contributions as of June 30, 2024 amounted to \$35,245.

For TRS, employer and employee contributions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 are paid to the System in September, October and November 2024 through a state aid intercept. Accrued retirement contributions as of June 30, 2024 represent employee and employer contributions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 based on paid TRS wages multiplied by the employer's contribution rate, by tier and employee contributions for the fiscal year as reported to the TRS System. Accrued retirement contributions as of June 30, 2024 amounted to \$328,964.

NOTE 9 – INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Interfund balances at June 30, 2024 are as follows:

	Interfund		Interfund	
	Receivables	Payables	Revenues	Expenditures
General	\$ 438,215	\$ 5,325	\$ 20,000	\$ 141,451
Special Aid	-	401,817	-	-
School Food Service	15,183	20,545	42,341	-
Debt Service	155,310	20,000	-	20,000
Capital Project-Main 2022	-	161,021	-	-
Capital Project-Mini	-	-	99,110	-
Total	<u>\$ 608,708</u>	<u>\$ 608,708</u>	<u>\$ 161,451</u>	<u>\$ 161,451</u>

The District typically loans resources between funds for the purpose of mitigating the effects of transient cash flow issues. The District typically transfers from the General Fund to the School Food Service Fund to subsidize a portion of the expenses. The General Fund advances funds to the Special Aid Fund to provide temporary cash until New York State has reimbursed the grant programs. The District also transfers from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to fund various approved capital projects.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 10 – FUND BALANCE EQUITY

The following is a summary of the Governmental Funds fund balances of the district at the year ended June 30, 2024:

Fund Balances	General	Capital Project - Main 2022	Non-Major Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Nonspendable				
School Food Service Inventory	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,491	\$ 6,491
Prepaid Expenses	5,403	-	-	5,403
Restricted				
Debt Service	-	-	645,830	645,830
Employee Benefit Accrued Liability	190,015	-	-	190,015
Retirement Contributions - NYSERS	1,392,511	-	-	1,392,511
Retirement Contributions - NYSTRS	232,434	-	-	232,434
Unemployment Insurance	320,100	-	-	320,100
Workers' Compensation	398,680	-	-	398,680
Extra Classroom Activity Funds	-	-	49,030	49,030
Scholarships and Awards Fund	-	-	253,936	253,936
Capital Reserve	1,665,829	-	-	1,665,829
Tax Certiorari	177,208	-	-	177,208
Capital Project Fund - Main 2022	-	591,163	-	591,163
Capital Project Fund - Main 2018	-	-	72,080	72,080
Assigned				
Designated for Next Fiscal Year	1,100,317	-	-	1,100,317
General Support	18,852	-	-	18,852
Instruction	23,373	-	-	23,373
Pupil Transportation	8,071	-	-	8,071
Employee Benefits	6,766	-	-	6,766
School Food Service Fund	-	-	10,229	10,229
Unassigned				
General Fund	1,337,542	-	-	1,337,542
Total Governmental Fund Balance	\$ 6,877,101	\$ 591,163	\$ 1,037,596	\$ 8,505,860

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

**NOTE 11 – POSTEMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE)
BENEFITS**

General Information about the OPEB Plan

Plan Description – The District’s defined benefit OPEB plan, provides OPEB for all permanent full-time employees of the District. The plan is a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan administered by the District. Article 11 of the State Compiled Statutes grants the authority to establish and amend the benefit terms and financing requirements to the District’s Board, subject to applicable collective bargaining and employment agreements, and Board of Education policy. The plan does not issue a separate financial report since there are no assets legally segregated for the sole purpose of paying benefits under the Plan. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of Statement 75.

Benefits Provided – The District provides healthcare benefits for retirees and their dependents. The benefit terms are dependent on which contract each employee falls under. The specifics of each contract are on file at the District offices and are available upon request.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms – At July 30, 2023, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	68
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	-
Active employees	<u>66</u>
Total Covered Employees	<u><u>134</u></u>

The District participates in the St. Lawrence-Lewis Health Insurance Consortium (the Plan). The Plan allows eligible District employees and spouses to continue health coverage upon retirement. The Plan does issue a publicly available financial report.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 11 – POSTEMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE)

BENEFITS – Continued

General Information about the OPEB Plan – Continued

Eligible teachers, administrators and employees are those who are at least age 55 with 5 years of service. Employees must also be eligible to retire under the ERS or TRS.

Terms – All current and future retirees contribute a fixed dollar amount based on a percentage of the premium at the time of their date of retirement. The current contribution percentage for active Terms employees is 20% for the Superintendent and 18% for all other Terms employees.

Non- Teachers – All members that retire after July 1, 2013 are required to contribute a fixed dollar amount based on salary equal to a percentage of the premium at the time of their retirement. The current contribution percentage for active Non-Teachers with a salary of at least \$45,000 is 9.5% and it was assumed all members would reach this salary amount by the time of retirement.

Teachers – All current and future retirees contribute a percentage based on their date of retirement as follows:

Teachers Contributions	
Retirement Date	Contribution %
< 7/1/2012	0%
7/1/2012 - 6/30/2019	10%
7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020	11%
7/1/2020 +	12%

Surviving Spouse – Surviving spouses may elect to initiate the Surviving Spousal coverage per the plan.

Medicare Part B Reimbursement – Clifton-Fine Central School District reimburses the full Medicare Part B amount for all retirees and spouses. Surviving spouses do not receive reimbursement.

Total OPEB Liability

The District has obtained an actuarial valuation report as of June 30, 2024 which indicates that the total liability for other postemployment benefits is \$43,235,031 which is reflected in the Statement of Net Position. The OPEB liability was measured as of July 1, 2023 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 11 – POSTEMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE)**BENEFITS – Continued**

Total OPEB Liability – Continued

Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs – The total OPEB liability in the July 1, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Measurement Date	07/01/23
Rate of Compensation Increase	3.00%
Inflation Rate	2.70%
Discount Rate	3.65%

Assumed Prescription Drug Trend Rates at June 30

Health Care Cost Trend Rate Assumed for Next Fiscal Year	7.80%
Rate to Which the Cost Trend Rate is Assumed to Decline (the Ultimate Trend Rate)	4.14%
Fiscal Year that the Rate Reaches the Ultimate Trend Rate	2094

Additional Information

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Amortization Method	Level Percentage
Amortization Period (in Years)	4.88
Amortization Period Status	Open
Method used to determine Actuarial Value of Assets	N/A

The discount rate was based on the Bond Buyer Weekly 20 - Bond GO Index as of July 1, 2023.

Mortality rates were based on the Society of Actuaries Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for employees: sex distinct, job category-specific, headcount weighted, and adjusted for mortality improvements with scale MP-2021 mortality improvement scale on a generational basis.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2023 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 11 – POSTEMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE)

BENEFITS – Continued

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

Balance at June 30, 2023	\$ 46,048,453
Changes for the Year	
Service Cost	1,253,033
Interest	1,650,369
Changes of Benefit Terms	(977,630)
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	(4,623,720)
Changes of Assumptions or Other Inputs	1,246,286
Benefit Payments	<u>(1,361,760)</u>
Net Changes	<u>(2,813,422)</u>
Balance at June 30, 2024	<u><u>\$ 43,235,031</u></u>

Changes of Benefit Terms – Changed the surviving spouse contribution from an amount equal to retiree contribution, to having to pay 100% of the premium. Updated the contribution rate for future Non-Teacher retirees from 9.0% with a salary of at least \$40,000 to 9.5% with a salary of at least \$45,000.

Changes in Experience – Demographic (gain)/loss comes from many sources such as rates of termination, retirement, and election of health care benefits. There are the same number of actives and retirees in this valuation. Age-adjusted pre-65 premiums are approximately 10% lower than the assumed trend and age-adjusted post-65 premiums are approximately 12% lower than the assumed trend.

Changes of Assumptions or Other Trends – Changed the discount rate from 3.54% to 3.65%. The discount rates are inputs taken from the rate for a 20-year high-quality tax -exempt municipal bond index as of each measurement date. The healthcare trend rate table was updated for 2023 using Getzen modelv2023_IF.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 11 – POSTEMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE)**BENEFITS – Continued**

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability - Continued

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (2.65 percent) or 1 percentage point higher (4.65 percent) than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease 2.65%	Discount Rate 3.65%	1% Increase 4.65%
Total OPEB Liability	<u>\$ 50,525,724</u>	<u>\$ 43,235,031</u>	<u>\$ 37,371,461</u>

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (3.14 percent) or 1 percentage point higher (5.14 percent) than the current healthcare cost trend rate:

	1% Decrease (Trend Less 1% Decreasing to 3.14%)	Healthcare Cost Trend Rates (Trend Decreasing to 4.14%)	1% Increase (Trend Plus 1% Decreasing to 5.14%)
Total OPEB Liability	<u>\$ 36,590,797</u>	<u>\$ 43,235,031</u>	<u>\$ 51,723,592</u>

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 11 – POSTEMPLOYMENT (HEALTH INSURANCE)**BENEFITS – Continued**

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the District recognized OPEB expense of \$1,074,327. At June 30, 2024, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 1,171,995	\$ 3,676,236
Changes of Assumptions or Other Inputs	2,186,333	2,778,197
Employer Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	<u>1,261,778</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 4,620,106</u>	<u>\$ 6,454,433</u>

District benefit payments subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the OPEB liability in the year June 30, 2025. Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,

2025	\$ 237,174
2026	(1,099,920)
2027	(1,615,087)
2028	<u>(618,272)</u>
	<u>\$ (3,096,105)</u>

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 12 – RISK MANAGEMENT

General

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft, damage, injuries, errors and omissions, natural disasters, and other risks. These risks are covered by commercial insurance purchased from independent third parties. Settled claims from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage for the past two years.

Pooled Non-Risk-Retained

The District participates in the St. Lawrence – Lewis County School District’s Healthcare Plan (Plan), a non-risk-retained public entity risk pool for its employee health and accident insurance coverage. The pool is operated for the benefit of 16 individual governmental units located within the pool’s geographic area and is considered a self-sustaining risk pool that will provide coverage for its members up to \$1,000,000 per insured event. The pool obtains independent coverage for insured events in excess of the \$1,000,000 limit, and the District has essentially transferred all related risk to the pool.

Plan members are subject to a supplemental assessment in the event of deficiencies. If the Plan’s assets were to be exhausted, members would be responsible for the Plan’s liabilities. The Plan uses a reinsurance agreement to reduce its exposure to large losses on insured events. Reinsurance permits recovery of a portion of losses from the reinsurer, although it does not discharge the liability of the Plan as direct insurer of the risks reinsured. The Plan establishes a liability for both reported and unreported insured events, which includes estimates of both future payments of losses and related claim adjustment expenses. However, because actual claims costs depend on complex factors, the process used in computing claims liabilities does not necessarily result in an exact amount. Such claims are based on the ultimate cost of claims (including future claim adjustment expenses) that have been reported but not settled.

The Plan issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained in writing: St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School District Employee Medical Plan, Post Office Box 697, Canton, New York 13617.

The District participates in the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School District Employees Workers’ Compensation Plan, a risk-sharing pool, to insure Workers’ Compensation claims. This is a public entity risk pool created under Article 5 of the Workers’ Compensation Law to finance liability and risks related to Workers’ Compensation claims. The District share of the liability for unbilled and open claims is \$0.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO AUDITED BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 13 – CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS

The District has received grants, which are subject to audit by agencies of the State and Federal governments. Such audits may result in disallowances and a request for a return of funds. Based on prior years' experience, the District's administration believes disallowances, if any, will be immaterial.

NOTE 14 – DONOR-RESTRICTED ENDOWMENTS

The District administers endowment funds, which are restricted by the donor for the purposes of scholarships.

Donor-restricted endowments are reported at fair value.

The District authorizes expenditures from donor-restricted endowments in compliance with the wishes expressed by the donor, which varies among the unique endowments administered by the District.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT'S TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS

LAST SEVEN FISCAL YEARS

Ended June 30, 2024

Total OPEB Liability	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Service Cost	\$ 1,253,033	\$ 1,802,857	\$ 1,275,918	\$ 903,487	\$ 802,040	\$ 958,100	\$ 1,659,350
Interest	1,650,369	1,075,239	1,013,553	1,271,445	1,468,707	1,370,486	1,669,182
Changes of Benefit Terms	(977,630)	-	(314,782)	-	(179,179)	-	(6,911,055)
Difference between Expected and Actual Experience	(4,623,720)	-	3,147,264	-	(2,448,476)	485,976	(4,075,786)
Changes in Assumptions or Other Inputs	1,246,286	(4,624,175)	9,763	8,202,360	(219,722)	(1,682,262)	(11,053,303)
Benefit Payments	(1,361,760)	(1,294,861)	(1,257,033)	(1,172,223)	(1,125,541)	(1,062,852)	(1,108,977)
Net Change in Total OPEB Liability	<u>(2,813,422)</u>	<u>(3,040,940)</u>	<u>3,874,683</u>	<u>9,205,069</u>	<u>(1,702,171)</u>	<u>69,448</u>	<u>(19,820,589)</u>
Total OPEB Liability - Beginning	<u>46,048,453</u>	<u>49,089,393</u>	<u>45,214,710</u>	<u>36,009,641</u>	<u>37,711,812</u>	<u>37,642,364</u>	<u>57,462,953</u>
Total OPEB Liability - Ending	<u><u>\$ 43,235,031</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 46,048,453</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 49,089,393</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 45,214,710</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 36,009,641</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 37,711,812</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 37,642,364</u></u>
Covered Payroll	\$ 3,522,069	\$ 3,457,483	\$ 2,274,821	\$ 3,055,535	\$ 3,055,535	\$ 3,231,446	\$ 3,167,322
Total OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	1227.55%	1331.85%	2157.95%	1479.76%	1178.51%	1167.03%	1188.46%

10 years of historical information was not available upon implementation. An additional year of historical information will be added each year subsequent to the year of implementation until 10 years of historical data is available.

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET (NON-GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND

Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual		Final Budget Variance With Actual And Encumbrances
REVENUES					
Local Sources					
Real Property Taxes	\$ 4,408,316	\$ 4,408,316	\$ 4,226,961		\$ (181,355)
Other Tax Items	5,000	5,000	186,421		181,421
Use of Money and Property	40,000	40,000	367,781		327,781
Sale of Property and Compensation for Loss	150	150	14,876		14,726
Miscellaneous	30,000	30,000	225,228		195,228
Total Local Sources	4,483,466	4,483,466	5,021,267		537,801
State Sources	5,771,179	5,771,179	5,771,974		795
Total Revenues	10,254,645	10,254,645	10,793,241		538,596
Other Financing Sources					
Transfers from Other Funds	20,000	20,000	20,000		-
Appropriated Reserves	300,000	300,000	-		(300,000)
Total Revenue and Other Financing Sources	10,574,645	10,574,645	10,813,241		\$ 238,596
EXPENDITURES					
General Support					
Board of Education	27,100	32,018	25,474	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,544
Central Administration	192,703	193,994	191,857	-	2,137
Finance	215,560	220,612	213,322	2,560	4,730
Staff	48,620	48,620	32,738	-	15,882
Central Services	807,346	849,913	710,130	15,292	124,491
Special Items	283,513	286,415	275,513	-	10,902
Total General Support	1,574,842	1,631,572	1,449,034	18,852	163,686
Instruction					
Instruction, Administration and Improvement	244,352	233,757	203,115	2,482	28,160
Teaching-Regular School	1,955,064	2,039,524	1,969,209	8,595	61,720
Programs for Children with Handicapping Conditions	1,175,965	1,063,010	697,413	2,219	363,378
Occupational Education	343,225	357,500	356,200	-	1,300
Instructional Media	335,477	351,846	317,811	2,575	31,460
Pupil Services	522,159	561,198	532,463	7,502	21,233
Total Instruction	4,576,242	4,606,835	4,076,211	23,373	507,251
Pupil Transportation	658,853	660,512	579,134	8,071	73,307
Employee Benefits	3,892,300	3,803,318	3,241,172	6,766	555,380
Debt Service	788,853	788,853	788,229	-	624
Total Expenditures	11,491,090	11,491,090	10,133,780	57,062	1,300,248
OTHER FINANCING USES					
Transfers to Other Funds	160,000	160,000	141,451	-	18,549
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	11,651,090	11,651,090	10,275,231	\$ 57,062	\$ 1,318,797
Net Change in Fund Balance	(1,076,445)	(1,076,445)	538,010		
Fund Balance - Beginning	6,339,091	6,339,091	6,339,091		
Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 5,262,646	\$ 5,262,646	\$ 6,877,101		

Note to Required Supplementary Information Budget Basis of Accounting: Budgets are adopted on the modified accrual basis of accounting consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION ASSET (LIABILITY) - NYSLRS PENSION PLAN

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

Ended June 30, 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)										
District's Proportion of the Net Pension Asset (Liability)	0.014455%	0.015447%	0.015171%	0.015766%	0.015817%	0.015669%	0.015940%	0.015749%	0.015398%	0.158340%
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability)	\$ (165,306)	\$ (296,405)	\$ 2,628,951	\$ (435,655)	\$ 410,922	\$ 283,340	\$ 121,159	\$ (168,673)	\$ (1,599,397)	\$ (1,763,802)
District's Covered Payroll	\$ 2,670,134	\$ 2,752,427	\$ 2,586,419	\$ 2,642,977	\$ 2,640,085	\$ 2,637,205	\$ 2,513,748	\$ 2,340,158	\$ 2,322,560	\$ 2,339,266
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	<u>6.19%</u>	<u>10.77%</u>	<u>101.64%</u>	<u>16.48%</u>	<u>15.56%</u>	<u>10.74%</u>	<u>4.82%</u>	<u>7.21%</u>	<u>68.35%</u>	<u>75.94%</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Asset (Liability)	99.17%	98.57%	113.25%	97.76%	102.17%	101.53%	100.66%	99.01%	110.46%	111.48%
Employees' Retirement System (ERS)										
District's Proportion of the Net Pension Asset (Liability)	0.0030641%	0.0026414%	0.0031575%	0.0028334%	0.0029832%	0.0033068%	0.0030867%	0.0033904%	0.0029820%	0.0029034%
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability)	\$ (451,163)	\$ (566,414)	\$ 258,114	\$ (2,821)	\$ (789,957)	\$ (234,296)	\$ (99,621)	\$ (318,566)	\$ (478,621)	\$ (98,083)
District's Covered Payroll	\$ 853,276	\$ 841,248	\$ 875,613	\$ 842,717	\$ 828,397	\$ 921,731	\$ 926,812	\$ 972,044	\$ 858,107	\$ 889,190
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Asset (Liability) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	<u>52.87%</u>	<u>67.33%</u>	<u>29.48%</u>	<u>0.33%</u>	<u>95.36%</u>	<u>25.42%</u>	<u>10.75%</u>	<u>32.77%</u>	<u>55.78%</u>	<u>16.30%</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Asset (Liability)	93.88%	90.78%	103.65%	99.95%	86.39%	96.27%	98.24%	94.70%	90.68%	97.95%

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S CONTRIBUTIONS-NYSLRS PENSION PLAN
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS
 Ended June 30, 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)										
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 274,715	\$ 268,169	\$ 245,394	\$ 237,091	\$ 280,377	\$ 250,129	\$ 296,041	\$ 322,239	\$ 405,476	\$ 380,075
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>274,715</u>	<u>268,169</u>	<u>245,394</u>	<u>237,091</u>	<u>280,377</u>	<u>250,129</u>	<u>296,041</u>	<u>322,239</u>	<u>405,476</u>	<u>380,075</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
District's Covered Payroll	\$ 2,670,134	\$ 2,752,427	\$ 2,586,419	\$ 2,642,977	\$ 2,640,085	\$ 2,637,205	\$ 2,513,748	\$ 2,340,158	\$ 2,322,560	\$ 2,339,266
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	10.29%	9.74%	9.49%	8.97%	10.62%	9.48%	11.78%	13.77%	17.46%	16.25%
Employees' Retirement System (ERS)										
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 107,816	\$ 97,025	\$ 143,770	\$ 124,300	\$ 120,892	\$ 135,634	\$ 141,129	\$ 151,325	\$ 151,158	\$ 181,994
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>107,816</u>	<u>97,025</u>	<u>143,770</u>	<u>124,300</u>	<u>120,892</u>	<u>135,634</u>	<u>141,129</u>	<u>151,325</u>	<u>151,158</u>	<u>181,994</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
District's Covered Payroll	\$ 853,276	\$ 841,248	\$ 875,613	\$ 842,717	\$ 828,397	\$ 921,731	\$ 926,812	\$ 972,044	\$ 858,107	\$ 889,190
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	12.64%	11.53%	16.42%	14.75%	14.59%	14.72%	15.23%	15.57%	17.62%	20.47%

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGE FROM ADOPTED BUDGET TO FINAL BUDGET AND THE
REAL PROPERTY TAX LIMIT-GENERAL FUND**

June 30, 2024

CHANGE FROM ADOPTED BUDGET TO FINAL BUDGET

Adopted Budget	\$ 11,645,892
Add: Prior Year's Encumbrances	<u>5,198</u>
Original and Final Budget	<u>\$ 11,651,090</u>

SECTION 1318 OF REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW CALCULATION

2024-2025 Voter Approved Expenditure Budget	<u>\$ 11,645,892</u>
Maximum Allowed 4% of 2024-25 Budget	<u>\$ 465,836</u>

General Fund Balance Subject to Section 1318
of Real Property Tax Law

Unrestricted Fund Balance	
Assigned Fund Balance	\$ 1,157,379
Unassigned Fund Balance	<u>1,337,542</u>
Total Unrestricted Fund Balance	<u>2,494,921</u>
Less: Appropriated Fund Balance	1,100,317
Encumbrances Included in Assigned Fund Balance	<u>57,062</u>
Total Adjustments	<u>1,157,379</u>

General Fund Balance Subject to Section 1318 of Real Property Tax Law	<u>\$ 1,337,542</u>
Actual Percentage	<u>11.49%</u>

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND – PROJECT EXPENDITURES AND FINANCING RESOURCES

Year Ended June 30, 2024

Project Title	Expenditures					Unexpended Balance	Methods of Financing			Fund Balance (Deficit) June 30, 2024
	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Prior Year	Current Year	Total		Proceeds Of Obligations	Local Sources	Total	
2018 Campus-Wide Capital Project:										
Main Project	\$ 4,605,000	\$ 4,605,000	\$ 3,030,338	\$ -	\$3,030,338	\$ 1,574,662	\$ 3,090,000	\$ 755,000	\$3,845,000	\$ 814,662
Gym Project	1,168,000	1,168,000	1,423,257	27,667	1,450,924	(282,924)	-	760,000	760,000	(690,924)
Garage Project	375,000	375,000	426,658	-	426,658	(51,658)	-	375,000	375,000	(51,658)
2022 Campus-Wide Capital Project	5,600,000	5,600,000	102,879	305,958	408,837	5,191,163	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	591,163
2024 Mini Project	100,000	100,000	-	99,110	99,110	890	-	99,110	99,110	-
Totals	<u>\$ 11,848,000</u>	<u>\$ 11,848,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,983,132</u>	<u>\$ 432,735</u>	<u>\$5,415,867</u>	<u>\$ 6,432,133</u>	<u>\$ 3,090,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,989,110</u>	<u>\$6,079,110</u>	<u>\$ 663,243</u>

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET – NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

June 30, 2024

	School Food Service	Capital Project - Mini	Scholarships And Awards	Capital Project - Main 2018	Extra Classroom Activity	Debt Service	Total Non- Major Funds
ASSETS							
Cash and Cash Equivalents							
Unrestricted Cash	\$ 3,824	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,824
Restricted Cash	-	-	230,249	72,080	49,030	510,520	861,879
Investments							
Restricted	-	-	23,687	-	-	-	23,687
Receivables							
State and Federal Aid Receivable	17,648	-	-	-	-	-	17,648
Other Receivables	1,155	-	-	-	-	-	1,155
Due from Other Funds	15,183	-	-	-	-	155,310	170,493
Inventories	6,491	-	-	-	-	-	6,491
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 44,301	\$ -	\$ 253,936	\$ 72,080	\$ 49,030	\$ 665,830	\$ 1,085,177
LIABILITIES							
Payables							
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,253	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,253
Accrued Liabilities	5,783	-	-	-	-	-	5,783
Due to Other Funds	20,545	-	-	-	-	20,000	40,545
Total Liabilities	27,581	-	-	-	-	20,000	47,581
FUND BALANCES							
Nonspendable	6,491	-	-	-	-	-	6,491
Restricted	-	-	253,936	72,080	49,030	645,830	1,020,876
Assigned	10,229	-	-	-	-	-	10,229
Total Fund Balance	16,720	-	253,936	72,080	49,030	645,830	1,037,596
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 44,301	\$ -	\$ 253,936	\$ 72,080	\$ 49,030	\$ 665,830	\$ 1,085,177

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>School Food Service</u>	<u>Capital Project - Mini</u>	<u>Scholarships and Awards</u>	<u>Capital Project - Main 2018</u>	<u>Extra Classroom Activity</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total Non- Major Funds</u>
REVENUES							
Use of Money and Property	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 7,232	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,247	\$ 86,480
Miscellaneous	39	-	18,045	-	59,756	-	77,840
State Sources	15,164	-	-	-	-	-	15,164
Federal Sources	260,751	-	-	-	-	-	260,751
Sales (School Food Service)	25,791	-	-	-	-	-	25,791
Total Revenues	<u>301,746</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,277</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,756</u>	<u>79,247</u>	<u>466,026</u>
EXPENDITURES							
General Support	101,817	-	-	-	-	-	101,817
Employee Benefits	98,008	-	-	-	-	-	98,008
Food Service Program-Cost of Sales	144,261	-	-	-	-	-	144,261
Capital Outlay	-	99,110	-	27,667	-	-	126,777
Other Expenditures	-	-	24,875	-	52,256	-	77,131
Total Expenditures	<u>344,086</u>	<u>99,110</u>	<u>24,875.00</u>	<u>27,667</u>	<u>52,256</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>547,994</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues							
Over Expenditures	<u>(42,340)</u>	<u>(99,110)</u>	<u>402.00</u>	<u>(27,667)</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>79,247</u>	<u>(81,968)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND (USES)							
Operating Transfers In	42,341	99,110	-	-	-	-	141,451
Operating Transfers (Out)	-	-	-	-	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
Total Other Financing Sources and (Uses)	<u>42,341</u>	<u>99,110</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>121,451</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	1	-	402	(27,667)	7,500	59,247	39,483
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	16,719	-	253,534	99,747	41,530	586,583	998,113
Fund Balances - End of Year	<u>\$ 16,720</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 253,936</u>	<u>\$ 72,080</u>	<u>\$ 49,030</u>	<u>\$ 645,830</u>	<u>\$ 1,037,596</u>

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NET INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS

Year Ended June 30, 2024

Capital Assets, Net	\$ 16,438,517
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Add:

Deferred Charge on Bond Refunding	10,674
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Deduct:

Premium on Bonds Payable	\$ 428,049	
Short-Term Portion of Bonds Payable	520,000	
Long-Term Portion of Bonds Payable	<u>2,725,000</u>	<u>3,673,049</u>

Net Investment in Capital Assets	<u><u>\$ 12,776,142</u></u>
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See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report.

FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAM INFORMATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Clifton-Fine Central School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Clifton-Fine Central School District’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 10, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Clifton-Fine Central School District’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Clifton-Fine Central School District’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Clifton-Fine Central School District’s internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

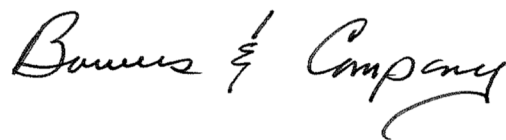
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Clifton-Fine Central School District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2024-001.

Clifton-Fine Central School District's Response to Findings

Governmental Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Clifton-Fine Central School District's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. Clifton-Fine Central School District's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bowens & Company". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Watertown, New York
October 10, 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Clifton-Fine Central School District's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Clifton-Fine Central School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. Clifton-Fine Central School District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, Clifton-Fine Central School District complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance 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 the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Clifton-Fine Central School District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Clifton-Fine Central School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Clifton-Fine Central School District's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Clifton-Fine Central School District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Clifton-Fine Central School District's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Clifton-Fine Central School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Clifton-Fine Central School District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clifton-Fine Central School District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.


Report on Internal Control over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Banner & Company". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Watertown, New York
October 10, 2024

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

Year Ended June 30, 2024

FEDERAL GRANTOR/PASS-THROUGH GRANTOR PROGRAM TITLE	Assistance Listing Number	Agency or Pass-Through Number	Total Federal Expenditures
<u>U.S. Department of Education</u>			
Passed-through NYS Education Department			
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	0021-24-2590	\$ 116,184
Special Education Cluster			
Special Education - Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)	84.027A	0032-24-0787	84,946
COVID-19: Special Education Grants to States	84.027X	5533-22-0787	1,692
Special Education - Preschool Grants (IDEA Preschool)	84.173A	0033-24-0787	817
Total Special Education Cluster			87,455
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	0147-24-2590	10,987
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	0204-24-2590	10,000
Education Stabilization Fund			
COVID-19: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425D	5891-21-2590	61,586
COVID-19: American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	84.425U	5880-21-2590	450,657
Total Education Stabilization Fund			512,243
Total Passed-through NYS Education Department			736,869
Direct Program:			
Rural Education	84.358A		23,506
Total Direct Programs from U.S. Department of Education			23,506
Total U.S. Department of Education			760,375
Subtotal to Next Page			\$ 760,375

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS – CONTINUED

Year Ended June 30, 2024

FEDERAL GRANTOR/PASS-THROUGH GRANTOR PROGRAM TITLE	Assistance Listing Number	Agency or Pass-Through Number	Total Federal Expenditures
Subtotal from Previous Page			<u>\$ 760,375</u>
<u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>			
Passed-through NYS Education Department			
Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program	10.185		<u>2,713</u>
Child Nutrition Cluster			
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution):			
National School Lunch Program	10.555		<u>5,819</u>
Cash Assistance:			
School Breakfast Program	10.553		80,430
Summer Food Service	10.559		6,429
COVID-19: Supply Chain Assistance Grant	10.555		20,407
School Snack Program	10.555		9,077
National School Lunch Program	10.555		<u>135,876</u>
Cash Assistance Subtotal			<u>252,219</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			<u>258,038</u>
Total Passed-through NYS Education Department			<u>260,751</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			<u>260,751</u>
Total Federal Awards Expended			<u><u>\$ 1,021,126</u></u>

See paragraph on supplementary schedules included in independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the “Schedule”) presents the activity of federal award programs administered by the District, which is described in Note 1 to the District’s accompanying financial statements, using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Therefore, some amounts presented in this Schedule may differ from amounts presented in, or used in the preparation of, the District’s financial statements. Federal awards that are included in the Schedule may be received directly from federal agencies, as well as federal awards that are passed through from other government agencies.

The information presented in the Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. The amounts reported as federal expenditures were obtained from the federal financial reports for the applicable program and periods. The amounts reported in these reports are prepared from records maintained for each program, which are reconciled with the District’s financial reporting system.

The federal expenditures are recognized under the Uniform Guidance.

The District has elected to use the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance. Indirect costs may be included in the reported expenditures, to the extent that they are included in the federal financial reports used as the source of the data presented.

Matching costs (the District’s share of certain program costs) are not included in the reported expenditures.

The basis of accounting varies by federal program consistent with the underlying regulations pertaining to each program.

NOTE 3 – SUBRECIPIENTS

No amounts were provided to subrecipients.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

June 30, 2024

NOTE 4 – SCOPE OF AUDIT

The District is an independent municipal corporation. All federal grant operations of the District are included in the scope of the single audit.

NOTE 5 – OTHER DISCLOSURES

No insurance is carried specifically to cover equipment purchased with federal funds. Any equipment purchased with federal funds is covered by the District's casualty insurance policies.

There were no loans or loan guarantees outstanding at year-end.

NOTE 6 – NON-MONETARY FEDERAL PROGRAM

The District is the recipient of a federal award program that does not result in cash receipts or disbursements. The District was granted \$5,819 of commodities under the National School Lunch Program (Assistance Listing 10.555).

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

June 30, 2024

NOTE A – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR’S RESULTS

1. The auditor’s report expresses an unmodified opinion on the basic financial statements of Clifton-Fine Central School District.
2. No significant deficiencies or material weaknesses were disclosed during the audit of the basic financial statements of Clifton-Fine Central School District.
3. One instance of noncompliance material to the financial statements of Clifton-Fine Central School District, which would be required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, was disclosed during the audit.
4. No significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over major programs were disclosed during the audit of the major federal award programs of Clifton-Fine Central School District.
5. The auditor’s report on compliance for the major federal award programs for Clifton-Fine Central School District expresses an unmodified opinion on all major federal programs.
6. There were no audit findings required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR Section 200.516(a) related to the major federal award programs for Clifton-Fine Central School District.
7. The programs tested as major programs includes:

U.S. Department of Education

Passed-Through NYS Education Department:

Education Stabilization Fund:

COVID-19 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425D
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	84.425U

8. The threshold for distinguishing between Type A and B programs was \$750,000.
9. Clifton-Fine Central School District was determined to be a low-risk auditee.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS – CONTINUED

June 30, 2024

NOTE B – FINDINGS – FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT

Finding Control Number: 2024-001

Instances of Noncompliance with Laws or Regulations

Surplus Unexpended Funds in Excess of 4% Limitation

Criteria

NYS Real Property Tax Law §1318 limits the amount of unexpended surplus funds, excluding the reserves for tax reduction and insurance recoveries, the District can retain to no more than 4% of the subsequent year's budgeted appropriations. Amounts appropriated for the subsequent year, encumbrances, nonspendable and restricted balances are also excluded for the 4% limitation.

Condition

The District exceeded the 4% limitation of unexpended surplus funds within the General Fund by \$871,706 during the fiscal year.

Context

During our audit test of compliance - §1318 Real Property Tax, it was noted that the unassigned fund balances of \$1,337,542 had exceeded maximum allowed unexpended balance of \$465,836 for the fiscal year ended.

Effect

As a result, the District was not in compliance with the unexpended surplus funds limitation requirements of the Real Property Tax Law §1318 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

Cause

The District understands the requirements relating to §1318 Real Property Tax law and due to the uncertainty of primary revenue sources maintains fund balance levels deemed appropriate in accordance with their long-range fund balance plan

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS – CONTINUED

June 30, 2024

**NOTE B – FINDINGS – FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT –
Continued**

Finding Control Number: 2024-001 – Continued

Recommendations

We recognize the District has developed and implemented a long range written reserve plan. The District also monitors the fund balance on a regular basis. We recommend school officials continue to review fund balance throughout the year to address compliance with the Real Property Tax Law §1318.

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Actions

The District will continue to monitor fund balance throughout the year and take appropriate steps to ensure compliance with the Real Property Tax Law §1318 that prohibits excess fund balance at the fiscal year end. The district continues to fund one of its Capital Reserves. The district also plans to absorb some of the programming currently funded with federal stimulus funding.

**NOTE C – FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS – MAJOR
FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAMS AUDIT**

There were no findings to report.

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

June 30, 2024

NOTE A – FINDINGS – FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT

Finding Control Number: 2023-001

Instances of Noncompliance with Laws or Regulations

Surplus Unexpended Funds in Excess of 4% Limitation

NYS Real Property Tax Law §1318 limits the amount of unexpended surplus funds, excluding the reserves for tax reduction and insurance recoveries, the District can retain to no more than 4% of the subsequent year's budgeted appropriations. Amounts appropriated for the subsequent year, encumbrances, nonspendable and restricted balances are also excluded for the 4% limitation.

The District exceeded the 4% limitation of unexpended surplus funds within the General Fund by \$1,406,484 during the previous fiscal year.

Views of Responsible Officials and Corrective Actions

The District will continue to monitor fund balance throughout the year and take appropriate steps to ensure compliance with the Real Property Tax Law §1318 that prohibits excess fund balance at the fiscal year end.

Current Status

Similar finding was noted in the 2024 audit.

**NOTE B – FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS – MAJOR
FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAMS AUDIT**

There were no prior year findings.

EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS

BOARD OF EDUCATION CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying statement of cash receipts and disbursements of the Extra Classroom Activity Funds of Clifton-Fine Central School District for the year ended June 30, 2024 and the related note to the financial statement.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the statement of cash receipts and disbursements of the Extra Classroom Activity Funds of Clifton-Fine Central School District for the year then ended June 30, 2024, in accordance with cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Clifton-Fine Central School District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. This financial statement is prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statement that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and Appendix E of the Minimum Program for Audit of Financial Records of New York State School Districts, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clifton-Fine Central School District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Clifton-Fine Central School District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Banner & Company

Watertown, New York
October 10, 2024

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS – STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Cash Balance 7/1/2023	Cash Receipts	Cash Disbursements	Transfers In (Out)	Cash Balance 6/30/2024
Class of:					
2023	\$ 2,467	\$ -	\$ 2,463	\$ (4)	\$ -
2024	4,750	15,624	20,181	(193)	-
2025	3,909	6,533	4,532	(439)	5,471
2026	4,601	4,871	2,625	(343)	6,504
2027	-	2,649	1,802	(105)	742
Yearbook	2,881	2,113	2,384	(129)	2,481
Student Council	9,956	867	2,382	12	8,453
Musical Club	4,564	4,133	2,948	(227)	5,522
Drama Club	220	379	63	-	536
Middle School Student Council	5,178	965	472	(27)	5,644
Basketball Club	186	2,131	1,920	(30)	367
Golf Club	-	1,742	1,198	-	544
Volley Ball Club	648	210	-	-	858
TATF	1,642	-	-	-	1,642
Language Club	511	17,484	8,022	(394)	9,579
Sales Tax Payable	17	35	1,264	1,899	687
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	\$41,530	\$ 59,736	\$ 52,256	\$ 20	\$ 49,030

See note to financial statement.

CLIFTON-FINE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS – NOTE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Extra Classroom Activity Funds of the Clifton-Fine Central School District represents funds of the students of the School District. The Board of Education exercises general oversight of these funds. The Extra Classroom Activity Funds are independent of the School District with respect to its financial transactions and the designation of student management.

The accounts of the Extra Classroom Activity Funds of Clifton-Fine Central School District are maintained on a cash basis and the statement of cash receipts and disbursements reflects only cash received and disbursed. Therefore, receivables and payables, inventories, long-lived assets and accrued income and expense, which would be recognized under generally accepted accounting principles and, which may be material in amount, are not recognized in the accompanying financial statement.

FORM OF OPINION OF BOND COUNSEL

July 30, 2025

Clifton-Fine Central School District
11 Hall Avenue
Star Lake, New York

Re: Clifton-Fine Central School District
\$4,600,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, 2025 (Renewals), CUSIP No.: _____

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As Bond Counsel to the Clifton-Fine Central School District, County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, (the “District”), we have examined a record of proceedings relating to the issuance of \$4,600,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, 2025 (the “Notes”). The Notes are dated July 30, 2025 and are being issued pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of New York, including the Education Law and Local Finance Law, a resolution of the District in respect of the Notes and a Certificate of Determination dated on or before July 30, 2025 of the President of the Board of Education relative to the form and terms of the Notes.

In our opinion, the Notes are valid and legally binding general obligations of the District for which the District has validly pledged its faith and credit and, unless paid from other sources, all taxable real property within the District is subject to levy of ad valorem real estate taxes to pay the Notes and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount. The enforceability of rights or remedies with respect to the Notes may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, or other laws affecting creditors' rights or remedies heretofore or hereinafter enacted.

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), establishes certain requirements that must be met subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the Notes in order that interest on the Notes be and remain excluded from gross income under Section 103 of the Code. The President of the Board of Education of the District, in executing the Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate, has certified to the effect that the District will comply with the provisions and procedures set forth therein and that it will do and perform all acts and things necessary or desirable to assure that interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income under Section 103 of the Code. We have examined such Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate of the District delivered concurrently with the delivery of the Notes, and, in our opinion, such certificate contains provisions and procedures under which such requirements can be met.

In our opinion (i) interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and (ii) interest on the Notes is not treated as a preference item in calculating the alternative minimum tax under the Code, however, interest on the Notes is included in the “adjusted financial statement income” of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. In addition, under existing statutes, interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes of New York State and its political subdivisions, including the City of New York. Bond counsel expresses no opinion regarding any other tax consequences related to the ownership or disposition of, or the accrual of interest on the Notes. We express no opinion regarding other tax consequences related to the ownership or disposition of, or the accrual or receipt of interest on, the Notes.

The opinions expressed herein are based on an analysis of existing laws, regulations, rulings and court decisions and cover certain matters not directly addressed by such authorities. Such opinions may be affected by actions taken or omitted or events occurring after the date hereof. We have not undertaken to determine or to inform any person, whether any such actions are taken or omitted or events do occur or any other matters come to our attention after the date hereof. Our engagement with respect to the Notes has concluded with their issuance, and we disclaim any obligation to update this opinion. We have assumed, without undertaking to verify, the accuracy of the factual matters represented, warranted or certified in the documents. Furthermore, we have assumed compliance with all covenants and agreements contained in the Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate, including without limitation covenants and agreements compliance with which is necessary to assure that future actions, omissions or events will not cause interest on the Notes to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes or adjusted gross income for purposes of personal income taxes imposed by the State of New York and the City of New York. We call attention to the fact that the rights and obligations under the Notes and the Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate and their enforceability may be subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, arrangement, fraudulent conveyance, moratorium or other laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights, to the application of equitable principles, to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases and to the limitations on legal remedies against New York municipal corporations such as the School District. We express no opinion with respect to any indemnification, contribution, penalty, choice of law, choice of forum, or waiver provisions contained in the foregoing documents.

The scope of our engagement in relation to the issuance of the Notes has extended solely to the examination of the facts and law incident to rendering the opinions expressed herein. The opinions expressed herein are not intended and should not be construed to express or imply any conclusion that the amount of real property subject to taxation within the boundaries of the School District, together with other legally available sources of revenue, if any, will be sufficient to enable the School District to pay the principal of or interest on the Notes as the same respectively become due and payable. Reference should be made to the Official Statement for factual information, which, in the judgment of the School District would materially affect the ability of the School District to pay such principal and interest. We have not verified the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the factual information contained in the Official Statement and, accordingly, no opinion is expressed by us as to whether the School District, in connection with the sale of the Notes, has made any untrue statement of a material fact, or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make any statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

We have examined the first executed Note of each said issue and, in our opinion, the form of said Note and its execution are regular and proper.

Very truly yours,

WJ Marquardt PLLC