

NEW ISSUE – Book-Entry Only

Rating: S&P: “AA”  
See “RATING” herein

*In the opinion of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, New Jersey (“Bond Counsel”), assuming compliance by the Board (as defined herein) with certain tax covenants described herein, under existing law, interest on the Bonds (as defined herein) is executed from gross income from the owners thereof for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and interest on the bonds is not an item of tax preference under Section 57 of the code for purposes of computing alternative minimum tax; however, for tax years beginning after December 31, 2022, interest on the Bonds is included in the “adjusted financial statement income” of certain corporations that are subject to alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. Based upon existing law, interest on the Bonds and any gain on the sale thereof are not included in gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act. See “TAX MATTERS” herein.*

**\$4,700,000\***  
**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK  
IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY  
ENERGY SAVINGS OBLIGATION  
REFUNDING SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2025  
(New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, 1980 N.J. Laws c. 72, as amended)**

**CALLABLE  
BANK-QUALIFIED**

**Dated: Date of Delivery**

**Due: September 15, as shown on inside cover**

The \$4,700,000\* aggregate principal amount of Energy Savings Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2025 (the “Bonds”) of The Board of Education of the Borough of Elmwood Park in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the “Board”) when referring to the governing body and the “School District” when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) are valid and legally binding general obligations of the Board, and unless paid from other sources, are payable from *ad valorem* taxes levied upon all the taxable real property within the School District for the payment of the Bonds and the interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount. Payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds is also secured under the provisions of the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, 1980 N.J. Laws c. 72, as amended.

The Bonds will be issued as fully registered bonds in book-entry only form (without certificates) in the form of one certificate for the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds maturing in each year and when issued will be registered in the name of and held by Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, Brooklyn, New York (“DTC”). Individual purchases may be made in the principal amount of \$1,000 each or any integral multiple thereof with a minimum purchase of \$5,000 required, through book-entries made on the books and records of DTC and its participants. See “BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM” herein.

The Bonds shall bear interest from their date of delivery, which interest shall be payable semi-annually on the fifteenth day of March and September in each year, commencing September 15, 2026, until maturity or prior redemption. Interest on the Bonds will be credited to the participants of DTC as listed on the records of DTC as of each immediately preceding March 1 and September 1 (the “Record Dates” for the payment of interest on the Bonds).

The Bonds are subject to redemption prior to their stated maturities as set forth herein. See “DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS – Redemption” herein.

The Bonds are issued pursuant to: (i) the Energy Savings Improvement Program Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.6(c)(3), and N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.1 et seq.; (ii) a refunding bond ordinance finally adopted by the Board on August 26, 2025; and (iii) a resolution duly adopted by the Board on August 26, 2025. The Bonds are being issued for the purpose of: (i) financing the costs of an energy savings improvement program and (ii) paying costs associated with the issuance of the Bonds.

The Bonds are offered when, as and if issued and delivered to the Underwriter, subject to prior sale, to withdrawal or modification of the offer without notice and to approval of legality by the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, New Jersey, Bond Counsel to the Board, and certain other conditions described herein. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the Board by Cleary Jacobbe Alfieri Jacobs LLC, Oakland, New Jersey, General Counsel to the Board. Phoenix Advisors, a division of First Security Municipal Advisors, Inc., Hamilton, New Jersey, has served as Municipal Advisor to the Board in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. Delivery of the Bonds in definitive form to DTC in Jersey City, New Jersey, is anticipated to occur on or about September 30, 2025.

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS FOR THE BONDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FULL NOTICE OF SALE,  
MUST BE MADE VIA PARITY PRIOR TO 11:00 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2025. FOR MORE DETAILS ON  
HOW TO BID ELECTRONICALLY, VIEW THE FULL NOTICE OF SALE POSTED AT [WWW.MUNIHUB.COM](http://WWW.MUNIHUB.COM).**

\* Preliminary, subject to change.

**\$4,700,000\***  
**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE**  
**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK**  
**IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY**  
**ENERGY SAVINGS OBLIGATION**  
**REFUNDING SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2025**

**(New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, 1980 N.J. Laws c. 72, as amended)**  
**CALLABLE**  
**BANK-QUALIFIED**

**MATURITIES, PRINCIPAL AMOUNTS\*, INTEREST RATES,**  
**YIELDS AND CUSIP NUMBERS\*\***

<u>Maturity</u> <u>(September 15)</u>	<u>Principal</u> <u>Amounts*</u>	<u>Interest</u> <u>Rates</u>	<u>Yields</u>	<u>CUSIP</u> <u>Numbers**</u>
2027	\$365,000			290096__
2028	390,000			290096__
2029	105,000			290096__
2030	115,000			290096__
2031	130,000			290096__
2032	130,000			290096__
2033	145,000			290096__
2034	160,000			290096__
2035	170,000			290096__
2036	185,000			290096__
2037	200,000			290096__
2038	215,000			290096__
2039	230,000			290096__
2040	250,000			290096__
2041	265,000			290096__
2042	285,000			290096__
2043	305,000			290096__
2044	330,000			290096__
2045	350,000			290096__
2046	375,000			290096__

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\* Preliminary, subject to change.

\*\* A registered trademark of the American Bankers Association. CUSIP data herein is provided by CUSIP Global Services, which is managed on behalf of the American Bankers Association by FactSet Research Systems Inc. The CUSIP numbers listed above are being provided solely for the convenience of Bondholders only at the time of issuance of the Bonds and the Board does not make any representation with respect to such numbers or undertake any responsibility for their accuracy now or at any time in the future. The CUSIP number for a specific maturity is subject to being changed after the issuance of the Bonds as a result of procurement of secondary market portfolio insurance or other similar enhancement by investors that is applicable to all or a portion of certain maturities of the Bonds.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK  
IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

President – Louise Gerardi  
Vice President – Dorin Aspras

Douglas DeMatteo  
Chakib Fakhoury  
Elizabeth Mierzejewski  
Carrie Paretti  
Karen Pena  
Andrew Tisellano  
Daniel Zoltek

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Anthony Iachetti

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY**

Mark S. Jacobus

**BOARD ATTORNEY**

Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs LLC  
Oakland, New Jersey

**BOARD AUDITOR**

Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP  
Fair Lawn, New Jersey

**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

Phoenix Advisors,  
a division of First Security Municipal Advisors, Inc.  
Hamilton, New Jersey

**BOND COUNSEL**

Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.  
Woodbridge, New Jersey

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

The information contained herein has been provided by the Board, DTC and other sources deemed reliable by the Board; however, such information is not guaranteed as to its accuracy or completeness and such information is not to be construed as a representation or warranty by the Board, as to information from sources other than itself. The Board has not confirmed the accuracy or completeness of information relating to DTC, which information has been provided by DTC.

This Official Statement is not to be construed as a contract or agreement among the Board, the Underwriter and the owners of any of the Bonds. The information 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 any of the information herein since the date hereof, or the date as of which such information is given, if earlier.

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

The order and placement of materials in this Official Statement, including the Appendices, are not to be deemed to be a determination of relevance, materiality or importance, and this Official Statement, including the Appendices, must be considered in its entirety.

In order to facilitate the distribution of the Bonds, the Underwriter may engage in transactions intended to stabilize the price of the Bonds at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. Such stabilizing, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

The Underwriter has reviewed the information in this Official Statement pursuant to its responsibilities to investors under the federal securities laws, but the Underwriter does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information.

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**  
**OF**  
**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE**  
**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK**  
**IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY**  
**\$4,700,000\***  
**ENERGY SAVINGS OBLIGATION**  
**REFUNDING SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2025**  
**(NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOND RESERVE ACT, 1980 N.J. Laws c. 72, as amended)**

**CALLABLE**  
**BANK-QUALIFIED**

**INTRODUCTION**

This Official Statement, which includes the cover page and the appendices attached hereto, has been prepared by The Board of Education of the Borough of Elmwood Park in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) in connection with the offering, sale and issuance of its \$4,700,000\* aggregate principal amount of Energy Savings Obligations Refunding School Bonds, Series 2025 (the "Bonds"). This Official Statement has been executed by and on behalf of the Board by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and its distribution and use in connection with the offering and sale of the Bonds have been authorized by the Board.

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

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

**DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS**

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

**Terms and Interest Payment Dates**

The Bonds shall be dated their date of delivery and shall mature on September 15 in each of the years and in the amounts set forth on the inside cover page hereof. The Bonds shall bear interest from their date of delivery which interest shall be payable semi-annually on the fifteenth day of March and September (each an "Interest Payment Date"), commencing on September 15, 2026, in each of the years and at the interest rates set forth on the inside cover page hereof until maturity or prior redemption by check mailed by the Board or a duly appointed paying agent to the registered owners of the Bonds as of each March 1 and September 1 immediately preceding the respective Interest Payment Date (the "Record Dates"). So long as The Depository Trust Company, Brooklyn, New York ("DTC"), or its nominee is the registered owner of the Bonds, payments of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made by the Board or a designated paying agent directly to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., which will in turn remit

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\* Preliminary, subject to change.

such payments to DTC participants, which will in turn remit such payments to the beneficial owners of the Bonds. See "BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM" herein.

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

### **Redemption**

The Bonds of this issue maturing prior to September 15, 2033 are not subject to redemption prior to their stated maturities. The Bonds of this issue maturing on or after September 15, 2033 are redeemable at the option of the Board in whole or in part on any date on or after September 15, 2032 upon notice as required herein at one hundred percent (100%) of the principal amount being redeemed (the "Redemption Price"), plus accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption.

### **Notice of Redemption**

Notice of redemption ("Notice of Redemption") shall be given by mailing such notice at least thirty (30) days but not more than sixty (60) days before the date fixed for redemption by first class mail in a sealed envelope with postage prepaid to the registered owners of such Bonds at their respective addresses as they last appear on the registration books kept for that purpose by the Board or a duly appointed Bond Registrar. So long as DTC (or any successor thereto) acts as Securities Depository for the Bonds, Notice of Redemption shall be sent to such Securities Depository and shall not be sent to the beneficial owners of the Bonds. Any failure of the Securities Depository to advise any of its participants or any failure of any participant to notify any beneficial owner of any Notice of Redemption shall not affect the validity of the redemption proceedings. If the Board determines to redeem a portion of the Bonds prior to maturity, such Bonds shall be selected by the Board; the Bonds to be redeemed having the same maturity shall be selected by the Securities Depository in accordance with its regulations.

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

### **Security for the Bonds**

The Bonds are valid and legally binding general obligations of the Board, and the Board has irrevocably pledged its full faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds. Unless paid from other sources, the principal of and interest on the Bonds are payable from *ad valorem* taxes levied upon all the taxable real property within the School District without limitation as to rate or amount. The Bonds are additionally secured by the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, 1980 N.J. Laws c. 72, as amended.

### **School Bond Reserve Act (1980 N.J. Laws c. 72)**

All school bonds are secured by the School Bond Reserve (the "School Bond Reserve") established in the Fund for the Support of Free Public Schools of the State of New Jersey (the "Fund") in accordance

with the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:56-17 et seq. (P.L. 1980, c. 72, approved July 16, 1980, as amended by P.L. 2003, c. 118, approved July 1, 2003 (the "Act")). The 2003 amendments to the Act provide that the Fund will be divided into two (2) School Bond Reserve accounts. All bonds issued prior to July 1, 2003 shall be benefited by a School Bond Reserve account funded in an amount equal to one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes (the "Old School Bond Reserve Account") and all bonds, including the Bonds, issued on or after July 1, 2003 shall be benefited by a School Bond Reserve account funded in an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes (the "New School Bond Reserve Account"), provided such amounts do not exceed the moneys available in the Fund. If a municipality, county or school district is unable to make payment of principal of or interest on any of its bonds issued for school purposes, the trustees of the Fund will purchase such bonds at par value and will pay to the bondholders the interest due or to become due within the limits of funds available in the applicable School Bond Reserve account in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

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

The Act further provides that the amount of any payment of interest or purchase price of school bonds paid pursuant to the Act shall be deducted from the appropriation or apportionment of State aid, other than certain State aid which may be otherwise restricted pursuant to law, payable to the school district, county or municipality and shall not obligate the State to make, nor entitle the school district, county or municipality to receive, any additional appropriation or apportionment. Any amount so deducted shall be applied by the State Treasurer to satisfy the obligation of the school district, county or municipality arising as a result of the payment of interest or purchase price of bonds pursuant to the Act.

### **Authorization and Purpose**

The Bonds have been authorized and are issued pursuant to (i) the Energy Savings Improvement Program Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.6(c)(3) (the "ESIP Law"), and N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.1 et seq.; (ii) a refunding bond ordinance (the "Refunding Bond Ordinance") finally adopted by the Board on August 26, 2025 and (iii) a resolution duly adopted by the Board on August 26, 2025 (the "Resolution").

The Board decided to investigate the implementation of an energy savings improvement program through the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Local Government Energy Audit Program and conducted an energy audit of the School District facilities. Thereafter, the Board appointed DCO Energy, LLC ("DCO") to develop its energy savings plan in accordance with the requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.1 et seq. The Board, with the assistance of DCO, developed a proposed energy savings plan (the "Plan") and hired Whitman Engineering to verify the energy savings to be realized through the Plan. Whitman Engineering has issued a report verifying the savings. The Board, by resolution, adopted the Plan on June

24, 2025 and submitted the report and the Plan to the Board of Public Utilities Office of Clean Energy (the "BPU") for review. The BPU approved the Plan on June 27, 2025.

The Board has determined that the energy savings generated from reduced energy use from the Plan will be sufficient to cover the cost of the energy conservation measures set forth in the Plan and, therefore, has determined to implement the Plan pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.6 and to finance the Plan through the issuance of energy savings obligations authorized as refunding bonds pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.6(c)(3) and 18A:24-61.1 et seq. As required by the ESIP Law, the payments of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be included in the School District's general fund budget but are anticipated to be offset by the energy savings.

As required by law, for the Refunding Bond Ordinance to take effect, the Local Finance Board in the Division of the Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey (the "Local Finance Board") approved the adoption of the Refunding Bond Ordinance and the issuance of the Bonds on July 9, 2025.

The purpose of the Bonds is to (i) finance the costs of the Board's energy savings improvement program through the installation of energy conservation measures and related work at various school sites; and (ii) pay the costs associated with the issuance of the Bonds.

### **BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM\*\***

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

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

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

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\*\* Source: The Depository Trust Company

Purchases of the Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Bonds on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Bond ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct 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 Bonds 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 the Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Bonds is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Bonds deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co. or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Bonds with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Bonds; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Bonds are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct 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 the Bonds may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the Bonds, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the Bond documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of the Bonds may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Bonds for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to Beneficial Owners, or 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.

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

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

Redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments on the Bonds will be made to Cede & Co. or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the Board or Paying Agent, on the payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Direct and Indirect 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 Direct and Indirect Participant and not of DTC, nor its nominee, Paying Agent or the Board, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions and dividend payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the Board or Paying Agent, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as Securities Depository with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Board or Paying Agent. Under such circumstances, in the event

that a successor Securities Depository is not obtained, Bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

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

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

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

In the event that the book-entry-only system is discontinued and the Beneficial Owners become registered owners of the Bonds, the following provisions apply: (i) the Bonds may be exchanged for an equal aggregate principal amount of Bonds in other authorized denominations and of the same maturity, upon surrender thereof at the office of the Board or its paying agent; (ii) the transfer of any Bonds may be registered on the books maintained by the registrar for such purposes only upon the surrender thereof to the Board or its paying agent together with the duly executed assignment in form satisfactory to the Board or its paying agent; and (iii) for every exchange or registration of transfer of Bonds, the Board or its paying agent may make a charge sufficient to reimburse for any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect to such exchange or registration of transfer of the Bonds. Interest on the Bonds will be payable by check or draft mailed on each Interest Payment Date to the registered owners thereof as of the close of business on the Record Dates.

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

The Board is a nine (9) member board with members elected for staggered three (3) year terms. The Superintendent is the chief administrative officer of the School District. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is the chief financial officer of the School District and oversees the Board's business functions. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary reports to the Superintendent.

The School District is a Type II school district, the geographical boundaries of which are coterminous with the Borough of Elmwood Park, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey (the "Borough") and provides a full range of educational services appropriate to pre-kindergarten ("Pre-K") through twelve (12), including regular and special education programs. The School District operates three (3) elementary schools and one (1) middle school/high school. See "[APPENDIX A](#) – Certain Economic and Demographic Information Relating to the School District and the Borough of Elmwood Park, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey."

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

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

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

The Commissioner of Education (the "Commissioner") is the chief executive and administrative officer of the Department. The Commissioner is appointed by the Governor of the State with the advice and consent of the State Senate, and serves at the pleasure of the Governor during the Governor's term of office. The Commissioner is Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the State Board and is responsible for the supervision of all school districts in the State and is obligated to enforce the rules and regulations of the State Board. The Commissioner has the authority to recommend the withholding of State financial aid and the Commissioner's consent is required for authorization to sell school bonds that exceed the debt limit of the municipality in which the school district is located and may also set the amount to be raised by taxation for a board of education if a school budget has not been approved by a board of school estimate or by the voters.

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

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

### **Categories of School Districts**

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

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

(2) Type II, in which the registered voters within a school district elect the members of a board of education and either (a) the registered voters also vote upon all fiscal matters with the exception set forth in the new Budget Election Law (as hereinafter defined in "School Budgetary Process"), or (b) a board of school estimate, consisting of two (2) members of the governing body of and the CEO of each municipality within the school district and the president of and one member of the board of education, and approves all fiscal matters;

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

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

(5) County vocational school districts have boards of education consisting of the County Superintendent and four (4) members unless it is a county of the first class, which adopted an ordinance, in which case it can have a board consisting of seven (7) appointed members which the board of county commissioners of the county appoints. Such vocational school districts shall also have a board of school estimate, consisting of two (2) members appointed by the board of education of the school district,

two (2) members appointed by the board of county commissioners and a fifth member being the county executive or the director of the board of county commissioners of the county, which approves all fiscal matters; and

(6) County special services school districts have boards of education consisting of the County Superintendent and six (6) persons appointed by the board of county commissioners of the county. Such special services school districts shall also have a board of school estimate, consisting of two (2) members appointed by the board of education of the school, two (2) members appointed by the board of county commissioners and a fifth member being the commissioner-director of the board of county commissioners, which approves all fiscal matters.

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

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

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

In a Type II school district, a budget is no longer required to be submitted to the voters for approval if the budget is at or below the two percent (2%) property tax levy cap as provided in the Tax Levy Cap Law (as hereinafter defined).

The Budget Election Law, P.L. 2011, c. 202, effective January 17, 2012 (the "Budget Election Law") establishes procedures that allow the date of the annual school election of a Type II school district, without a board of school estimate, to be moved from April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, to be held simultaneously with the general election. Such change in the annual school election date must be authorized by resolution of either the board of education or the governing body of the municipality, or by an affirmative vote of a majority of the voters whenever a petition, signed by at least fifteen percent (15%) of the legally qualified voters, is filed with the board of education. Once the annual school election is moved to November, such election may not be changed back to an April annual school election for four (4) years.

The Board conducts its annual election in November.

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

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

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

### **Budgets and Appropriations**

School districts in the State must operate in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Education. Each school district must adopt an annual budget in such detail and upon forms as prescribed by the Commissioner, to which must be attached an itemized statement showing revenues, including State and Federal aid, and expenditures. The Commissioner must approve a budget prior to its final adoption and has the power to increase or decrease individual line items in a budget. Any amendments

to a school district's budget must be approved by the board of education or the board of school estimate, as the case may be. Every budget submitted must provide no less than the minimum permissible amount deemed necessary under State law to provide for a thorough and efficient education as mandated by the State Constitution. The Commissioner may not approve any budget unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the school district has adequately implemented within the budget the Core Curriculum Content Standards (as defined herein) required by State law. If necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to order changes in the local school district's budget. The Commissioner will also ensure that other provisions of law are met including the limitations on taxes and spending explained below.

### **Tax and Spending Limitations**

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

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

The Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996, N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-1 et seq., P.L. 1996, c. 138 (the "CEIFA"), as amended by P.L. 2004, c. 732, effective July 1, 2004, also limited the annual increase in a school district's net budget by a spending growth limitation. The CEIFA limited the amount school districts can increase their annual current expense and capital outlay budgets (the "Spending Growth Limitations"). Generally, budgets could increase either by two and one-half percent (2.5%) or the consumer price index, whichever is greater. Amendments to the CEIFA decreased the budget cap to two and one-half percent (2.5%) from three percent (3%). Budgets could also increase because of certain adjustments for enrollment increases, certain capital outlay expenditures, pupil transportation costs, and special education costs that exceeded \$40,000 per pupil. Waivers were available from the Commissioner based on increasing enrollments and other fairly narrow grounds and increases higher than the cap could be approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) at the annual school election.

P.L. 2007, c. 62, effective April 3, 2007, provided additional limitations on school district spending by limiting the amount a school district could raise for school district purposes through the property tax levy by four percent (4%) over the prior budget year's tax levy. P.L. 2007, c. 62 provided for adjustments to the cap for increases in enrollment, reductions in State aid and increased health care costs and for certain other extraordinary cost increases that required approval by the Commissioner. The bill granted discretion to the Commissioner to grant other waivers from the cap for increases in special education costs, capital outlay, and tuition charges. The Commissioner also had the ability to grant extraordinary waivers to the tax levy cap for certain other cost increases beginning in fiscal year 2009 through 2012.

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

Debt service was not limited either by the Spending Growth Limitations or the four percent (4%) cap on the tax levy increase imposed by chapter 62.

The previous legislation was amended by P.L. 2010, c. 44, effective July 13, 2010 and became applicable to the next local budget year following enactment. This law limits the school district tax levy for the general fund budget to increases of two percent (2%) over the prior budget year with exceptions only

for enrollment increases, increases for certain normal and accrued liability for pension contributions in excess of two percent (2%), certain healthcare increases, and amounts approved by a simple majority of voters voting at a special election (the "Tax Levy Cap Law"). Additionally, also becoming effective in the 2011-2012 fiscal year, a school district that has not been granted approval to exceed the tax levy cap by a separate proposal can bank the unused tax levy for use in any of the next three (3) succeeding budget years. A school district can request a use of "banked cap" only after it has fully exhausted all eligible statute spending authority in the budget year. The process for obtaining waivers from the Commissioner for additional increases over the tax levy cap or Spending Growth Limitations was eliminated under chapter 44. Notwithstanding the foregoing, under P.L. 2018, c. 67, effective July 24, 2018, which increases State school aid to underfunded school districts and decreases state school aid to overfunded school districts, during the 2018-2019 through 2024-2025 fiscal years, SDA Districts, which are certain urban districts formerly referred to as Abbott Districts referred to herein under "SUMMARY OF STATE AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS", are permitted increases in the tax levy over the two percent (2%) limit to raise a general fund tax levy to an amount that does not exceed its local share of the adequacy budget.

The restrictions are solely on the tax levy for the general fund and are not applicable to the debt service fund. There are no restrictions on a local school district's ability to raise funds for debt service, and nothing would limit the obligation of a school district to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all taxable real property within the school district to pay debt service on its bonds or notes with one exception. School districts are subject to GAAP accounting, and under GAAP interest on obligations maturing within one (1) year must be treated as operating expenses. Accordingly, under the Department of Education's Chart of Accounts, interest on notes is raised in the General Fund of a school district and therefore is counted within its two percent (2%) tax levy cap on spending.

### **Issuance of Debt**

Among the provisions for the issuance of school debt are the following requirements: (i) bonds must mature in serial installments within the statutory period of usefulness of the projects being financed but not exceeding forty (40) years, (ii) debt must be authorized by a resolution of a board of education (and approved by a board of school estimate in a Type I school district and a Type II school district with a board of school estimate), and (iii) there must be filed with the State by each municipality comprising a school district a Supplemental Debt Statement and a school debt statement setting forth the amount of bonds and notes authorized but unissued and outstanding for such school district.

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

Every board of education is required to provide an annual audit of the school district's accounts and financial transactions. The audit must be performed by a licensed public school accountant no later than five (5) months after the end of the school fiscal year or by the date extended by statute or by the State of New Jersey Department of Education. The audit, in conformity with statutory requirements, must be filed with the board of education and the Commissioner. Additionally, the audit must be summarized and discussed at a regular public meeting of the local board of education within thirty (30) days following receipt of the annual audit by such board of education.

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

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

## **Capital Lease Financing**

School districts are permitted to enter into lease purchase agreements for the acquisition of equipment or for the improvement of school buildings. Generally, lease purchase agreements cannot exceed five (5) years except for certain energy-saving equipment which may be financed for up to fifteen (15) years if paid from energy savings. Lease purchase agreements for a term of five (5) years or less must be approved by the Commissioner. The Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 (the "EFCFA"), repealed the authorization to enter into facilities leases in excess of five (5) years. The payment of rent on an equipment lease and on a five (5) year and under facilities lease purchase is treated as a current expense and within the cap on the school district's budget. Under the CEIFA, financed purchase payments on leases in excess of five (5) years issued under prior law are treated as debt service payments and, therefore, will receive debt service aid if the school district is entitled and are outside the school district's tax levy cap.

## **Financing Under County School Construction Financing Law**

Recently enacted P.L. 2023, c. 311, approved January 16, 2024, as amended by P.L. 2024, c. 79, approved September 12, 2024, provides a means by which a county and a county improvement authority can assist a local school district with financing and construction of a school capital project without the school district authorizing and issuing school bonds. Under the newly enacted legislation, a school district can lease a school property to a county improvement authority, which would issue its bonds for the financing and construction of a school project. The county improvement authority would then lease the school property to the county and the county would further lease it back to the school district. The school district would be obligated to cover the cost of principal and interest on the authority bonds through its lease payments to the county, and the county would pass through the payments to the authority through its lease to the authority for the payment of the bonds. The leases would remain valid and binding and in effect until the bonds are fully paid off. When the leases expire, the school property will be fully vested in the school district. The lease payments would be outside the caps on spending and raising taxes for both the school district and the county. The obligation would not be limited by the school district's legal borrowing limit as the school district is not issuing school bonds. The law requires the annual school district lease payments to be included in each school budget over the life of the bonds. The county improvement authority bonds would receive debt service aid otherwise available to the school district project as if the school district had authorized and issued school bonds. The program requires the cooperation of the county, the county improvement authority and the school district. Under the county improvement authorities law, the county or municipality could agree to guaranty the authority bonds as well if the credit support would help reduce financing costs. The program could help school districts that otherwise have difficulty getting voter approval to be able to obtain financing at a reduced cost, as (i) the State would still pay a share of the debt service due on the improvement authority bonds for which the project is entitled under the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act and (ii) if guaranteed, the improvement authority bonds could benefit from the credit enhancement provided by a county or municipality.

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

Except as provided below, no additional debt shall be authorized if the principal amount, when added to the net debt previously authorized, exceeds a statutory percentage of the average equalized valuation of taxable property in a school district. As a grades pre-kindergarten ("Pre-K") through twelve (12) school district, the School District can borrow up to four percent (4%) of the average equalized valuation of taxable property in the School District. The School District has not exceeded its four percent (4%) debt limit. See "APPENDIX A – Certain Economic and Demographic Information Relating to the School District and the Borough of Elmwood Park, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey."

## **Exceptions to Debt Limitation**

A Type II school district (other than a regional district) may also utilize its constituent municipality's remaining statutory borrowing power (i.e. the excess of three and one-half percent (3.5%) of the average equalized valuation of taxable property within the constituent municipality over the constituent municipality's

net debt). A school district may also authorize debt in excess of this limit with the consent of the Commissioner and the Local Finance Board.

### **Energy Saving Obligations**

Under P.L. 2009, c. 4, approved January 21, 2009 and effective sixty (60) days thereafter, school districts may issue “energy savings obligations” without voter approval to fund certain improvements that result in reduced energy use, facilities for production of renewable energy or water conservation improvements provided that the amount of the savings will cover the cost of the improvements.

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

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

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

Since that time there has been much litigation and many cases affecting the State’s responsibilities to fund public education and many legislative attempts to distribute State aid in accordance with the court cases and the constitutional requirement. The cases addressed not only current operating fund aid but also addressed the requirement to provide facilities aid as well. The legislation has included QEA, CEIFA and EFCFA. For many years aid has simply been determined in the State Budget, which itself is an act of the legislature, based upon amounts provided in prior years. The school funding formula, provided in the School Funding Reform Act of 2008, P.L. 2007, c. 260, effective January 1, 2008, attempts to remove the special status given to certain school districts known as Abbott Districts after the school funding cases and instead has funding follow students with certain needs and provides aid in a way that takes into account the ability of the local school district to raise local funds to support the budget in amounts deemed adequate to provide for a thorough and efficient education as required by the State constitution. This legislation was challenged in the Court, and the Court held that the State’s then current plan for school aid was a “constitutionally adequate scheme.” However, the State continued to underfund certain school districts and to overfund other school districts in its budgets based on the statutory scheme. Since 2019 and in accordance with the enactment of P.L. 2018, c. 67, effective July 24, 2018, the State has increased funding for underfunded school districts and decreased funding for overfunded school districts and will continue to do so as set forth therein. It has also provided cap relief for overfunded school districts to enable them to pick up more of the local share.

Notwithstanding over thirty-five (35) years of litigation, the State provides State aid to school districts of the State in amounts provided in the State budget each year. These now include equalization aid, special education categorical aid, transportation aid, preschool education aid, instructional supplement aid, supplemental core curriculum standards aid, distance learning network aid, bilingual aid, security aid, adjustment aid and other aid determined in the discretion of the Commissioner.

State law requires that the State will provide aid for the construction of school facilities in an amount equal to the greater of the district aid percentage or forty percent (40%) times the eligible costs determined by the Commissioner either in the form of a grant or debt service aid as determined under the EFCFA. The amount of aid to which a school district is entitled is established prior to the authorization of the project.

Grant funding is provided by the State upfront and debt service aid must be appropriated annually by the State.

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

Pursuant to P.L. 2018, c. 67, effective July 24, 2018, the School Funding Reform Act has been modified to adjust the distribution of State aid to school districts in the State ("SFRA Modification Law"). In particular, the SFRA Modification Law revises the School Funding Reform Act so that, after calculating the amount of State aid available per pupil, State aid will be distributed to each school district based on student enrollment. The SFRA Modification Law also eliminates the application of the State aid growth limit and adjustment aid, but includes a transition period for school districts that will receive less State aid. Under the SFRA Modification Law, most school districts that will receive reduced State aid resulting from the revised funding formula will be provided a seven (7) year transition period during which funding will be reduced. For those school districts where State aid will increase under the SFRA Modification Law, the transition period to increase funding will be one (1) year.

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

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

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

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

The Local Bond Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq. (the "Local Bond Law"), governs the issuance of bonds and notes to finance certain municipal and utility capital expenditures. Among its provisions are requirements that bonds must mature within the statutory period of usefulness of the projects financed and that bonds be retired in serial installments. A five percent (5%) cash down payment is generally required toward the financing of expenditures for municipal purposes. All bonds and notes issued by the Borough are general full faith and credit obligations.

The authorized bonded indebtedness of the Borough is limited by statute, subject to certain exceptions noted below, to an amount equal to three and one-half percent (3.5%) of its average equalized valuation basis. The average for the last three (3) years of the equalized value of all taxable real property and improvements and certain Class II railroad property within the Borough as annually determined by the New Jersey Board of Taxation is set forth in APPENDIX A.

Certain categories of debt are permitted by statute to be deducted for purposes of computing the statutory debt limit.

A municipality may exceed its debt limit with the approval of the Local Finance Board, and as permitted by other statutory exceptions. If all or any part of a proposed debt authorization would exceed its debt limit, a municipality may apply to the Local Finance Board for an extension of credit. If the Local Finance Board determines that a proposed debt authorization would not materially impair the credit of the

municipality or substantially reduce the ability of the municipality to meet its obligations or to provide essential public improvements and services, or makes certain other statutory determinations, approval is granted. In addition, debt in excess of the statutory limit may be issued by the municipality to fund certain notes, to provide for self-liquidating purposes, and, in each fiscal year, in an amount not exceeding 2/3 of the amount budgeted in such fiscal year for the retirement of outstanding obligations (exclusive of utility and assessment obligations).

A municipality may sell "bond anticipation notes" to temporarily finance a capital improvement or project in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, if the bond ordinance or subsequent resolution so provides. Bond anticipation notes for capital improvements may be issued in an aggregate amount not exceeding the amount specified in the bond ordinance, as it may be amended and supplemented, creating such capital expenditure. A local unit's bond anticipation notes may be issued for periods not exceeding one (1) year. Generally, bond anticipation notes may not be outstanding for longer than ten (10) years. An additional period may be available following the tenth anniversary date equal to the period from the notes' maturity to the end of the tenth fiscal year in which the notes mature plus four (4) months in the next following fiscal year from the date of original issuance. Beginning in the third year, the amount of notes that may be issued is decreased by the minimum amount required for the first year's principal payment for a bond issue.

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

The foundation of the State local finance system is the annual cash basis budget. Every local unit must adopt an annual operating budget in the form required by the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (the "Division"). Certain items of revenue and appropriation are regulated by law and the proposed budget cannot be finally adopted until it has been certified by the Director of the Division (the "Director"), or in the case of a local unit's examination of its own budget, such budget cannot be finally adopted until a local examination certificate has been approved by the Chief Financial Officer and governing body of the local unit. The Local Budget Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq. (the "Local Budget Law") requires each local unit to appropriate sufficient funds for the payment of current debt service, and the Director or, in the case of local examination, the local unit, may review the adequacy of such appropriations.

Tax anticipation notes are limited in amount by law and must be paid off in full within 120 days of the close of the fiscal year in which they were issued.

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

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

A provision in the Local Budget Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-26, provides that: "[n]o miscellaneous revenues from any source shall be included as an anticipated revenue in the budget in an amount in excess of the amount actually realized in cash from the same source during the next preceding fiscal year, unless the director shall determine upon application by the governing body that the facts clearly warrant the expectation that such excess amount will actually be realized in cash during the fiscal year and shall certify such determination, in writing, to the local unit."

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

The same general principle that revenue cannot be anticipated in a budget in excess of that realized in the preceding year applies to property taxes. The maximum amount of delinquent taxes that may be

anticipated is limited by a statutory formula, which allows the local unit to anticipate collection at the same rate realized for the collection of delinquent taxes in the previous year. Also the local unit is required to make an appropriation for a "reserve for uncollected taxes" in accordance with a statutory formula to provide for a tax collection in an amount that does not exceed the percentage of taxes levied and payable in the preceding fiscal year that was received in cash by December 31 of that year. The budget also must provide for any cash deficits of the prior year.

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

The exceptions are certain enumerated quasi-capital projects ("special emergencies") such as (i) the repair and reconstruction of streets, roads or bridges damaged by snow, ice, frost, or floods, which may be amortized over three (3) years, and (ii) the repair and reconstruction of streets, roads, bridges or other public property damaged by flood or hurricane, where such expense was unforeseen at the time of budget adoption, the repair and reconstruction of private property damaged by flood or hurricane, tax map preparation, re-evaluation programs, revision and codification of ordinances, master plan preparations, drainage map preparation for flood control purposes, studies and planning associated with the construction and installation of sanitary sewers, authorized expenses of a consolidated commission, contractually required severance liabilities resulting from the layoff or retirement of employees and the preparation of sanitary and storm system maps, all of which projects set forth in this section (ii) may be amortized over five (5) years. N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53, -54, -55, -55.1. Emergency appropriations for capital projects may be financed through the adoption of a bond ordinance and amortized over the useful life of the project as described above.

Budget transfers provide a degree of flexibility and afford a control mechanism. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58, transfers between appropriation accounts are prohibited until the last two (2) months of the year. Appropriation reserves may be transferred during the first three (3) months of the year, to the previous year's budget. N.J.S.A. 40A:4-59. Both types of transfers require a 2/3 vote of the full membership of the governing body. Although sub-accounts within an appropriation are not subject to the same year-end transfer restriction, they are subject to internal review and approval. Certain types of appropriations are excluded from the provisions permitting transfers. Generally, transfers cannot be made from the down payment account, interest or debt redemption charges or the capital improvement fund or for contingent expenses.

Municipal public utilities are supported by the revenues generated by the respective operations of the utilities, in addition to the general taxing power upon taxable property. For each utility, there is established a separate budget. The anticipated revenues and appropriations for each utility are set forth in the separate budget. The budget is required to be balanced and to provide fully for debt service. The regulations regarding anticipation of revenues and deferral of charges apply equally to the budgets of the utilities. Deficits or anticipated deficits in utility operations which cannot be provided for from utility surplus, if any, are required to be raised in the "Current" or operating budget.

In accordance with the Local Budget Law, each local unit must adopt and may from time to time amend rules and regulations for capital budgets, which rules and regulations must require a statement of capital undertakings underway or projected for a period not greater than over the next ensuing six (6) years as a general improvement program. The capital budget, when adopted, does not constitute the approval or appropriation of funds, but sets forth a plan of the possible capital expenditures which the local unit may contemplate over the next six (6) years. Expenditures for capital purposes may be made either by ordinances adopted by the governing body setting forth the items and the method of financing or from the annual operating budget if the terms were detailed.

#### **Fiscal Year Adjustment Law (1991 N.J. Laws c. 75)**

Chapter 75 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1991, requires certain municipalities and permits all other municipalities to adopt the State fiscal year in place of the existing calendar fiscal year. Municipalities that

change fiscal years must adopt a six (6) month transition budget for January 1 through June 30. Since expenditures would be expected to exceed revenues primarily because State aid for the calendar year would not be received by the municipality until after the end of the transition year budget, the act authorizes the issuance of Fiscal Year Adjustment Bonds to fund the one time deficit for the six (6) month transition budget. The law provides that the deficit in the six (6) month transition budget may be funded initially with bond anticipation notes based on the estimated deficit in the six (6) month transition budget. Notes issued in anticipation of Fiscal Year Adjustment Bonds, including renewals, can only be issued for up to one (1) year unless the Local Finance Board permits the municipality to renew them for a longer period of time. The Local Finance Board must confirm the actual deficit experienced by the municipality. The municipality then may issue Fiscal Year Adjustment Bonds to finance the deficit on a permanent basis. The purpose of the act is to assist municipalities that are heavily dependent on State aid and that have had to issue tax anticipation notes to fund operating cash flow deficits each year. While the law does not authorize counties to change their fiscal years, it does provide that counties with cash flow deficits may issue Fiscal Year Adjustment Bonds as well.

### **State Supervision**

State law authorizes State officials to supervise fiscal administration in any municipality which is in default on its obligations; which experiences severe tax collection problems for two (2) successive years; which has a deficit greater than four percent (4%) of its tax levy for two (2) successive years; which has failed to make payments due and owing to the State, county, school district or special district for two (2) consecutive years; which has an appropriation in its annual budget for the liquidation of debt which exceeds twenty-five percent (25%) of its total operating appropriations (except dedicated revenue appropriations) for the previous budget year; or which has been subject to a judicial determination of gross failure to comply with the Local Bond Law, the Local Budget Law, or the Local Fiscal Affairs Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-1 et seq., which substantially jeopardizes its fiscal integrity. State officials are authorized to continue such supervision for as long as any of the conditions exist and until the municipality operates for a fiscal year without incurring a cash deficit.

### **Appropriations “Cap”**

The New Jersey “Cap Law” (the “Cap Law”) (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 et seq.) places limits on municipal tax levies and expenditures. The Cap Law provides that a local unit shall limit any increase in its budget to two and one-half percent (2.5%) or the Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (as defined in the Cap Law), whichever is less, of the previous year’s final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions. The Cost-Of-Living Adjustment is defined as the rate of annual percentage increase, rounded to the nearest half percent, in the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchases of Goods and Services produced by the United States Department of Commerce for the year preceding the current year as announced by the Director. However, in each year in which the Cost-Of-Living Adjustment is equal to or less than two and one-half percent (2.5%), a local unit may, by ordinance, approved by a majority vote of the full membership of the governing body, provide that the final appropriations of the local unit for such year be increased by a percentage rate that is greater than the Cost-Of-Living Adjustment, but not more than three and one-half percent (3.5%) over the previous year’s final appropriations. In addition, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a restored “cap” banking to the Local Budget Law. Municipalities are permitted to appropriate available “cap bank” in either of the next two (2) succeeding years’ final appropriations. Along with the permitted increases for total general appropriations there are certain items that are allowed to increase outside the “cap”.

Additionally, P.L. 2010, c. 44, effective July 13, 2010, imposes a two percent (2%) cap on the tax levy of a municipality, county, fire district or solid waste collection district, with certain exceptions and subject to a number of adjustments. The exclusions from the limit include increases required to be raised for capital expenditures, including debt service, increases in pension contributions in excess of two percent (2%), certain increases in health care over two percent (2%), and extraordinary costs incurred by a local unit directly related to a declared emergency. The governing body of a local unit may request approval, through a public question submitted to the legal voters residing in its territory, to increase the amount to be raised by taxation, and voters may approve increases above two percent (2%) not otherwise permitted under the law by an affirmative vote of fifty percent (50%).

The Division has advised that counties and municipalities must comply with both the budget “cap” and the tax levy limitation. Neither the tax levy limitation nor the Cap Law, however, limits the obligation of the county or municipality to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all taxable property within its boundaries to pay debt service on its bonds and notes.

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

Property valuations (assessments) are determined on true values as arrived at by a cost approach, market data approach and capitalization of net income (where appropriate). Current assessments are the result of new assessments on a like basis with established comparable properties for newly assessed or purchased properties. This method assures equitable treatment to like property owners. However, a divergence of the assessment ratio to true value is typically due to changes in market value over time.

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

Generally, tax bills are mailed annually in June of the current fiscal year. The taxes are payable in four quarterly installments on February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1. The August and November tax bills are determined as the full tax levied for municipal, county and school purposes for the current municipal fiscal year, less the amount charged for the February and May installments for municipal, county and school purposes in the current fiscal year. The amounts due for the February and May installments are determined by the municipal governing body as either one-quarter or one-half of the full tax levied for municipal, county and school purposes for the preceding fiscal year.

Tax installments not paid on or before the due date are subject to interest penalties of eight percent (8%) per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and eighteen percent (18%) per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00. Pursuant to 1991 N.J. Laws c. 75, the governing body may also fix a penalty to be charged to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 who fails to pay that delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year. The penalty so fixed shall not exceed six percent (6%) of the amount of the delinquency. These penalties and interest rates are the highest permitted under State statutes. Delinquent taxes open for one (1) year or more are annually included in a tax sale in accordance with State statutes.

### **Tax Appeals**

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

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

This law regulates the nonbudgetary financial activities of local governments. The chief financial officer of every local unit must file annually with the Director a verified statement of the financial condition of the local unit and all constituent boards, agencies or commissions.

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

be filed with the Director. A synopsis of the report, together with all recommendations made, must be published in a local newspaper within thirty (30) days of the local unit's receipt of the audit report.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The audited financial statements of the Board as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024 together with the notes to the financial statements have been provided by Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP, Fair Lawn, New Jersey (the "Auditor") and are presented in APPENDIX B to this Official Statement (the "Financial Statements"). See "APPENDIX B – Financial Statements of The Board of Education of the Borough of Elmwood Park in the County of Bergen, New Jersey."

## **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

Phoenix Advisors, a division of First Security Municipal Advisors, Inc., Hamilton, New Jersey, has served as Municipal Advisor to the Board in connection with the issuance of the Bonds (the "Municipal Advisor") and has assisted in matters related to the planning, structuring and terms of the Bonds. The Municipal Advisor is not obligated to undertake, and has not undertaken, either to make an independent verification of, or to assume responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the information contained in the Official Statement and the Appendices hereto. The Municipal Advisor is an Independent Registered Municipal Advisor pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, trading or distributing municipal securities or other public securities.

## **LITIGATION**

To the knowledge of the Board Attorney, Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs LLC, Oakland, New Jersey (the "Board Attorney"), there is no litigation of any nature now pending or threatened against the Board, that is anticipated to restrain or enjoin the issuance or the delivery of the Bonds, or the levy or the collection of any taxes to pay the principal of or the interest on the Bonds, or in any manner questioning the authority or the proceedings for the issuance of the Bonds or for the levy or the collection of taxes, or contesting the corporate existence or the boundaries of the Board or the School District or the title of any of the present officers. To the knowledge of the Board Attorney, no litigation is presently pending or threatened that, in the opinion of the Board Attorney, would have a materially adverse impact on the financial condition of the Board if adversely decided. A certificate to such effect will be executed by the Board Attorney and delivered to the Underwriter (as hereinafter defined) of the Bonds and Notes at the closing.

## **TAX EXEMPTION**

### **Federal Income Tax Treatment**

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), establishes certain requirements which must be met at the time of, and on a continuing basis subsequent to, the issuance of the Bonds in order for the interest thereon to be and remain excluded from gross income for Federal income tax purposes under Section 103 of the Code. Noncompliance with such requirements could cause such interest to be included in gross income for Federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of issuance of the Bonds. The Board has covenanted to comply with the provisions of the Code applicable to the Bonds, and has covenanted not to take any action or fail to take any action that would cause interest on the Bonds to lose the exclusion from gross income under Section 103 of the Code.

In the opinion of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Bond Counsel, under existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, and assuming continuing compliance by the Board with the requirements of the Code described above, interest on the Bonds is not includable in gross income for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Code and is not treated as a preference item under Section 57 of the Code for purposes of computing the Federal alternative minimum tax.

## **Premium Bonds**

[The Bonds [maturing on September 15 in the years 20\_\_ through 20\_\_, inclusive (collectively, the "Premium Bonds")], have been sold to the public at a premium. Section 171 of the Code provides rules under which a bond premium may be amortized and a deduction allowed for the amount of the amortizable bond premium for a taxable year. Under Section 171(a)(2) of the Code, however, no deduction is allowable for the amortizable bond premium in the case of bonds, like the [Premium] Bonds, the interest on which is excludable from gross income. Under Section 1016(a)(5) of the Code, the purchaser's basis in a [Premium] Bond will be reduced by the amount of the amortizable bond premium disallowable as a deduction under Section 171(2) of the Code. Proceeds received from the sale, exchange, redemption or payment of a [Premium] Bond in excess of the owner's adjusted basis (as reduced pursuant to Section 1016(a)(5) of the Code), will be treated as a gain from the sale or exchange of such [Premium] Bonds and not as interest.]

## **Discount Bonds**

[Bond Counsel is also of the opinion that the difference between the stated principal amount of the Bonds maturing on September 15 in the years 20\_\_ through 20\_\_, inclusive (collectively, the "Discount Bonds") and their respective initial public offering prices to the public (excluding bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters or wholesalers) at which prices a substantial amount of the [Discount] Bonds of the same maturity and interest rate were sold, constitutes original issue discount which is excluded from gross income for Federal income tax purposes to the same extent as interest on the Bonds. In the case of any holder of the [Discount] Bonds, the amount of such original issue discount which is treated as having accrued with respect to the [Discount] Bonds is added to the cost basis of the holder in determining, for Federal income tax purposes, gain or loss upon disposition (including sale, redemption or payment at maturity). Holders of the [Discount] Bonds should consult their tax advisors for an explanation of the original issue discount rules.]

## **Additional Federal Income Tax Consequences Relating to Bonds**

Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should be aware that ownership of, accrual or receipt of interest on or disposition of tax-exempt obligations, such as the Bonds, may have additional Federal income tax consequences for certain taxpayers, including, without limitation, taxpayers eligible for the earned income credit, recipients of certain Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits, taxpayers that may be deemed to have incurred or continued indebtedness to purchase or carry tax-exempt obligations, financial institutions, property and casualty insurance companies, foreign corporations and certain S corporations. Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should also consult with their tax advisors with respect to the need to furnish certain taxpayer information in order to avoid backup withholding.

## **State Taxation**

Bond Counsel is also of the opinion that interest on the Bonds, and any gain on the sale of the Bonds, are not includable in gross income under the existing New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act, 1976 N.J. Laws c. 47, as amended. Except as provided above, no opinion is expressed with respect to other State and local tax consequences of owning the Bonds. See "APPENDIX C – Form of Approving Legal Opinion" for the complete text of the proposed form of Bond Counsel's approving legal opinion.

## **Prospective Tax Law Changes**

Federal, state or local legislation, administrative pronouncements or court decisions may affect the Federal and State tax-exempt status of interest on the Bonds and the State tax-exempt status of interest on the Bonds, gain from the sale or other disposition of the Bonds, the market value of the Bonds or the marketability of the Bonds. The effect of any legislation, administrative pronouncements or court decisions cannot be predicted. Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should consult their own tax advisors regarding such matters.

## **Other Tax Consequences**

Except as described above, Bond Counsel expresses no opinion with respect to any Federal, State, local or foreign tax consequences of ownership of the Bonds. Bond Counsel renders its opinion under existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions as of the date of issuance of the Bonds and assumes no obligation to update its opinion after such date of issuance to reflect any future action, fact, circumstance, change in law or interpretation, or otherwise. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion as to the effect, if any, on the tax status of the interest on the Bonds paid or to be paid as a result of any action hereafter taken or not taken in reliance upon an opinion of other counsel.

See APPENDIX C for the complete text of the proposed form of Bond Counsel's legal opinion with respect to the Bonds.

**PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS OF THE BONDS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISORS WITH RESPECT TO ALL TAX CONSEQUENCES (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THOSE LISTED ABOVE) OF HOLDING THE BONDS.**

## **BANK-QUALIFIED BONDS**

The Bonds will be designated as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" under Section 265 of the Code by the Board for an exemption from the denial of deduction for interest paid by financial institutions to purchase or carry tax-exempt obligations. The Board will furnish to the Underwriter (as herein after defined) at the time of delivery of any payment for the Bonds, a certificate executed by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the Board designating the Bonds as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Code, and in such certificate the Board will represent that it reasonably expects that, collectively, neither it nor its subordinate entities, if any, will issue more than \$10,000,000 of tax-exempt obligations in the current calendar year.

## **RISK TO HOLDERS OF BONDS**

It is understood that the rights of the holders of the Bonds, and the enforceability thereof, may be subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws affecting creditors' rights heretofore or hereafter enacted to the extent constitutionally applicable and that their enforcement may also be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases.

## **Municipal Bankruptcy**

**THE BOARD HAS NOT AUTHORIZED THE FILING OF A BANKRUPTCY PETITION. THIS REFERENCE TO THE BANKRUPTCY CODE OR THE STATE STATUTE SHOULD NOT CREATE ANY IMPLICATION THAT THE BOARD EXPECTS TO UTILIZE THE BENEFITS OF ITS PROVISIONS, OR THAT IF UTILIZED, SUCH ACTION WOULD BE APPROVED BY THE LOCAL FINANCE BOARD, OR THAT ANY PROPOSED PLAN WOULD INCLUDE A DILUTION OF THE SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF AND SECURITY FOR THE BONDS, OR THAT THE BANKRUPTCY CODE COULD NOT BE AMENDED AFTER THE DATE HEREOF.**

The undertakings of the Board should be considered with reference to 11 U.S.C. §101 *et seq.*, as amended and supplemented (the "Bankruptcy Code"), and other bankruptcy laws affecting creditors' rights and municipalities in general. The Bankruptcy Code permits the State or any political subdivision, public agency, or instrumentality that is insolvent or unable to meet its debts to commence a voluntary bankruptcy case by filing a petition with a bankruptcy court for the purpose of effecting a plan to adjust its debts; directs such a petitioner to file with the court a list of petitioner's creditors; provides that a petition filed under this chapter shall operate as a stay of the commencement or continuation of any judicial or other proceeding against the petitioner; grants priority to certain debts owed, and provides that the plan must be accepted in writing by or on behalf of creditors holding at least two-thirds in amount and more than one-half in number of the allowed claims of at least one (1) impaired class. The Bankruptcy Code specifically does not limit or impair the power of a state to control, by legislation or otherwise, the procedures that a political subdivision must follow in order to take advantage of the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

The Bankruptcy Code provides that special revenue acquired by the debtor after the commencement of the case shall remain subject to any lien resulting from any security agreement entered into by such debtor before the commencement of such bankruptcy case. However, special revenues acquired by the debtor after commencement of the case shall continue to be available to pay debt service secured by those revenues. Furthermore, the Bankruptcy Code provides that a transfer of property of a debtor to or for the benefit of any holder of a bond or note, on account of such bond or note, may be avoided pursuant to certain preferential transfer provisions set forth in such act.

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

### **Cyber Security**

The School District, like other public and private entities, relies on computer and other digital networks and systems to conduct its operations. As a recipient and provider of personal, private or other electronic sensitive information, the School District may be the subject of cyber threats, including, but not limited to, hacking, viruses, malware and other attacks on computer and other sensitive digital networks and systems. Entities or individuals may attempt to gain unauthorized remote access to the School District's systems for the purposes of misappropriating assets or information or causing operational disruption or damage, or demanding ransom for restored access to files or information. The School District has never had a material cyber breach or a cyber breach that resulted in a financial loss. No assurance can be given that the School District's current efforts to manage cyber threats and security will, in all cases, be successful. The School District cannot predict what future cyber security events may occur and what impact said events could have on its operations or finances. To mitigate these risks to the greatest extent possible, the School District has implemented multi-factor authentication for key stakeholders with access to sensitive information. Furthermore, the School District leverages network segmentation to harden security, and all workstations and servers are running Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) with 24/7 Managed Detection and Response (MDR). In addition to the various processes in place to safeguard against cyber security attacks, the School District also maintains a comprehensive insurance policy which includes privacy liability, cyber incident response, data breach, network security, internet media and network extortion coverages.

The School District relies on other entities and service providers in the course of operating the School District, including its accountants, attorneys, the trustee, and banks, as well as vendors with respect to outsourced critical digital network operations and functions. No assurance can be given that future cyber threats and attacks against other third party entities or service providers will not impact the School District and the owners of the Bonds, including the possibility of impacting the timely payments of debt service on the Bonds or timely filings pursuant to the Continuing Disclosure Certificate.

### **Climate Change**

Numerous scientific studies have detailed changing global weather patterns and the potential for increasing extreme weather events across the world. The School District cannot predict the timing, extent, or severity of climate change and its impact on its operations and finances. The School District maintains a comprehensive insurance policy and maintains adequate reserves that could be used in the event of extreme weather.

## **RECENT HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENTS**

In early March of 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic following the global outbreak of COVID-19, a respiratory disease caused by a newly discovered strain of coronavirus. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national public health emergency to unlock federal funds and assistance to help states and local governments fight the pandemic. The Governor of the State declared a state of emergency and a public health emergency on March 9, 2020. In response to the COVID-

19 pandemic, federal and State legislation and executive orders were implemented to mitigate the spread of the disease and provide relief to State and local governments. The pandemic and certain mitigation measures altered the behavior of businesses and people with negative impacts on regional, State and local economies. The national public health emergency and the State public health emergency have since ended, while the state of emergency declared by the State and several executive orders signed by the Governor remain to manage COVID-19 on an endemic level. Depending on future circumstances, ongoing actions could be taken by State, federal and local governments and private entities to mitigate the spread and impacts of COVID-19, its variants or other critical health care challenges.

To date, the overall finances and operations of the Board have not been materially adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, the degree of any future impact to the Board's operations and finances is difficult to predict due to the dynamic nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and any additional actions that may be taken by governmental and other health care authorities to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, H.R. 1319 (the "Plan"), signed into law by the President of the United States on March 11, 2021, provided \$1.9 trillion in relief designed to provide funding to address the COVID-19 pandemic and alleviate the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plan, in part, provides funding for State and local governments to offset costs to safely reopen schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and to subsidize COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs. In addition, the Plan includes \$350 billion in relief funds to public entities, such as the Board.

The Board has been awarded a total of \$8,197,974 in federal aid to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **APPROVAL OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

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

#### **PREPARATION OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

The Board hereby states that the descriptions and statements herein, including the Financial Statements, are true and correct in all material respects, and it will confirm same to the Underwriter by a certificate signed by the Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary. See "CERTIFICATE WITH RESPECT TO THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT" herein.

Bond Counsel has participated in the preparation and review of this Official Statement but has not participated in the collection of financial, statistical or demographic information contained in this Official Statement nor verified the accuracy, completeness or fairness thereof, and, accordingly, expresses no opinion or other assurance with respect thereto.

The Municipal Advisor has participated in the preparation and review of the information contained in this Official Statement but has not verified the accuracy, completeness or fairness thereof, and, accordingly, expresses no opinion or other assurance with respect thereto.

The Auditor takes responsibility for the collection of financial, statistical and demographic information contained in APPENDIX A and for Financial Statements to the extent specified in the Independent Auditor's Report appearing in APPENDIX B hereto.

The Board Attorney has not participated in the preparation of the information contained in this Official Statement, nor has the Board Attorney verified the accuracy, completeness or fairness thereof, and, accordingly, expresses no opinion or other assurance with respect thereto, but has reviewed the section under the caption entitled "LITIGATION" and expresses no opinion or assurance other than that which is specifically set forth therein with respect thereto.

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

## **RATING**

S&P Global Ratings, acting through Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC (the "Rating Agency"), has assigned an underlying rating of "AA" to the Bonds based upon the creditworthiness of the School District. The Bonds are additionally secured by the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act.

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

## **UNDERWRITING**

The Bonds are being purchased from the Board by \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Underwriter"), at a price of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The Underwriter is obligated to purchase all of the Bonds if any Bonds are so purchased.

The Underwriter intends to offer the Bonds to the public initially at the offering yields set forth on the inside cover page of this Official Statement, which may subsequently change without any requirement of prior notice. The Underwriter reserves the right to join with dealers and other underwriters in offering the Bonds to the public. The Underwriter may offer and sell the Bonds to certain dealers (including dealers depositing the Bonds into investment trusts) at yields higher than the public offering yields set forth on the inside cover page, and such public offering yields may be changed, from time to time, by the Underwriter without prior notice.

## **SECONDARY MARKET DISCLOSURE**

The Board has covenanted for the benefit of the holders and beneficial owners of the Bonds to provide certain financial information and operating data relating to the Board by no later than each January 31 after the end of each fiscal year, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 (the "Annual Report"), and to provide notices of the occurrence of certain enumerated events, if material. The Annual Report will be filed by the Board with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB") or any other entity designated by the MSRB. The notices of material events will be filed by the Board with the MSRB through its Electronic Municipal Market Access ("EMMA") system and with any other entity designated by the MSRB, as applicable. The nature of the information to be contained in the Annual Report or the notices of material events is set forth in "APPENDIX D – Form of Continuing Disclosure Certificate." These covenants have been made in order to assist the underwriter in complying with Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) (the "SEC Rule").

The Board has previously entered into prior secondary market disclosure undertakings in accordance with the SEC Rule for its own obligations and certain obligations of the Bergen County Improvement Authority. The Board appointed Phoenix Advisors, Hamilton, New Jersey to serve as continuing disclosure agent to assist in the filing of certain information on EMMA as required under its prior secondary market disclosure undertakings.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Inquiries regarding this Official Statement, including information additional to that contained herein, may be directed to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mark S. Jacobus, (201) 796-8700, ext. 3175 or to Charles Anthony Solimine, Esq., Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Bond Counsel to the Board,

(732) 855-6430 or to the Municipal Advisor, Phoenix Advisors, a division of First Security Municipal Advisors, Inc., 2000 Waterview Drive, Suite 101, Hamilton, New Jersey 08691, telephone (609) 291-0130.

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

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

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

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

The Board has authorized the preparation of this final Official Statement containing pertinent information relative to the Bonds, and this Official Statement is deemed to be the final Official Statement as required by Rule 15c2-12, promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and supplemented. By awarding the Bonds to the Underwriter, the Board agrees that, within the earlier of seven (7) business days following the date of such award or to accompany the purchasers' confirmations requesting payment for the Bonds, it shall provide without cost to the Underwriter, for distribution purposes, copies of this final Official Statement. The underwriter agrees that (i) it shall accept such designation, and (ii) it shall assure the distribution of the final Official Statement.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF  
ELMWOOD PARK IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW  
JERSEY**

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**MARK S. JACOBUS,**  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**DATED: September \_\_, 2025**

## **APPENDIX A**

**Certain Economic and Demographic Information Relating to the  
School District and the Borough of Elmwood Park,  
in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey**

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**CERTAIN ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION RELATING  
TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE BOROUGH OF  
ELMWOOD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**Summary**

The public school system in the Borough of Elmwood Park, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey (the "Borough"), is operated by The Board of Education of the Borough of Elmwood Park in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed thereby), as a Type II school district. The School District is coterminous with the Borough, which is approximately 2.7 square miles.

The School District provides a full range of educational services for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) through twelve (12). The Board functions independently through a nine (9) member board elected by the School District's voters to staggered three (3) year terms. The Board appoints a Superintendent and a Business Administrator/Board Secretary who are responsible for budgeting, planning and operational functions of the School District. The Board operates three (3) elementary schools and one (1) middle school/high school.

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

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

**SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT<sup>1</sup>**

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Total School District Enrollment<sup>1</sup></u></b>
2024-2025	2,701
2023-2024	2,672
2022-2023	2,620
2021-2022	2,564
2020-2021	2,495
2019-2020	2,563
2018-2019	2,548
2017-2018	2,601
2016-2017	2,572
2015-2016	2,533

## Staff<sup>2</sup>

The Superintendent is the chief administrative officer of the School District. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary oversees the business functions of the Board and reports through the Superintendent to the Board. As of June 30, 2024, the School District employed the following staff:

### **Description**

Teaching and Instructional Staff (including Aides) .....	281
Administrators, Principals and Office Staff .....	40
Custodial/Maintenance .....	28
Total .....	349

## Labor Relations<sup>3</sup>

The Board's contract with the Elmwood Park Education Association, which represents teachers, secretaries, clerks, custodians and maintenance employees, expires on June 30, 2029. The Board's contract with the Administration Association, which includes Principals, Vice-Principals, Directors and Supervisors, expires on June 30, 2026.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Board records

<sup>3</sup> Source: Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Board records

## Comparison of General Fund Revenues and Appropriations – Budgetary Basis

	(Budget) Fiscal Year <u>2025-2026</u>	(Budget) Fiscal Year <u>2024-2025</u>	(Actual) Fiscal Year <u>2023-2024</u>	(Actual) Fiscal Year <u>2022-2023</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 1,114,111	\$ 1,114,111		
Withdrawal From Capital Reserve	700,000	7,482,805		
Withdrawal From Emergency Reserve	400,000			
Local Sources:				
Local Tax Levy	36,893,102	36,169,708	35,460,498	\$ 34,765,194
Miscellaneous Revenues	132,000	132,000	2,271,591	1,259,291
Federal Sources	4,778	60,204	16,501	47,097
State Sources	<u>27,597,413</u>	<u>26,035,294</u>	<u>21,160,541</u>	<u>17,809,390</u>
 TOTAL REVENUES	 <u>\$ 66,841,404</u>	 <u>\$ 70,994,122</u>	 <u>\$ 58,909,131</u>	 <u>\$ 53,880,972</u>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>				
Instruction:				
Regular Programs	\$ 13,952,208	\$ 14,477,267	\$ 10,428,887	\$ 10,329,290
Special Education	6,124,173	5,128,294	4,082,539	3,831,885
Basic Skills/Remedial	552,077	525,429	508,996	478,306
Bilingual Education	503,071	544,915	331,306	313,472
School-Sponsored Co-curricular Activities	250,609	230,466	235,990	188,787
School-Sponsored Athletics	611,685	608,790	406,261	441,914
Other Supplemental/At-Risk Programs	300,000	300,000	181,341	57,043
Undistributed Expenditures:				
Instruction (Tuition)	8,723,503	7,198,289	4,307,158	4,468,917
Attendance and Social Work Services	209,674	201,117	201,801	191,213
Health Services	546,539	535,351	425,409	403,586
Speech, OT, PT, Related & Extra Svcs.	3,447,316	3,450,320	2,680,234	2,691,356
Guidance	1,107,411	1,102,528	611,511	533,572
Child Study Team	1,489,262	1,479,577	1,134,926	814,588
Improvement of Instructional Services	310,757	307,239	191,711	176,735
Media/Library	564,474	546,787	535,330	464,037
Instructional Staff Training	96,757	145,852	120,864	106,859
General Administration	1,258,538	1,339,173	1,048,157	961,304
School Administration	2,653,869	2,439,720	2,471,358	2,288,716
Central Services and Admin. Info. Technology	1,340,909	1,241,627	1,114,938	1,007,732
Operations and Maintenance of Plant Services	5,155,892	5,355,044	4,958,480	3,485,004
Transportation	5,348,426	5,387,993	3,647,968	3,169,562
Personnel Services - Employee Benefits	<u>9,616,581</u>	<u>9,274,939</u>	<u>7,704,913</u>	<u>7,288,052</u>
	64,163,731	61,820,717	47,330,078	43,691,930
Capital Outlay	1,271,358	7,654,163	747,542	1,767,028
Charter Schools	1,405,315	1,518,242	1,242,818	1,185,665
Interest Earned on Reserves	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES	 <u>\$ 66,841,404</u>	 <u>\$ 70,994,122</u>	 <u>49,320,438</u>	 <u>46,644,623</u>
 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures			9,588,693	7,236,349
Other Financing Sources (Uses), Net			<u>(7,703,001)</u>	<u>(85,000)</u>
 Net Change in Fund Balance			1,885,692	7,151,349
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year			<u>34,668,519</u>	<u>27,517,170</u>
Fund Balance, End of Year			<u>\$ 36,554,211</u>	<u>\$ 34,668,519</u>

\* All years exclude TPAF Pension and Social Security on behalf payments

## School District Debt Limit and Borrowing Margin<sup>4</sup>

The debt limitation of the School District is established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:24-19. The School District is permitted to incur debt up to four percent (4%) of the average equalized valuation of taxable property in the School District before requiring an extension of credit from the Borough and the Local Finance Board. The total equalized valuation of real property, including improvements, in the Borough for the last three (3) years and the School District's available borrowing margin as of December 31, 2024 are summarized below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2022	\$ 2,683,573,512
2023	2,845,270,836
2024	<u>3,231,520,728</u>
	<u>\$ 8,760,365,076</u>
Average for the Three (3) Year Period	\$ 2,920,121,692
School District Borrowing Margin (4.0% of \$2,920,121,692)	116,804,868
Debt, Issued, Outstanding and Authorized	<u>13,265,000</u>
Available School District Borrowing Margin	<u>\$ 103,539,868</u>

## Computation of Direct and Overlapping Debt As of December 31, 2024<sup>5</sup>

	<u>Gross Debt</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Net Debt</u>
Municipal Debt:			
Borough of Elmwood Park	\$ 32,987,495	\$ 2,604,697	\$ 30,382,798
Local School District	<u>13,265,000</u>	<u>13,265,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 46,252,495</u>	<u>\$ 15,869,697</u>	30,382,798
Overlapping Debt of School District (as of December 31, 2024):			
County of Bergen			21,882,757
Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission			<u>8,045,057</u>
Total Direct and Overlapping Debt			<u>\$ 60,310,612</u>

<sup>4</sup> Source: The Elmwood Park Board of Education Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Source: The Borough of Elmwood Park 2024 Annual Debt Statement.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

### **Size and Geographical Location**

The Borough of Elmwood Park comprises an area of approximately 2.7 square miles, located in western Bergen County, and is situated 15 miles west of New York City. Surrounding municipalities include Saddle Brook, Fair Lawn, Garfield and Paterson.

### **Form of Government**

Elmwood Park was incorporated in 1916 under the borough form of government. There is a Mayor and a six-member Borough Council.

The Mayor is elected to serve a four-year term and may succeed that term by re-election. He is empowered, amongst his legal powers as head of the municipal government, to: (i) provide for the proper execution of local and State laws; (ii) recommend to the Borough Council measures he deems in the best interest of the Borough; (iii) nominate and, with the advice and consent of the Borough Council, appoint most subordinate officers of the Borough; and (iv) maintain peace and order. Although he presides over meetings of the Borough Council, the Mayor votes only in case of a tie. State law requires that he be a member of the Planning Board and the Board of Trustees of the municipal Public Library.

The six Borough Council members are elected at-large, two each year, for terms of three years. The Borough Council exercises general legislative powers conferred upon it by State law to protect and promote the general welfare of the Borough. Among these are the right to enact ordinances, approve resolutions, approve mayoral appointments, adopt the annual budget and determine the tax levy. The Borough Council, acting in committees, oversees the various departments and functions of the Borough Government.

### **Transportation**

Because of its close proximity to New York City, many residents are employed in the City of New York and commute through access of mass transportation. Commuter rail service to New York City via the PATH is provided by New Jersey Transit. Bus service in the Borough is also provided by New Jersey Transit, which runs throughout the metropolitan area.

Borough residents have easy access to all parts of New Jersey and New York via Route 4, Route 23, Route 46, Route 80 and the Garden State Parkway, all of which are located near the Borough.

### **Protection**

The Borough is served by a police department, a volunteer fire department, and a volunteer ambulance squad.

### **Sanitation**

The Borough provides garbage collection for all homes on a semi-weekly basis. Recycling collection is provided for all homes on a weekly basis. The Borough contracts with a private contractor for both of these services. Payment for such garbage collection services is part of the general property tax levy.

### **Utilities**

Electricity and gas are supplied by Public Service Electric and Gas.

The Borough owns and operates a self-supporting Water Utility, which sells water on a retail basis to the residents of the Borough. All water consumption is metered to insure full payment for water use. Water is obtained from the Passaic Valley Water Commission.

The Borough's sewerage system is connected with the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners. For this service, the Borough pays an annual service charge based on the metered flow of sewerage. This service charge is part of the general property tax levy.

### **Population Trends<sup>6</sup>**

Population trends for the Borough, County of Bergen and the State of New Jersey since 1980 are shown below:

	<u><b>1990</b></u>	<u><b>2000</b></u>	<u><b>2010</b></u>	<u><b>2020</b></u>	<u><b>2024</b></u>
Borough of Elmwood Park	17,656	18,925	19,403	21,422	21,680
County of Bergen	825,380	884,118	905,116	955,732	978,641
State of New Jersey	7,730,011	8,414,378	8,791,894	9,288,994	9,500,851

### **Money Income as of 2023<sup>7</sup>**

	<u><b>Median Household Income</b></u>	<u><b>Median Family Income</b></u>	<u><b>Per Capita Income</b></u>
Borough of Elmwood Park	\$100,852	\$108,789	\$40,732
County of Bergen	123,715	150,475	62,986
State of New Jersey	101,050	123,892	53,118

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<sup>6</sup> Source: State of New Jersey, Data Center, Census Data

<sup>7</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey - 5 Year Estimates

## Employment and Unemployment Data<sup>8</sup>

The New Jersey Department of Labor reported the following annual average employment information for the Borough, the County of Bergen and the State of New Jersey:

	<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>Employed Labor Force</b>	<b>Total Unemployed</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate</b>
<u>Borough of Elmwood Park</u>				
2024	11,809	11,213	596	5.0%
2023	11,689	11,129	560	4.8%
2022	11,371	10,833	538	4.7%
2021	11,094	10,121	973	8.8%
2020	11,175	9,746	1,429	12.8%
<u>County of Bergen</u>				
2024	541,844	521,596	20,248	3.7%
2023	536,776	517,682	19,094	3.6%
2022	519,799	502,401	17,398	3.3%
2021	499,794	468,726	31,068	6.2%
2020	494,538	449,149	45,389	9.2%
<u>State of New Jersey</u>				
2024	4,898,008	4,676,064	221,944	4.5%
2023	4,867,113	4,659,779	207,334	4.3%
2022	4,756,002	4,572,879	183,123	3.9%
2021	4,654,243	4,342,075	312,168	6.7%
2020	4,643,700	4,204,301	439,399	9.5%

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<sup>8</sup> Source: State of New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research.

**STATEMENT OF STATUTORY NET DEBT  
FOR THE CITY OF ELMWOOD PARK<sup>9</sup>  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 (UNAUDITED)**

**GENERAL PURPOSES**

Bonds	\$ 13,280,000	
Notes	7,581,000	
Loans	708,484	
Bonds and Notes Authorized But Not Issued	<u>8,813,314</u>	
		\$ 30,382,798

**WATER UTILITY**

Debt Issued and Outstanding	1,736,204	
Debt Authorized But Not Issued	<u>868,493</u>	
		2,604,697

**LOCAL SCHOOL**

Debt Issued and Outstanding		<u>13,265,000</u>
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TOTAL GROSS DEBT 46,252,495

**STATUTORY DEDUCTIONS**

Water Utility	2,604,697	
School Debt	<u>13,265,000</u>	
		<u>15,869,697</u>

TOTAL NET DEBT \$ 30,382,798

**OVERLAPPING DEBT (as of December 31, 2024)**

County of Bergen (Note 1)	\$ 21,882,757	
Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (Note 2)	<u>8,045,057</u>	
		<u>\$ 29,927,814</u>

**GROSS DEBT**

Per Capita (2024 - 21,680)	\$ 2,133
Percent of Net Valuation Taxable (2024 - \$2,182,569,189)	2.12%
Percent of Estimated True Value of Real Property (2024 - \$2,947,288,849)	1.57%

**NET MUNICIPAL DEBT**

Per Capita (2024 - 21,680)	\$ 1,401
Percent of Net Valuation Taxable (2024 - \$2,182,569,189)	1.39%
Percent of Estimated True Value of Real Property (2024 - \$2,947,288,849)	1.03%

**OVERALL DEBT (Net and Overlapping Debt)**

Per Capita (2024 - 21,680)	\$ 2,782
Percent of Net Valuation Taxable (2024 - \$2,182,569,189)	2.76%
Percent of Estimated True Value of Real Property (2024 - \$2,947,288,849)	2.05%

Note 1: Overlapping debt was computed based upon the real property ratio of equalized valuations of the Borough to all municipalities within the County, as provided in the 2024 Abstract of Ratables published by the Bergen County Board of Taxation.

Note 2: Overlapping debt was computed based upon usage.

## Ten Largest Taxpayers<sup>10</sup>

The ten largest taxpayers in the Borough and their 2024 assessed valuations are listed below:

<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
Xchange Market Street LLC	\$ 52,201,500
Riverwalk III, LLC	20,400,000
RD Elmwood Assoc	14,486,100
Riverfront Residential 1 LLC	14,000,000
Riverwalk III, LLC	11,430,000
Chipt Newark Elmwood Park LLC	10,768,800
LKD-3, LLC	9,750,000
Riverfront Residential 2 LLC	9,269,100
East Coast Elmwood Vill. LLC	9,107,900
RD Elmwood Assoc	8,793,800
Total	<u><u>\$ 160,207,200</u></u>

Total as of a % of Assessed Value 7.34%

## Assessed Valuations/Land and Improvements by Class<sup>11</sup>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Vacant Land</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>	<u>Apartment</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$10,725,000	\$ 1,637,348,600	\$248,736,200	\$ 181,697,500	\$ 123,070,300	\$ 2,201,577,600
2024	9,918,300	1,635,946,300	249,866,800	166,937,400	119,900,300	2,182,569,100
2023	20,559,700	1,633,961,000	249,508,200	115,667,100	100,315,300	2,120,011,300
2022	8,259,600	1,633,964,100	249,210,300	117,300,000	88,478,700	2,097,212,700
2021	12,021,700	1,626,447,500	245,653,600	117,300,000	80,915,300	2,082,338,100

## Assessed Valuations/Net Valuation Taxable<sup>12</sup>

<u>Year</u>	<u>Real Property</u>	<u>Business Personal Property</u>	<u>Net Valuation Taxable</u>	<u>Ratio of Assessed Value to True Value of Real Property</u>	<u>Total True Value of Assessed Property</u>
2025	\$2,201,577,600	\$68	\$2,201,577,668	67.54%	\$3,278,130,849
2024	2,182,569,100	89	2,182,569,189	74.51%	2,947,288,849
2023	2,120,011,300	89	2,120,011,389	78.15%	2,729,147,257
2022	2,097,212,700	89	2,097,212,789	85.48%	2,469,579,292
2021	2,082,338,100	100	2,082,338,200	86.54%	2,421,943,274

<sup>10</sup> Source: Tax Assessor

<sup>11</sup> Source: Tax Duplicates

<sup>12</sup> Source: Bergen County Abstract of Ratables

**Components of Real Estate Tax Rate (per \$100 of Assessment)<sup>13</sup>**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Municipal</u>	<u>Local School</u>	<u>County</u>
2025	\$ 3.202	\$ 1.122	\$ 1.733	\$ 0.347
2024	3.069	1.035	1.720	0.314
2023	2.992	0.945	1.739	0.308
2022	3.012	0.952	1.775	0.285
2021	3.026	0.953	1.781	0.292

**Property Tax Levies and Collections – Local School Levy<sup>14</sup>**

<u>Year Ended June 30,</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>Collected</u>	
		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
2024	\$ 37,147,412	\$ 37,147,412	100.00%
2023	37,161,093	37,161,093	100.00%
2022	37,029,882	37,029,882	100.00%
2021	37,171,512	37,171,512	100.00%
2020	36,837,699	36,837,699	100.00%

<sup>13</sup> Source: Borough of Elmwood Park, Tax Collector and Annual Audits

<sup>14</sup> Source: Borough of Elmwood Park, Tax Collector and Annual Audits

**APPENDIX B**

**Financial Statements of The Board of Education of the  
Borough of Elmwood Park  
in the County of Bergen, New Jersey**

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Honorable President and Members  
of the Board of Education  
Elmwood Park Board of Education  
Elmwood Park, New Jersey

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

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Elmwood Park Board of Education as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Board of Education's basic financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Elmwood Park Board of Education as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the audit requirements prescribed by the Office of School Finance, Department of Education, State of New Jersey. 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 Elmwood Park Board of Education 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 misstatements, 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 Elmwood Park Board of Education'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 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, Government Auditing Standards and audit requirements prescribed by the Office of School Finance, Department of Education, State of New Jersey, 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, Government Auditing Standards and audit requirements prescribed by the Office of School Finance, Department of Education, State of New Jersey, we:

- Exercise professional judgement 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 Elmwood Park Board of Education'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 Elmwood Park Board of Education'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, budgetary comparison information, pension information and other postemployment benefits information 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.

By/s/

LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP  
Certified Public Accountants  
Public School Accountants

Fair Lawn, New Jersey  
September 30, 2024

## **MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

# ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

As management of the Elmwood Park Board of Education (the Board or District), we offer readers of the District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Elmwood Park Board of Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the letter of transmittal, which can be found in the introductory section of this report and the District's financial statements and related notes to the financial statement which immediately follows this section.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key financial highlights for the 2023-2024 fiscal year include the following:

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Elmwood Park Board of Education exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the fiscal year by \$61,091,721. (Net Position)
- The District's total net position increased by \$9,963,559, or 19%.
- Overall District revenues were \$71,870,285. General revenues accounted for \$55,462,671, or 77%, of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and grants and contributions accounted for \$16,407,614, or 23% of total revenues.
- The school district had \$60,585,740 in expenses for governmental activities; only \$15,054,224 of these expenses were offset by program specific charges, grants or contributions. General revenues (predominantly property taxes) of \$55,462,671 were adequate to provide for these programs.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the District's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$40,262,518. Of this amount, \$34,748,306 is restricted for capital projects, \$2,111,853 is restricted for required maintenance of District facilities, \$2,228,222 is restricted for excess surplus, \$607,120 is restricted for other purposes and \$1,215,748 is committed or assigned for year end encumbrances and the remaining amount is the unassigned fund deficit of (\$648,731).
- The General Fund fund balance at June 30, 2024 was \$33,834,901, an increase of \$1,620,241 compared to the ending fund balance at June 30, 2023 of \$32,214,660.
- The General Fund unassigned budgetary fund balance at June 30, 2024 was \$2,070,579, which represents an increase of \$126,285 when compared to the ending unassigned budgetary fund balance at June 30, 2023 of \$1,944,294.

# ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

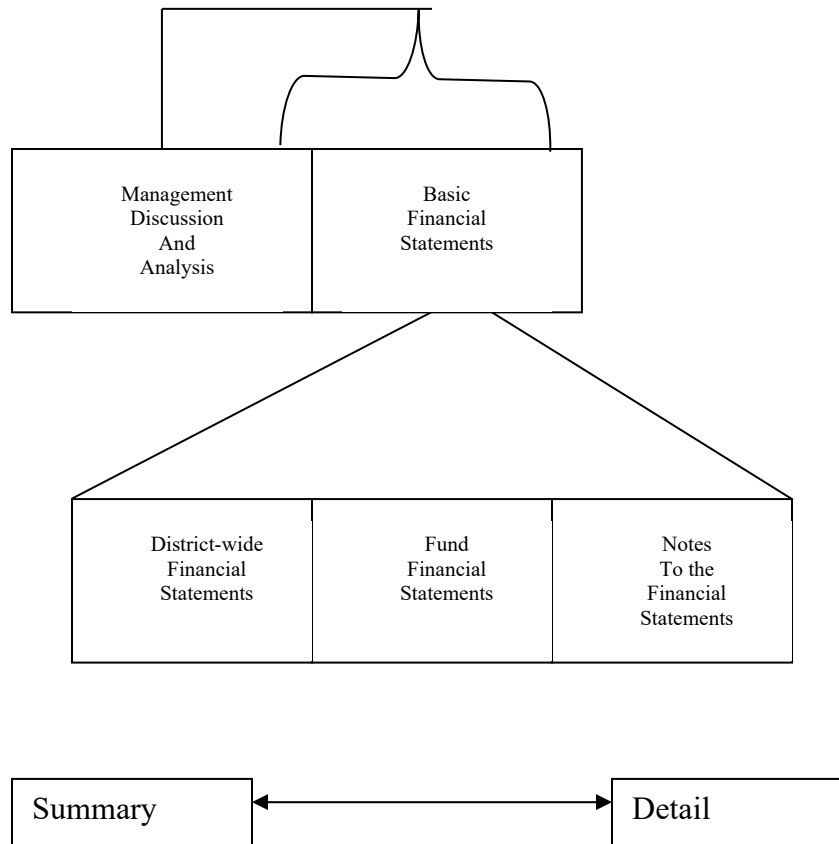
## Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

### OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial section of the annual report consists of four parts – Independent Auditor's Report, required supplementary information which includes the management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and supplemental information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the District:

- The first two statements are *district wide financial statements* that provide both *short-term* and *long-term* information about the District's *overall* financial status.
- The remaining statements are *fund financial statements* that focus on *individual* parts of the District, reporting the District's operations in *more detail* than the district-wide statements.
- The *governmental funds statements* tell how basic services were financed in the *short term* as well as what remains for future spending.
- *Proprietary funds* statements offer *short-term* and *long-term* financial information about the activities the district operated like *businesses*.

The basic financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data. The following shows how the various parts of this Annual Report are arranged and related to one another.



# ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The table below summarizes the major features of the District's financial statements, including the portion of the District's activities they cover and the types of information they contain. The remainder of this overview section of management's discussion and analysis highlights the structure and contents of each of the statements.

Major Features of the District-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

	District-Wide Statements	Fund Financial Statements	
		Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds
Scope	Entire district (except fiduciary funds)	The activities of the district that are not proprietary or fiduciary, such as instruction, building maintenance, transportation, and administration.	Activities the district operates similar to private businesses: Enterprise Funds
Required financial Statements	Statement of Net Position Statement of Activities	Balance Sheet Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances	Statement of Net position Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position, Statement of Cash Flows
Accounting Basis and Measurement focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Modified accrual accounting and current financial focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus
Type of asset, liability and deferred inflows/outflows information	All assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, and deferred inflows, 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, deferred outflows, liabilities and deferred inflows, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term
Type of inflow/outflow Information	All revenues and expenses during 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.	All revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

### District-Wide Statements

The district-wide statements report information about the District as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of net position includes *all* of the 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 District's *net position* and how it has changed. Net position – the difference between the District's assets/deferred outflows and liabilities/deferred inflows – is one way to measure the District's financial health or *position*.

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

## ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

In the district-wide financial statements the District's activities are shown in two categories:

- *Governmental activities* – Most of the District's basic services are included here, such as regular and special education, transportation, administration, and plant operation and maintenance. Property taxes and Federal and State aid finance most of these activities.
- *Business type activities* – These are activities for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The District's food services (cafeteria) program and summer session programs are included under this category.

#### Fund Financial Statements

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

- Some funds are required by State law and bond covenants.
- The District establishes other funds to control and manage money for particular purposes or to show that it is properly using certain revenues (federal and state grants).

The District has two kinds of funds:

- *Governmental funds* – Most of the District's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on (1) how *cash and other financial resources* 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 to determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the District's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the district-wide statements, we provide additional information at the bottom of the governmental funds statements that explains the relationship (or differences) between them.
- *Proprietary funds* – Services for which the District charges a fee are generally reported in proprietary funds. Proprietary funds are reported in the same way as the district-wide statements.
  - *Enterprise Funds* – This fund is established to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The stated intent is that costs of providing goods or services to the students on a continuing basis are financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The District currently has two enterprise funds, for its food service (cafeteria) program and summer session program.

#### Notes to the Financial Statements

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

#### Other Information

In addition to the financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning the District's budget process. The District adopts an annual expenditure budget for the general, special revenue and debt service funds. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided for the general and special revenue funds as required supplementary information. The required supplementary information can be found following the notes to the financial statements.

# ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

### Other Information (Continued)

The District also presents required supplementary information regarding the accounting and reporting for pensions as required under GASB Statement No. 68 and post-retirement medical benefits as required under GASB Statement No. 75. The required supplementary information can be found following the notes to the financial statements.

Combining and individual financial schedules are presented immediately following the major budgetary comparisons if required.

### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

**Net Position.** The District's *combined* net position was \$61,091,721 and \$51,128,162 on June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively as follows:

	Net Position As of June 30, 2024 and 2023					
	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>						
Current and Other Assets	\$ 42,389,268	\$ 35,005,094	\$ 523,402	\$ 482,756	\$ 42,912,670	\$ 35,487,850
Capital Assets	43,559,422	44,273,586	389,224	251,001	43,948,646	44,524,587
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>85,948,690</u>	<u>79,278,680</u>	<u>912,626</u>	<u>733,757</u>	<u>86,861,316</u>	<u>80,012,437</u>
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>508,541</u>	<u>609,970</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>508,541</u>	<u>609,970</u>
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>86,457,231</u>	<u>79,888,650</u>	<u>912,626</u>	<u>733,757</u>	<u>87,369,857</u>	<u>80,622,407</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Long-Term Liabilities	22,820,004	25,512,522			22,820,004	25,512,522
Other Liabilities	2,273,830	2,984,872	9,266	12,340	2,283,096	2,997,212
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>25,093,834</u>	<u>28,497,394</u>	<u>9,266</u>	<u>12,340</u>	<u>25,103,100</u>	<u>28,509,734</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>1,175,036</u>	<u>984,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>461</u>	<u>1,175,036</u>	<u>984,511</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>26,268,870</u>	<u>29,481,444</u>	<u>9,266</u>	<u>12,801</u>	<u>26,278,136</u>	<u>29,494,245</u>
<b>Net Position</b>						
Net Investment in Capital Assets	26,442,477	25,234,523	389,224	251,001	26,831,701	25,485,524
Restricted	37,018,397	28,379,569			37,018,397	28,379,569
Unrestricted	(3,272,513)	(3,206,886)	514,136	469,955	(2,758,377)	(2,736,931)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u>\$ 60,188,361</u>	<u>\$ 50,407,206</u>	<u>\$ 903,360</u>	<u>\$ 720,956</u>	<u>\$ 61,091,721</u>	<u>\$ 51,128,162</u>

By far the largest portion of the District's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land and improvements, buildings and improvements, vehicles, furniture and equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding. The District uses these capital assets to provide services to its students; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the 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. Restricted net position represents amounts reserved for specific purposes by outside parties or state laws and regulations. Unrestricted net position represents amounts available to the government that are neither restricted nor invested in capital assets.

# ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The District's total net position of \$61,091,721 at June 30, 2024 represents a \$9,963,559, or 19%, increase from the prior year. The following presents the changes in net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.

### Changes in Net Position For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023

	<u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u>		<u>Business-Type</u> <u>Activities</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Revenues</b>						
Program Revenues						
Charges for Services and Sales	\$ 326,832	\$ 309,854	\$ 501,997	\$ 598,960	\$ 828,829	\$ 908,814
Operating Grants and Contributions	14,027,835	15,686,693	851,393	812,378	14,879,228	16,499,071
Capital Grants and Contributions	699,557	915,908			699,557	915,908
General Revenues						
Property Taxes, Levied	37,147,412	37,161,093			37,147,412	37,161,093
State Aid - Unrestricted	16,178,560	12,902,827			16,178,560	12,902,827
Miscellaneous Income	2,136,699	1,107,035	-	32,283	2,136,699	1,139,318
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>70,516,895</b>	<b>68,083,410</b>	<b>1,353,390</b>	<b>1,443,621</b>	<b>71,870,285</b>	<b>69,527,031</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Instruction						
Regular	19,362,163	18,506,247			19,362,163	18,506,247
Special	10,702,485	10,653,159			10,702,485	10,653,159
Other Instruction	1,470,088	3,045,415			1,470,088	3,045,415
School Sponsored Activities and Athletics	1,196,728	1,090,551			1,196,728	1,090,551
Support Services						
Student and Instruction Related Services	9,150,831	8,996,580			9,150,831	8,996,580
General Administrative Services	1,626,687	1,376,093			1,626,687	1,376,093
School Administrative Services	3,660,588	3,514,832			3,660,588	3,514,832
Central Administrative Services	1,480,250	1,356,066			1,480,250	1,356,066
Plant Operations and Maintenance	7,809,810	6,105,356			7,809,810	6,105,356
Pupil Transportation	3,713,261	3,218,162			3,713,261	3,218,162
Interest on Long-Term Debt	412,849	649,751			412,849	649,751
Food Services			1,304,823	1,470,239	1,304,823	1,470,239
Summer Session	-	-	16,163	18,772	16,163	18,772
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>60,585,740</b>	<b>58,512,212</b>	<b>1,320,986</b>	<b>1,489,011</b>	<b>61,906,726</b>	<b>60,001,223</b>
<b>Change in Net Position Before Transfers</b>	<b>9,931,155</b>	<b>9,571,198</b>	<b>32,404</b>	<b>(45,390)</b>	<b>9,963,559</b>	<b>9,525,808</b>
<b>Transfers</b>	<b>(150,000)</b>	<b>(20,000)</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Position</b>	<b>9,781,155</b>	<b>9,551,198</b>	<b>182,404</b>	<b>(25,390)</b>	<b>9,963,559</b>	<b>9,525,808</b>
<b>Net Position, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>50,407,206</b>	<b>40,856,008</b>	<b>720,956</b>	<b>746,346</b>	<b>51,128,162</b>	<b>41,602,354</b>
<b>Net Position, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 60,188,361</b>	<b>\$ 50,407,206</b>	<b>\$ 903,360</b>	<b>\$ 720,956</b>	<b>\$ 61,091,721</b>	<b>\$ 51,128,162</b>

# ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

**Governmental Activities.** The District's total governmental activities' revenues, which includes State and Federal grants, were \$70,516,895 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, property taxes of \$37,147,412 represented 53% of revenues. Another significant portion of revenues came from grants and contributions and unrestricted state aid which totaled \$30,905,952 and represented 44% of revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

The total cost of all governmental activities programs and services was \$60,585,740 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The District's expenses are predominantly related to educating and caring for students. Instruction costs were \$32,731,464 (54%) of total expenses and support services costs were \$27,441,427 (45%) of total expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

For fiscal year 2024, total governmental activities revenues exceeded expenses and transfers out increasing net position for governmental activities by \$9,781,155 from the previous year.

**Total and Net Cost of Governmental Activities.** The District's total cost of services was \$60,585,740. After applying program revenues, derived from operating and capital grants and contributions of \$14,727,392 and charges for services of \$326,832 the net cost of services of the District is \$45,531,516 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

### Total and Net Cost of Governmental Activities

	<b>Total Cost of Services</b>		<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	
	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 19,362,163	\$ 18,506,247	\$ 15,030,999	\$ 14,078,377
Special Education	10,702,485	10,653,159	5,404,558	5,292,472
Other Instruction	1,470,088	3,045,415	1,234,362	1,055,700
School Sponsored Activities and Athletics	1,196,728	1,090,551	979,450	894,175
Support Services:				
Student & Instruction Related Services	9,150,831	8,996,580	7,083,456	6,683,579
General Administrative Services	1,626,687	1,376,093	1,528,691	1,264,557
School Administrative Services	3,660,588	3,514,832	3,143,412	2,940,199
Central Administrative Services	1,480,250	1,356,066	1,413,586	1,266,044
Plant Operations and Maintenance	7,809,810	6,105,356	6,289,966	4,951,113
Pupil Transportation	3,713,261	3,218,162	3,082,864	2,603,160
Interest on Long Term Debt	412,849	649,751	340,172	570,381
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 60,585,740</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 58,512,212</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 45,531,516</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 41,599,757</u></b>

**Business-Type Activities** – The District's total business-type activities revenues were \$1,353,390 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Operating grants and contributions accounted for 63% of total revenues and the remaining 37% of revenues was from charges for services and sales.

Total cost of all business-type activities programs and services was \$1,320,986 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Food service expenses represented 99% all of the total expenses and the summer session program expenses represented 1% of the total expenses.

For fiscal year 2024, total business-type activities revenues were more than expenses increasing net position by \$182,404, or 25% from the previous year.

# ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT'S FUNDS

The financial performance of the District as a whole is reflected in its governmental funds as well. As the District completed the year, its governmental funds reported a *combined* fund balance of \$40,262,518 at June 30, 2024, an increase of \$7,909,192 from last year's fund balance of \$32,353,326. The focus of the District's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the District's financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of the District's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

Revenues for the District's governmental funds were \$73,945,448 while total expenditures were \$66,030,721 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

### GENERAL FUND

The General Fund includes the primary operations of the District in providing educational services to students from grades K through 12 including pupil transportation, extra-curricular activities and plant operation and maintenance costs.

The following schedule presents a summary of General Fund Revenues.

	<b><u>Year Ended</u></b> <b><u>June 30, 2024</u></b>	<b><u>Year Ended</u></b> <b><u>June 30, 2023</u></b>	<b><u>Amount of</u></b> <b><u>Increase</u></b> <b><u>(Decrease)</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b> <b><u>Change</u></b>
Local Sources:				
Property Tax Levy	\$ 35,460,498	\$ 34,765,194	\$ 695,304	2%
Tuition and Fees	134,892	152,256	(17,364)	-11%
Miscellaneous	2,136,699	1,107,035	1,029,664	93%
State Sources	29,957,791	26,117,044	3,840,747	15%
Federal Sources	<u>16,501</u>	<u>47,097</u>	<u>(30,596)</u>	-65%
Total General Fund Revenues	<u>\$ 67,706,381</u>	<u>\$ 62,188,626</u>	<u>\$ 5,517,755</u>	9%

For fiscal year 2024, total General Fund revenues increased \$5,517,755, or 9%, from the previous year.

The following schedule presents a summary of General Fund expenditures.

	<b><u>Year Ended</u></b> <b><u>June 30, 2024</u></b>	<b><u>Year Ended</u></b> <b><u>June 30, 2023</u></b>	<b><u>Amount of</u></b> <b><u>Increase</u></b> <b><u>(Decrease)</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b> <b><u>Change</u></b>
Instruction	\$ 32,591,923	\$ 31,728,340	\$ 863,583	3%
Support Services	25,190,776	21,800,007	3,390,769	16%
Debt Service	23,256	23,256	-	100%
Capital Outlay	<u>577,184</u>	<u>1,596,670</u>	<u>(1,019,486)</u>	-64%
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 58,383,139</u>	<u>\$ 55,148,273</u>	<u>\$ 3,234,866</u>	6%

# ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

### GENERAL FUND (Continued)

For fiscal year 2024, total General Fund expenditures increased \$3,234,866, or 6% from the previous year.

In fiscal year 2024, General Fund revenues exceeded expenditures and other financing uses by \$1,620,241. Therefore, the total fund balance at June 30, 2023 of \$32,214,660 increased to a fund balance of \$33,834,901 at June 30, 2024.

### CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the District had \$43,559,422 invested in land, buildings, furniture, equipment and vehicles for governmental activities and \$389,224 for business type activity. The following is a comparison of the June 30, 2024 and 2023 balances:

#### Capital Assets at June 30, 2024 and 2023 (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		<u>Business-Type Activities</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Land	\$ 443,610	\$ 443,610			\$ 443,610	\$ 443,610
Construction in Progress	503,622	6,082			503,622	6,082
Land Improvements	3,650,100	3,874,048			3,650,100	3,874,048
Buildings and Improvements	37,016,660	38,782,454	\$ 216,020	\$ 170,594	37,232,680	38,953,048
Furniture, Equipment and Vehicles	1,932,690	1,132,812	173,204	80,407	2,105,894	1,213,219
Right-to-use Leased Equipment	12,740	34,580	-	-	12,740	34,580
<b>Total Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>\$ 43,559,422</b>	<b>\$ 44,273,586</b>	<b>\$ 389,224</b>	<b>\$ 251,001</b>	<b>\$ 43,948,646</b>	<b>\$ 44,524,587</b>

Additional information on the District's capital assets is presented in Note 3 of this report.

### LONG TERM LIABILITIES

At June 30, 2024 the District had \$22,820,004 of total outstanding long-term liabilities. For fiscal year 2023-2024 total outstanding long-term liabilities decreased by \$2,692,518. The following is a comparison of the June 30, 2024 and 2023 balances:

#### Outstanding Long-Term Liabilities as of June 30, 2024 and 2023

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Serial Bonds (including unamortized premium)	\$ 16,345,078	\$ 19,217,269
Compensated Absences	1,120,926	1,082,538
Leases Payable	13,455	36,067
Net Pension Liability	5,340,545	5,176,648
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,820,004</b>	<b>\$ 25,512,522</b>

Additional information of the District's long-term liabilities is presented in Note 3 of this report.

# **ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

### **GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS**

Over the course of the year, the District revised the annual operating budget several times. Revisions in the budget were made through budget transfers to prevent over expenditures in specific line item accounts and the appropriation of restricted and unassigned fund balances.

For fiscal year 2024 General Fund budgetary revenues exceeded budgetary expenditures and other financing uses increasing budgetary fund balance \$1,885,692. After deducting fund balances restricted, committed and assigned, the unassigned budgetary fund balance increased \$126,285 from an unassigned fund balance of \$1,944,294 at June 30, 2023 to \$2,070,579 at June 30, 2024. In addition at June 30, 2024 the District had balances in its capital reserve of \$28,478,927, maintenance reserve of \$2,111,853, emergency reserve of \$450,000 and reserved excess surplus of \$2,228,222.

### **FACTORS BEARING ON THE DISTRICT'S FUTURE**

While many factors influence the district's future, the availability of funding for increased enrollment, staffing needs special education costs and the economy will have the most impact on educational and fiscal decisions in the future.

Many factors were considered by the District's administration during the process of developing the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget. The primary factors were the District's projected student population, anticipated State and federal aid as well as increasing salary and related benefit costs.

These indicators were considered when adopting the budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. Budgeted expenditures in the General Fund increased approximately 7% to \$70,994,122 for fiscal year 2024-2025. The majority of the increase was funded by additional State aid awarded to the District in the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

### **CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information contact the Business Office, Elmwood Park Board of Education, 60 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407.

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## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**AS OF JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	<b>Business-Type Activities</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 39,883,502	\$ 142,148	\$ 40,025,650
Receivables, Net	2,512,036	369,318	2,881,354
Internal Balances	(6,270)	6,270	-
Inventory		5,666	5,666
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	947,232		947,232
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	<u>42,612,190</u>	<u>389,224</u>	<u>43,001,414</u>
Total Assets	<u>85,948,690</u>	<u>912,626</u>	<u>86,861,316</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Amounts on Net Pension Liability	<u>508,541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>508,541</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>508,541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>508,541</u>
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>86,457,231</u>	<u>912,626</u>	<u>87,369,857</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable and Other Current Liabilities	1,463,425		1,463,425
Payable to Other Governments	77,671		77,671
Accrued Interest Payable	147,080		147,080
Unearned Revenue	585,654	9,266	594,920
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Due Within One Year	2,083,455		2,083,455
Due Beyond One Year	<u>20,736,549</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,736,549</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>25,093,834</u>	<u>9,266</u>	<u>25,103,100</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Amount on Refunding of Debt	758,412		758,412
Deferred Amounts on Net Pension Liability	<u>416,624</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>416,624</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>1,175,036</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,175,036</u>
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>26,268,870</u>	<u>9,266</u>	<u>26,278,136</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	26,442,477	389,224	26,831,701
Restricted for:			
Capital Projects	34,748,306		34,748,306
Plant Maintenance	2,111,853		2,111,853
Student Activities	155,286		155,286
Debt Service	2,952		2,952
Unrestricted	<u>(3,272,513)</u>	<u>514,136</u>	<u>(2,758,377)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 60,188,361</u>	<u>\$ 903,360</u>	<u>\$ 61,091,721</u>

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

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

<b>Functions/Programs</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Program Revenues</b>			<b>Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position</b>		
		<b>Charges for Services</b>	<b>Operating Grants and Contributions</b>	<b>Capital Grants and Contributions</b>	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	<b>Business-Type Activities</b>	<b>Total</b>
Governmental Activities:							
Instruction:							
Regular	\$ 19,362,163	\$ 35,091	\$ 4,296,073	\$ -	\$ (15,030,999)		\$ (15,030,999)
Special Education	10,702,485	99,801	5,198,126		(5,404,558)		(5,404,558)
Other Instruction	1,470,088		235,726		(1,234,362)		(1,234,362)
School Sponsored Activities and Athletics	1,196,728	191,940	25,338		(979,450)		(979,450)
Support Services:							
Student & Instruction Related Services	9,150,831		2,067,375	-	(7,083,456)		(7,083,456)
General Administrative Services	1,626,687		97,996		(1,528,691)		(1,528,691)
School Administrative Services	3,660,588		517,176		(3,143,412)		(3,143,412)
Central Administrative Services	1,480,250		66,664		(1,413,586)		(1,413,586)
Plant Operations and Maintenance	7,809,810		820,287	699,557	(6,289,966)		(6,289,966)
Pupil Transportation	3,713,261		630,397		(3,082,864)		(3,082,864)
Interest on Long Term Debt	412,849	-	72,677	-	(340,172)	-	(340,172)
Total Governmental Activities	60,585,740	326,832	14,027,835	699,557	(45,531,516)	-	(45,531,516)
Business-Type Activities:							
Food Service	1,304,823	499,243	851,393			\$ 45,813	45,813
Summer Session Program	16,163	2,754	-	-	-	(13,409)	(13,409)
Total Business-Type Activities	1,320,986	501,997	851,393	-	-	32,404	32,404
Total Primary Government	\$ 61,906,726	\$ 828,829	\$ 14,879,228	\$ 699,557	(45,531,516)	32,404	(45,499,112)

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

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position</b>		
	<b><u>Governmental Activities</u></b>	<b><u>Business-Type Activities</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
General Revenues:			
Property Taxes:			
Levied for General Purposes	\$ 35,460,498		\$ 35,460,498
Levied for Debt Service	1,686,914		1,686,914
State Aid - Unrestricted	15,995,951		15,995,951
State Aid for Debt Service Principal	182,609		182,609
Interest Earnings	1,548,461		1,548,461
Miscellaneous Income	588,238		588,238
Transfers	<u>(150,000)</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total General Revenues and Transfers	 <u>55,312,671</u>	 <u>150,000</u>	 <u>55,462,671</u>
 Change in Net Position	 9,781,155	 182,404	 9,963,559
 Net Position, Beginning of Year	 <u>50,407,206</u>	 <u>720,956</u>	 <u>51,128,162</u>
 Net Position, End of Year	 <u>\$ 60,188,361</u>	 <u>\$ 903,360</u>	 <u>\$ 61,091,721</u>

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Revenue Fund</b>	<b>Capital Projects Fund</b>	<b>Debt Service Fund</b>	<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 33,455,885	\$ 155,286	\$ 6,269,379	\$ 2,952	\$ 39,883,502
Receivables From Other Governments	472,510	2,039,526			2,512,036
Due from Other Funds	<u>1,197,456</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,197,456</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 35,125,851</u>	<u>\$ 2,194,812</u>	<u>\$ 6,269,379</u>	<u>\$ 2,952</u>	<u>\$ 43,592,994</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>					
Liabilities:					
Accounts Payable	\$ 191,008	\$ 178,745			\$ 369,753
Accrued Salaries and Wages	66,136				66,136
Compensated Absences Payable	18,278				18,278
Payroll Deductions and Withholdings Payable	1,866				1,866
Employee Deposits Payable	1,007,392				1,007,392
Payable to State Government		77,671			77,671
Due to Other Funds	6,270	1,197,456			1,203,726
Unearned Revenue	<u>-</u>	<u>585,654</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>585,654</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,290,950</u>	<u>2,039,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,330,476</u>
Fund Balances:					
Restricted					
Capital Reserve	20,996,122				20,996,122
Capital Reserve - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	7,482,805				7,482,805
Maintenance Reserve	2,111,853				2,111,853
Emergency Reserve	450,000				450,000
Reserved Excess Surplus	1,114,111				1,114,111
Reserved Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	1,114,111				1,114,111
Student Activities		154,168			154,168
Capital Projects			\$ 6,269,379		6,269,379
Debt Service				\$ 2,952	2,952
Committed					
Year-End Encumbrances	135,394				135,394
Assigned					
Year-End Encumbrances	1,079,236	1,118			1,080,354
Unassigned	<u>(648,731)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(648,731)</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>33,834,901</u>	<u>155,286</u>	<u>6,269,379</u>	<u>2,952</u>	<u>40,262,518</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 35,125,851</u>	<u>\$ 2,194,812</u>	<u>\$ 6,269,379</u>	<u>\$ 2,952</u>	<u>\$ 43,592,994</u>

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2024**

**Total Fund Balances - Governmental Funds (Exhibit B-1)** **\$ 40,262,518**

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

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds. The cost of the assets is \$74,531,695 and the accumulated depreciation is \$30,972,273. 43,559,422

Amounts resulting from the refunding of debt are reported as deferred outflows/(inflows) of resources on the statement of net position and amortized over the life of the debt. (758,412)

Certain amounts resulting from the measurement of the net pension liability are reported as either deferred inflows of resources or deferred outflows of resources on the statement of net position and amortized over future years.

Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 508,541	
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>(416,624)</u>	
		91,917

The District has financed capital assets through the issuance of serial bonds and long-term lease obligations. The interest accrual at year end is: (147,080)

Long-term liabilities, are not due payable in the current period and therefore are not reported as liabilities in the funds

General Obligation Bonds (including unamortized premium)	(16,345,078)	
Compensated Absences	(1,120,926)	
Leases Payable	(13,455)	
Net Pension Liability	<u>(5,340,545)</u>	
		<u>(22,820,004)</u>

**Total Net Position of Governmental Activities (Exhibit A-1)** **\$ 60,188,361**

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Capital Projects Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Local Sources:					
Property Tax Levy	\$ 35,460,498			\$ 1,686,914	\$ 37,147,412
Tuition	134,892				134,892
Interest Earned	1,548,461				1,548,461
Miscellaneous	588,238	\$ 211,594	-	-	799,832
	<u>37,732,089</u>	<u>211,594</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,686,914</u>	<u>39,630,597</u>
Total - Local Sources	37,732,089	211,594	-	1,686,914	39,630,597
State Sources	29,957,791	167,185		255,286	30,380,262
Federal Sources	16,501	3,918,088	-	-	3,934,589
	<u>67,706,381</u>	<u>4,296,867</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,942,200</u>	<u>73,945,448</u>
Total Revenues	67,706,381	4,296,867	-	1,942,200	73,945,448
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Current Expenditures					
Instruction					
Regular	19,395,535	1,553,497			20,949,032
Special Education	10,612,153	730,972			11,343,125
Other Instruction	1,594,588	18,003			1,612,591
School Sponsored Activities and Athletics	989,647	255,320			1,244,967
Support Services					
Student and Instruction Related Services	8,661,758	1,102,898			9,764,656
General Administrative Services	1,517,471				1,517,471
School Administrative Services	4,002,868				4,002,868
Central Administrative Services	1,553,562				1,553,562
Plant Operations and Maintenance	5,780,589				5,780,589
Pupil Transportation	3,674,528				3,674,528
Debt Service					
Principal	22,612			1,890,000	1,912,612
Interest	644			752,200	752,844
Cost of Issuance				141,513	141,513
Capital Outlay	577,184	699,557	\$ 503,622	-	1,780,363
	<u>58,383,139</u>	<u>4,360,247</u>	<u>503,622</u>	<u>2,783,713</u>	<u>66,030,721</u>
Total Expenditures	58,383,139	4,360,247	503,622	2,783,713	66,030,721
Excess (Deficiencies) of Revenues					
Over/(Under) Expenditures	9,323,242	(63,380)	(503,622)	(841,513)	7,914,727
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
Refunding Bond Proceeds				13,335,000	13,335,000
Premium on Refunding Bonds				1,040,078	1,040,078
Payment to Refunding Escrow Agent				(14,230,613)	(14,230,613)
Transfers In		80,000	6,773,001	700,000	7,553,001
Transfers Out	(7,703,001)	-	-	-	(7,703,001)
	<u>(7,703,001)</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>6,773,001</u>	<u>844,465</u>	<u>(5,535)</u>
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(7,703,001)	80,000	6,773,001	844,465	(5,535)
Net Change in Fund Balances	1,620,241	16,620	6,269,379	2,952	7,909,192
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	32,214,660	138,666	-	-	32,353,326
Fund Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 33,834,901</u>	<u>\$ 155,286</u>	<u>\$ 6,269,379</u>	<u>\$ 2,952</u>	<u>\$ 40,262,518</u>

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

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF  
REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
WITH THE DISTRICT-WIDE STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Total Net Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds (Exhibit B-2)** \$ 7,909,192

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

Capital outlays to purchase or build capital assets are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, for governmental activities those costs are allocated over their estimated useful lives as annual depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeds capital outlay in the current period.

Capital Outlays	\$ 1,780,363	
Depreciation Expense	<u>(2,494,527)</u>	
		(714,164)

The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds while the repayment of principal of long term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position.

Debt Issued or Incurred:		
Issuance of Refunding Bonds	(13,335,000)	
Original Issue Premium	(1,040,078)	
Principal Repayments:		
General Obligations Bonds	1,890,000	
Payments to Escrow Agent	14,230,613	
Lease Payments	<u>22,612</u>	
		1,768,147

In the statement of activities, certain amounts related to the issuance of long term debt are deferred and amortized over the term of the debt. In the governmental funds, these amounts either provide or use current resources. These amounts represent the current year amortization of the costs related to the issuance of long term debt.

Deferred Amounts on Refunding of Debt	(40,320)	
Original Issue Premium	<u>194,291</u>	
		153,971

In the statement of activities, certain operating expenses - compensated absences and pension expense - are measured by the amounts earned or incurred during the year. In the governmental funds however, expenditures for these items are measured by the amount of financial resources used (paid): When the earned or incurred amount exceeds the paid amount, the difference is a reduction in the reconciliation; when the paid amount exceeds the earned amount, the difference is an addition to the reconciliation.

Increase in Compensated Absences	(38,388)	
Decrease in Pension Expense	<u>516,373</u>	
		477,985

In the Statement of Activities, interest on long-term debt is accrued, regardless of when due. In the governmental funds, interest is reported when due. The decrease in accrued interest is an addition in the reconciliation.

186,024

**Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities (Exhibit A-2)** **\$ 9,781,155**

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROPRIETARY FUND  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>Business-Type Activities</b>		
	<b>Enterprise Funds</b>		
	<b><u>Food</u></b>	<b><u>Non-Major</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b><u>Service</u></b>	<b><u>Summer</u></b>	
		<b><u>Session Program</u></b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 112,176	\$ 29,972	\$ 142,148
Intergovernmental Receivable	31,299		31,299
Other Accounts Receivable, Net	338,019		338,019
Due from Other Funds	6,270		6,270
Inventories	5,666	-	5,666
	<u>493,430</u>	<u>29,972</u>	<u>523,402</u>
Total Current Assets			
Capital Assets			
Building Improvements	272,309		272,309
Equipment	545,414		545,414
Accumulated Depreciation	(428,499)	-	(428,499)
	<u>389,224</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>389,224</u>
Total Capital Assets, Net			
Total Assets	<u>882,654</u>	<u>29,972</u>	<u>912,626</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Unearned Revenue	9,266	-	9,266
	<u>9,266</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,266</u>
Total Current Liabilities			
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Investment in Capital Assets	389,224		389,224
Unrestricted	484,164	29,972	514,136
	<u>873,388</u>	<u>29,972</u>	<u>903,360</u>
Total Net Position			

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

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROPRIETARY FUND  
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND  
CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds		
	<u>Food Service</u>	<u>Non-Major Summer Session Program</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>			
Local Sources			
Daily Sales - Reimbursable Programs	\$ 346,178		\$ 346,178
Daily Sales - Non-Reimbursable Programs	153,065		153,065
Program Fees	-	\$ 2,754	2,754
Total Operating Revenues	499,243	2,754	501,997
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	521,390	16,163	537,553
Cost of Sales - Reimbursable Programs	467,610		467,610
Cost of Sales - Non-Reimbursable Programs	69,873		69,873
Purchased Professional and Technical Services	101,215		101,215
Purchased Property Services	26,714		26,714
Supplies and Materials	46,243		46,243
Depreciation	71,778	-	71,778
Total Operating Expenses	1,304,823	16,163	1,320,986
Operating (Loss)	(805,580)	(13,409)	(818,989)
<b>Nonoperating Revenues</b>			
Local Sources			
Vendor Subsidy - Operating Profit Guarantee	96,484		96,484
State Sources			
State School Lunch Program	27,836		27,836
State School Breakfast Program	2,362		2,362
Federal Sources			
School Breakfast Program	94,455		94,455
National School Lunch Program	506,377		506,377
Administrative Cost Program for Pandemic EBT	653		653
Supply Chain Assistance	62,339		62,339
Food Distribution Program	60,887	-	60,887
Total Nonoperating Revenues	851,393	-	851,393
Income Before Transfers	45,813	(13,409)	32,404
Transfers In	150,000	-	150,000
Change in Net Position	195,813	(13,409)	182,404
Total Net Position, Beginning of Year	677,575	43,381	720,956
Total Net Position, End of Year	\$ 873,388	\$ 29,972	\$ 903,360

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

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds</b>		
	<b>Food Service</b>	<b>Non-Major Summer Session Program</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 362,642	\$ 252	\$ 362,894
Cash Payments for Employees Salaries and Benefits	(521,390)	(16,163)	(537,553)
Cash Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services	(651,024)	-	(651,024)
Net Cash (Used for) Operating Activities	(809,772)	(15,911)	(825,683)
<b>Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities</b>			
Cash Received from (Paid to) Other Funds	150,000	-	150,000
Cash Received from Vendor Subsidy	54,978		54,978
Cash Received from State and Federal Subsidy Reimbursements	696,828	-	696,828
Net Cash Provided by Noncapital Financing Activities	901,806	-	901,806
<b>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>			
Purchase of Capital Assets	(210,001)	-	(210,001)
Net Cash (Used For) Capital and Related Financing Activities	(210,001)	-	(210,001)
Net (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(117,967)	(15,911)	(133,878)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	230,143	45,883	276,026
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	\$ 112,176	\$ 29,972	\$ 142,148
Reconciliation of Operating (Loss) to Net Cash (Used for) Operating Activities			
Operating (Loss)	\$ (805,580)	\$ (13,409)	(818,989)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating (Loss) to Net Cash (Used for) Operating Activities			
Depreciation	71,778		71,778
Non-Cash Federal Assistance - Food Distribution Program	60,887		60,887
Change in Assets, Liabilities and Deferred Inflows			
(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivable	(136,787)		(136,787)
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventory	963		963
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	(758)		(758)
Increase/(Decrease) in Deferred Commodities Revenue	(461)		(461)
Increase/(Decrease) in Unearned Revenue	186	(2,502)	(2,316)
Total Adjustments	(4,192)	(2,502)	(6,694)
Net Cash (Used For) Operating Activities	\$ (809,772)	\$ (15,911)	\$ (825,683)
Non-Cash Investing, Capital and Financing Activities:			
Value Received - Food Distribution Program	\$ 60,426		\$ 60,426

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

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## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Reporting Entity**

The Elmwood Park Board of Education (the “Board” or the “District”) is an instrumentality of the State of New Jersey, established to function as an education institution. The Board consists of nine elected officials and is responsible for the fiscal control of the District. A Superintendent of Schools is appointed by the Board and is responsible for the administrative control of the District. A School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is also appointed by the Board and oversees the business functions of the District. Under existing statutes, the Board's duties and powers include, but are not limited to, the development and adoption of a school program; the establishment, organization and operation of schools; and the acquisition, maintenance and disposition of school property. The Board currently operates a Pre-Kindergarten through grade twelve (12) school district.

The Board also has broad financial responsibilities, including the approval of the annual budget and the establishment of a system of accounting and budgetary controls. The Superintendent of Schools is the Chief Administrative Officer of the District who is responsible for general supervision of all schools, planning and operational functions of the District. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is the Chief Financial Officer and is responsible for budgeting, financial accounting and reporting and reports through the Superintendent of Schools to the Board.

The reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements of the District are not misleading. The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the District. For the Elmwood Park Board of Education this includes general operations, food service, summer session program and student related activities of the District.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the District is financially accountable. The District is financially accountable for an organization if the District appoints a voting majority of the organization’s governing board and (1) the District is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the District is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization’s resources; the District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the District is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the District in that the District approves the budget, the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes. Based on the foregoing criteria, the District has no component units. Furthermore, the District is not includable in any other reporting entity as a component unit.

**B. New Accounting Standards**

During fiscal year 2024, the District adopted the following GASB statements:

- GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*, will be effective beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The primary objective of this Statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability.

Other accounting standards that the District is currently reviewing for applicability and potential impact on the financial statements include:

- GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, will be effective beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**B. New Accounting Standards (Continued)**

- GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*, will be effective beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The requirements of this Statement will improve financial reporting by providing users of financial statements with essential information that currently is not often provided. The disclosures will provide users with timely information regarding certain concentrations or constraints and related events that have occurred or have begun to occur that make a school district vulnerable to a substantial impact. As a result, users will have better information with which to understand and anticipate certain risks to a school district's financial condition.
- GASB Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*, will be effective beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The requirements for MD&A will improve the quality of the analysis of changes from the prior year, which will enhance the relevance of that information. They also will provide clarity regarding what information should be presented in MD&A. The requirements for the separate presentation of unusual or infrequent items will provide clarity regarding which items should be reported separately from other inflows and outflows of resources. The definitions of operating revenues and expenses and of nonoperating revenues and expenses will replace accounting policies that vary from school district to school district, thereby improving comparability. The addition of a subtotal for operating income (loss) and noncapital subsidies will improve the relevance of information provided in the proprietary fund statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net position. The requirement for presentation of major component unit information will improve comparability. The requirement that budgetary comparison information be presented as RSI will improve comparability, and the inclusion of the specified variances and the explanations of significant variances will provide more useful information for making decisions and assessing accountability.

**C. Basis of Presentation - Financial Statements**

The financial statements include both district-wide financial statements (based on the District as a whole) and fund financial statements (based on specific District activities or objectives). Both the district-wide and fund financial statements categorize activities as either governmental activities or business-type activities. While separate district-wide and fund financial statements are presented, they are interrelated. In the district-wide financial statements, the governmental activities column incorporates data from governmental funds while business-type activities incorporate data from the District's enterprise funds. Fiduciary funds are excluded from the district-wide financial statements. Currently the District has no fiduciary funds.

**District-Wide Financial Statements**

The district-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the Board of Education. All fiduciary activities are reported only in the fund financial statements. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities, which normally are supported by property taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. In the statement of net position, both the governmental and business-type activities columns (a) are presented on a consolidated basis by column, and (b) reflect on a full accrual economic resource basis, which incorporates long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include 1) charges to customers or other governmental entities, including other school districts, who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods or services provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Property taxes, unrestricted state aid and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

As a general rule the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the district-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are charges between the Board's proprietary funds since elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions concerned.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**C. Basis of Presentation - Financial Statements (Continued)**

**Fund Financial Statements**

Separate fund financial statements are provided for governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary activities, even though the latter are excluded from the district-wide financial statements. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major individual governmental and enterprise funds, each reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. All remaining governmental and enterprise funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds. The District considers all of its governmental and food service enterprise funds to be major funds.

The District reports the following major governmental funds:

The *general fund* is the School District's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the District, except those to be accounted for in another fund.

The *special revenue fund* accounts for the proceeds of specific revenue sources legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes. This fund accounts for federal, state and local financial programs, with the exception of grants for major capital projects and the child nutrition programs, student activity funds derived from athletic events or other activities of pupil organizations and private donations for scholarship awards.

The *capital projects fund* accounts for the proceeds from the sale of bonds, financing agreements, grants and other revenues used for the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets, other than those financed by the proprietary funds.

The *debt service fund* accounts for the accumulation of resources that are restricted, committed or assigned for the payment of principal and interest on long-term general obligation debt of governmental funds.

The District reports the following major proprietary fund which is organized to be self-supporting through user charges:

The *food service fund* accounts for the activities of the school cafeteria, which provides food service to students as well as a la carte and catering services for administrators, teachers and special events.

The District reports the following non-major proprietary fund which is organized to be self-supporting through user charges:

The *summer session fund* accounts for the activities of the District's middle school summer programs which provides classroom instruction during the summer recess.

Activity between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" (i.e., the current portion of interfund loans) or "advances to/from other funds" (i.e., the non-current portion of interfund loans). All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds". Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the district-wide financial statements as "internal balances".

**Reclassifications**

Certain amounts presented in the prior year data may have been reclassified in order to be consistent with the current year's presentation.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**D. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

The 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.

The district-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the proprietary fund and fiduciary fund financial statements. All assets, all liabilities and all deferred outflows/inflows of resources associated with these operations are included on the Statement of Net Position. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e. when they are both measurable and available). Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the Board considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end. Expenditures are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual basis of accounting, with the exception of debt service expenditures as well as expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recorded only when payment is due. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Issuance of long-term debt, acquisitions under financing agreements, leases payable for intangible right-to-use leased assets and subscription arrangements for intangible right-to-use information technology (IT) software assets are reported as other financing sources.

Property taxes, tuition, unrestricted state aid, and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Entitlements (formula-type grants and aid) are recorded as revenues when all eligibility requirements are met, including any time requirements, and the amount is received during the period or within the availability period for this revenue source. Expenditure-driven grants and similar awards (reimbursement-type grants and awards) are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and all other eligibility requirements imposed by the grantor or provider have been met, and the amount is received during the period or within the availability period for this revenue source. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the District.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Board's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

**E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance**

***1. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments***

Cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Investments are reported at fair value and are limited by N.J.S.A. 18A:20-37.

***2. Receivables***

All receivables are reported at their gross value, and where appropriate, are reduced by the estimated portion that is expected to be uncollectible.

ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance (Continued)

3. *Inventories*

The cost of inventories of the governmental fund types are recorded as expenditures at the time individual inventory items are purchased.

Food Service Fund inventories, exclusive of the federal commodities, are valued at cost, using the first-in first-out (FIFO) method and consist of food and expendable supplies. The cost of such inventories is recorded as expenses when consumed rather than when purchased. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodity portion of the Food Service Fund inventory consists of food donated by the USDA. It is valued at estimated market prices by the USDA. The amount of unused commodities inventory at year-end is reported as deferred inflows of resources.

4. *Capital Assets*

Capital assets, which include property, plant and equipment, are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the district-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the Board as assets with an initial, individual cost of \$2,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. The District was able to estimate the historical cost for the initial reporting of these capital assets through back trending. As the District constructs or acquires additional capital assets each period, they are capitalized and reported at historical cost, except for intangible right-to-use leased assets the measurement of which is discussed in Note 1. E.8. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend its useful life are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Land and construction in progress are not depreciated. The other property, plant, and equipment of the District is depreciated using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Land Improvements	20
Buildings	20-50
Building Improvements	15-40
Heavy Equipment	10
Office Equipment and Furniture	5-10
Computer Equipment	5
Right-to-use Leased Equipment	5

5. *Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources*

In addition to assets, the statement of financial 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 future periods and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Board has only one item which arises under the accrual basis of accounting that qualifies for reporting in this category. It is the deferred amounts on net pension liability are reported in the district-wide statement of net position and result from: (1) differences between expected and actual experience; (2) changes in assumptions; (3) net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments; (4) changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions; and (5) contributions made subsequent to the measurement date. These amounts are deferred and amortized over future years.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance (Continued)**

**5. *Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources (Continued)***

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to future periods and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Board has two items, which arise only under the accrual basis of accounting that qualify for reporting in this category. One item is the deferred amount on refunding of debt which results from a debt refunding reported in the district-wide statement of net position. Deferred amounts on debt refunding result from the difference on the transaction when the carrying value of the refunded debt is greater than its reacquisition price. These amounts are deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt. The other item that qualifies for reporting in this category is the deferred amounts on net pension liability. Deferred amounts on net pension liability are reported in the district-wide statement of net position and result from: (1) differences between expected and actual experience; (2) changes in assumptions; (3) net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments; and (4) changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions. These amounts are deferred and amortized over future years.

**6. *Compensated Absences***

It is the District's policy to permit employees to accumulate (with certain restrictions) earned but unused sick leave benefits. A long-term liability of accumulated sick leave and salary related payments has been recorded in the governmental activities in the district-wide financial statements, representing the Board's commitment to fund such costs from future operations. Proprietary Funds accrue accumulated sick leave and salary related payments in the period that they are earned. A liability is reported in the governmental funds only to the amount actually due at year end as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

**7. *Pensions***

In the district-wide financial statements and proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, for purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the retirement systems sponsored and administered by the State of New Jersey and additions to/deductions from these retirement systems' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the retirement systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

In the governmental fund financial statements, net pension liabilities represent amounts normally expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources for required pension contributions that are due and payable at year end. Pension expenditures are recognized based on contractual pension contributions that are required to be made to the pension plan during the fiscal year.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance (Continued)**

**8. *Leases***

**Leases Payable**

Non-cancellable leases for the use of another entity's equipment are recognized as a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset in the district-wide and proprietary fund type financial statements. The District recognizes lease liabilities with an initial, individual value of \$2,000 or more. The lease liability is subsequently reduced by the principal portion of lease payments made each year. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term or the asset's useful life. Leases are monitored for changes in circumstances that would require a remeasurement of the lease and the lease assets and liabilities are remeasured if certain changes occur that are expected to significantly affect the amount of the lease liability. Lease assets are reported with other capital assets and lease liabilities are reported with long-term liabilities on the statement of net position.

In the fund financial statements leases payable are recognized as other financing sources at the initial amount of the lease liability. Intangible right-to-use leased assets are reported as capital outlay expenditures.

**9. *Long-Term Obligations***

In the district-wide financial statements, and proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund type statement of net position. Differences resulting from debt refundings are classified as deferred inflows of resources. Bond premiums are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the effective interest method. Differences resulting from debt refundings are also deferred and amortized over the life of the refunded bonds or new bonds whichever is less using the effective interest method. Bonds payable are reported with the unamortized bond premium. Bond issuance costs (other than for prepaid insurance) are treated as an expense.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums, as well as bond issuance costs, 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. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

**10. *Net Position/Fund Balance***

**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) reduced by outstanding balances of related debt obligations from the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets or related debt also should be included.
- **Restricted Net Position** – reports net position when constraints placed on the residual amount of noncapital assets 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** – any portion of net position not already classified as either net investment in capital assets or net position – restricted is classified as net position – unrestricted.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance (Continued)**

**10. Net Position/Fund Balance (Continued)**

**Governmental Fund Statements**

Fund balance categories are designed to make the nature and extent of the constraints placed on the District's fund balance more transparent. These categories are comprised of a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources reported in governmental funds.

**Restricted Fund Balance** – Amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation.

Capital Reserve – This restriction was created by the District in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-14.1 to fund future capital expenditures (See Note 2C).

Capital Reserve - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures – This designation was created to dedicate the portion of capital reserve fund balance appropriated in the 2024/2025 original budget certified for taxes.

Maintenance Reserve – This restriction was created by the Board in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-14.2 to accumulate funds for the required maintenance of school facilities in accordance with the EFCA (NJSA 18A:7G-9) for a thorough and efficient education. (See Note 2D).

Emergency Reserve – This restriction was created in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-14.4(A)1 to accumulate funds in accordance with State statute to finance unanticipated general fund expenditures required for a thorough and efficient education. (See Note 2E).

Reserved Excess Surplus – This restriction was created in accordance with NJSA 18A:7F-7 to represent the June 30, 2024 audited excess surplus that is required to be appropriated in the 2025/2026 original budget certified for taxes.

Reserved Excess Surplus – Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures - This restriction was created in accordance with NJSA 18A:7F-7 to represent the June 30, 2023 audited excess surplus that was appropriated in the 2024/2025 original budget certified for taxes.

Student Activities – This restriction was created in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-16.12 to represent the accumulation of funds derived from athletic events and other student organizations reserved for the payment of student group activities.

Capital Projects – Represents fund balance restricted specifically for capital acquisitions and improvements in the Capital Projects Fund.

Debt Service – Represents fund balance restricted specifically for the repayment of long-term debt principal and interest in the Debt Service Fund.

**Committed Fund Balance** – Amounts constrained to specific purposes by a government itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority; to be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint.

Year-End Encumbrances – Represents outstanding purchase orders at year end for contracts awarded by formal action of the Board of Trustee's for specific purposes from available resources of the current year for which the goods and materials have not yet been received or the services have not yet been rendered at June 30.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**E. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance (Continued)**

***10. Net Position/Fund Balance (Continued)***

**Assigned Fund Balance** – Amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority.

**Year-End Encumbrances** – Represent outstanding purchase orders for goods or services approved by management for specific purposes from available resources of the current year for which the goods and materials have not yet been received or the services have not yet been rendered at June 30.

**Unassigned Fund Balance** – Represents fund balance that has not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes within the governmental funds.

In the general operating fund and other governmental funds (special revenue, capital projects and debt service fund types), it is the District's policy to consider restricted resources to have been spent first when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted (i.e., committed, assigned or unassigned) fund balances are available, followed by committed and then assigned fund balances. Unassigned amounts are used only after the other resources have been used.

***11. Fund Balance Policies***

Fund balance of governmental funds is reported in various categories based on the nature of any limitations requiring the use of resources for specific purposes. The Board of Education itself can establish limitations on the use of resources through either a commitment (committed fund balance) or an assignment (assigned fund balance).

The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the District's highest level of decision-making authority. The Board of Trustees is the highest level of decision-making authority for the school district that can, by adoption of a resolution or formal Board action prior to the end of the fiscal year, commit fund balance. Once adopted, the limitation imposed by the resolution remains in place until a similar action is taken (the adoption of another resolution) to remove or revise the limitation.

Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the Board of Education for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as committed. The Board has authorized the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to assign fund balance. The Board may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget. Unlike commitments, assignments generally only exist temporarily. In other words, an additional action does not normally have to be taken for the removal of an assignment. Conversely, as discussed above, an additional action is essential to either remove or revise a commitment.

**F. Revenues and Expenditures/Expenses**

***1. Program Revenues***

Amounts reported as program revenues in the district-wide statement of activities include 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods or services, provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all property taxes, unrestricted state aid, investment earnings and miscellaneous revenues.

***2. Property Taxes***

Property taxes are levied pursuant to law and are collected by the municipality and are transferred to the District as requested. Property tax revenues are recognized in the year they are levied and become available. Property taxes collected in advance of the year-end for which they are levied and transferred to the District are reported as deferred inflows of resources. The tax bills are mailed annually in June by the municipal tax collector and are levied and due in four quarterly installments on August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1 of the fiscal year. When unpaid, taxes or any other municipal lien, or part thereof, on real property, remains in arrears on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the year following the calendar year levy when the same became in arrears, the tax collector of the municipality shall, subject to the provisions of New Jersey Statute, enforce the lien by placing the property on a tax sale. The municipality may institute annual "in rem" tax foreclosure proceedings to enforce the tax collection or acquisition of title to the property.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**F. Revenues and Expenditures/Expenses (Continued)**

**3. *Tuition Revenues and Expenditures***

Tuition Revenues - Tuition charges were established by the Board of Education based on estimated costs. The charges are subject to adjustment when the final costs are determined and certified by the State Department of Education.

Tuition Expenditures - Tuition charges for the fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 were based on rates established by the receiving district. These rates are subject to change when the actual costs have been certified by the State Department of Education.

**4. *On-Behalf Payments***

Revenues and expenditures of the general fund include payments made by the State of New Jersey on-behalf of the District for social security, pension, long-term disability insurance and post-retirement medical benefit contributions for District employees enrolled in the Teacher Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) retirement system.

Revenues and expenses of governmental activities include the State's proportionate share of the on-behalf actuarial determined pension and post-retirement medical benefit amounts attributable to the District for District employees enrolled in the TPAF retirement system.

**5. *Proprietary Funds, Operating and Nonoperating Revenues and Expenses***

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the food service and summer session program enterprise funds are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses. Federal, State and vendor subsidies for the food service operation are considered nonoperating revenues.

**NOTE 2 STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**A. Budgetary Information**

In accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Education ("the Department"), the District annually prepares its operating budget for the forthcoming year. The budget, except for the general fund and special revenue fund, which is more fully explained below and in the notes to the required supplementary information, is prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and serves as a formal plan for expenditures and the proposed means for financing them.

The District must prepare its budget in compliance with applicable laws limiting the amount by which the general fund property tax levy can increase in the annual school budget. The 2010 Tax Levy CAP Law is calculated using the formulas and provisions of NJSA 18A:7F-38. The law was originally adopted in 2007 and was most recently amended in 2018. The core of the tax-levy cap calculation is a 2% increase to the previous budget year's general fund tax levy with exceptions only for enrollment increases, increases for certain pension contributions in excess of 2%, certain healthcare increases, and amounts approved by a simple majority of voters at a special election. Additionally, school districts can bank the unused tax levy for use in any of the next three (3) succeeding budget years if they were not granted approval to exceed the tax levy cap by the voters. The restrictions are solely on the tax levy for the general fund and are not applicable to the debt service fund.

The annual budget is adopted in the spring of the preceding year for the general, special revenue and debt service funds. The District is not required to adopt an annual budget for the capital projects fund. The budget is submitted to the county superintendent for review and approval prior to adoption. Districts that have their school board members elected in November no longer have to submit their budgets that meet levy cap requirements for voter approval. Only a school board decision to exceed the tax levy cap would require voter approval for the additional amount on the November ballot. The Board adopted a resolution to move its annual election to the date of the general elections in accordance with the law; therefore voter approval of the annual budget is not required.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 2 STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (Continued)**

**A. Budgetary Information (Continued)**

Budget adoptions and amendments are recorded in the District's board minutes. The budget is amended by the Board of Trustees as needed throughout the year. The budget for revenues, other resources, other uses, and fund balances is prepared by fund source and amount. The budget for expenditures is prepared by fund, program, function, object and amount. The legal level of budgetary control is established at the line item account within each fund. Line item accounts are defined as the lowest (most specific) level of detail as established pursuant to the minimum chart of accounts referenced in N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.2(m)1. The Board approved several budget transfers during 2023/2024. Also, during 2023/2024 the Board increased the original budget of the General Fund by \$3,812,019 and the Special Revenue Fund by \$3,755,168. The increases were funded by the additional appropriation of unassigned fund balance, maintenance reserve, grant awards, student activity revenues and the reappropriation of prior year general fund encumbrances. During the fiscal year the Board authorized and approved additional fund balance appropriations from the general fund of unassigned fund balance of \$1,009,702 and maintenance reserve of \$1,343,962.

Formal budgetary integration into the accounting system is employed as a management control device during the year. For governmental funds there are no substantial differences between the budgetary basis of accounting and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, with the exception of the legally mandated revenue recognition of certain state aid payments for budgetary purposes only and the treatment of encumbrances in the special revenue fund as described in the Notes to Required Supplementary Information (RSI). Encumbrance accounting is also employed as an extension of formal budgetary integration in the governmental fund types. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at fiscal year end.

Encumbrance accounting is employed in the governmental funds. Under encumbrance accounting, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of resources are recorded to reserve a portion of the applicable appropriation. Open encumbrances in governmental funds other than the special revenue fund are reported as committed and/or assigned fund balances at fiscal year end as they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities but rather commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods and services which are reappropriated and honored during the subsequent fiscal year.

**B. Deficit Fund Equity**

The District has an unassigned fund deficit of \$648,731 in the General Fund as of June 30, 2024 as reported in the fund financial statements (modified accrual basis). NJSA 18A:22-44.2 provides that in the event a state school aid payment is not made until the following school budget year, districts must record these delayed state aid payments as revenue, for budget purposes only, in the current school budget year. The statute provides legal authority for school districts to recognize this revenue in the current budget year. GASB Statement No. 33, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions", requires that intergovernmental transactions (revenue, expenditure, asset, liability) should be recognized in symmetry (i.e., if one government recognizes an asset, the other government recognizes a liability). Since the State of New Jersey is recording certain 2023/2024 budgeted state aid payments in the subsequent fiscal year, the school district cannot recognize such payments on the GAAP (fund) financial statements until the year the State records the payable. Due to the timing difference of recording these delayed state aid payments, the General Fund deficit does not alone indicate that the District is facing financial difficulties; however, unless the State of New Jersey budgets the delayed payments in future years, the District may also report fund deficits in the future.

Pursuant to NJSA 18A:22-44.2, any negative unreserved, undesignated (i.e., unassigned) general fund balance that is reported as a direct result of a delay in the payment of state aid until the following fiscal year, is not considered as a violation of New Jersey Statute or regulation and is not considered an item in need of corrective action. The District deficit in the GAAP (fund) financial statements of \$648,731 in the General Fund is less than the delayed state aid payments at June 30, 2024.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 2 STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (Continued)**

**C. Capital Reserve**

A capital reserve account was established by the District. The accumulation of funds will be used for capital outlay expenditures in subsequent fiscal years. The capital reserve is maintained in the general fund and its activity is included in the general fund annual budget.

Funds placed in the capital reserve are restricted to capital projects in the district’s approved Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP). Upon submission of the LRFP to the Department, a district may increase the balance in the capital reserve by appropriating funds in the annual general fund budget certified for taxes or by transfer by board resolution at year end of any unanticipated revenue or unexpended line-item appropriation amounts or both. A district may also appropriate additional amounts when the express approval of the voters has been obtained either by a separate proposal at budget time or by a special question at one of the four special elections authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:60-2. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:23A-14.1(g), the balance in the reserve cannot at any time exceed the local support costs of uncompleted capital projects in its approved LRFP.

The activity of the capital reserve for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 is as follows:

Balance, July 1, 2023		\$ 26,129,050
Increased by:		
Deposits Approved by Board Resolution	\$ 9,905,812	
Return of Unencumbered Budget Withdrawals	<u>1,623,966</u>	
		<u>11,529,778</u>
		37,658,828
Decreased by:		
Withdrawals Approved in District Budget		<u>9,179,901</u>
Balance, June 30, 2024		<u>\$ 28,478,927</u>

The June 30, 2024 LRFP balance of the total costs of uncompleted capital projects is estimated by management to be \$49,367,404. The withdrawals from the capital reserve were for use in a department approved facilities project, consistent with the district’s Long Range Facilities Plan. \$7,482,805 of the capital reserve balance at June 30, 2024 was designated and appropriated for use in the 2024/2025 original budget certified for taxes.

**D. Maintenance Reserve**

A maintenance reserve account was established by the District. The accumulation of funds will be used for required maintenance of school facilities expenditures in subsequent fiscal years. The maintenance reserve is maintained in the General Fund and its activity is included in the General Fund annual budget.

Funds placed in the maintenance reserve are restricted to required maintenance activities for a school facility as reported in the comprehensive maintenance plan. A District may appropriate funds into the maintenance reserve in the annual General Fund budget certified for taxes or by transfer by board resolution at year end of any unanticipated revenue or unexpended line item appropriation amounts or both. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(g), the balance in the reserve cannot at any time exceed four percent of the replacement cost of the school district’s school facilities for the current year.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 2 STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (Continued)**

**D. Maintenance Reserve (Continued)**

The activity of the maintenance reserve for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 is as follows:

Balance, July 1, 2023		\$ 2,111,853
Increased by:		
Deposits Approved by Board Resolution	\$ 1,221,514	
Return of Unencumbered Budget Withdrawals	<u>122,448</u>	
		<u>1,343,962</u>
		3,455,815
Decreased by:		
Withdrawals Approved by Board Resolution		<u>1,343,962</u>
Balance, June 30, 2024		<u>\$ 2,111,853</u>

The June 30, 2024 comprehensive maintenance plan indicated a maximum maintenance reserve amount of \$2,111,853.

**E. Emergency Reserve**

An emergency reserve account was established by the District. The accumulation of funds will be used to finance unanticipated General Fund current expenditures required for a thorough and efficient education in subsequent fiscal years.

Funds placed in the emergency reserve are restricted to finance reasonably unforeseeable costs and shall not include additional costs due to poor planning. A District may appropriate funds into the emergency reserve in the annual General Fund budget certified for taxes or by transfer by board resolution at year end of any unanticipated revenue or unexpended line item appropriation amounts or both. Withdrawals from the reserve require the approval of the Commissioner unless the withdrawal is necessary to meet an increase in total health care costs in excess of four percent or the withdrawal is included in the original budget certified for taxes to finance school security improvements to school facilities pursuant to 18A:7G-6(c)1. Pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A-14.4(A), the balance in the reserve cannot at any time exceed the greater of \$250,000 or one percent of the school district’s General Fund budget as certified for taxes up to a maximum of \$1,000,000.

The activity of the emergency reserve for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 is as follows:

Balance, July 1, 2023	\$ <u>450,000</u>
Balance, June 30, 2024	<u>\$ 450,000</u>

**F. Calculation of Excess Surplus**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-7, as amended, the restricted fund balance for Excess Surplus is a required calculation pursuant to the New Jersey Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 (CEIFA). New Jersey school districts are required to restrict General Fund fund balance in excess of 2% of budget expenditures at the fiscal year end of June 30 if they did not appropriate a required minimum amount as budgeted fund balance in their subsequent year’s budget. The excess fund balance at June 30, 2024 is \$2,228,222. Of this amount, \$1,114,111 was designated and appropriated in the 2024/2025 original budget certified for taxes and the remaining amount of \$1,114,111 will be appropriated in the 2025/2026 original budget certified for taxes.

ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 3 DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS

A. Cash Deposits and Investments

Cash Deposits

The Board's deposits are insured through either the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF), Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) or New Jersey's Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act (GUDPA). The Board is required to deposit their funds in a depository which is protecting such funds pursuant to GUDPA. The New Jersey Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act requires all banks doing business in the State of New Jersey to pledge collateral equal to at least 5% of the average amount of its public deposits and 100% of the average amount of its public funds in excess of the lesser of 75% of its capital funds or \$200 million for deposits in excess of the FDIC and NCUSIF insured amounts. GUDPA does not protect intermingled trust funds, withholdings from an employee's salary or funds which may pass to the local government upon the happening of a future condition.

Bank balances are insured up to \$250,000 in the aggregate by the FDIC for each bank. NCUSIF insures credit union accounts up to \$250,000 in the aggregate for each financial institution. SIPC replaces cash claims up to a maximum of \$250,000 for each failed brokerage firm. At June 30, 2024, the book value of the Board's deposits was \$40,025,650 and bank and brokerage firm balances of the Board's deposits amounted to \$43,672,614. The Board's deposits which are displayed on the various fund balance sheets as "cash and cash equivalents" are categorized as:

<u>Depository Account</u>	<u>Bank Balance</u>
Insured	\$ 42,322,436
Uninsured and Collateralized	<u>1,350,178</u>
	<u>\$ 43,672,614</u>

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits – Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Board does not have a policy for custodial credit risk. As of June 30, 2024 the Board's bank balance of \$1,350,178 was exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

Depository Account

Uninsured and Collateralized:	
Collateral held by pledging financial institution's trust department but not in the Board's name	<u>\$ 1,350,178</u>

Investments

The Board is permitted to invest public funds in accordance with the types of securities authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:20-37. Examples of the allowable investments are bonds or other obligations of the United States or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America; Government Money Market Mutual Funds; any obligation that a federal agency or a federal instrumentality has issued in accordance with an act of Congress, which security has a maturity date not greater than 397 days from the date of purchase, provided that such obligations bear a fixed rate of interest not dependent on any index or other external factor; bonds or other obligations of the school district or bonds or other obligations of the local unit or units within which the school district is located; Bonds or other obligations, having a maturity date of not more than 397 days from the date of purchase, issued by New Jersey school districts, municipalities, counties, and entities subject to the "Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law," (C.40A:5A-1 et seq.); Other bonds or obligations having a maturity date not more than 397 days from the date of purchase may be approved by the Division of Investment in the Department of the Treasury for investment by school districts; Local Government investment pools; deposits with the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. 1977, c.281 (C.52:18A-90.4); and agreements for the repurchase of fully collateralized securities, if transacted in accordance with the above statute.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 3 DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (Continued)**

**A. Cash Deposits and Investments (Continued)**

**Investments (Continued)**

As of June 30, 2024, the Board had no outstanding investments.

Custodial Credit Risk – Investments – For an investment, this is the risk, that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Board will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are held by an outside party. The Board does not have a policy for custodial credit risk.

Interest Rate Risk – Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in the market interest rate will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Board does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Credit Risk – Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. State law limits investments as noted above (N.J.S.A. 18A:20-37). The District does not have an investment policy that would further limit its investment choices.

Concentration of Credit Risk – The concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss that may be caused by the Board's investment in a single issuer. The Board places no limit in the amount the District may invest in any one issuer.

**B. Receivables**

Receivables as of June 30, 2024 for the district's individual major funds, including the applicable allowances for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Food Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receivables:				
Intergovernmental				
Local	\$ 68,673			\$ 68,673
State	403,837		\$ 1,567	405,404
Federal		\$ 2,039,526	29,732	2,069,258
Accounts	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>338,019</u>	<u>338,019</u>
Gross Receivables	472,510	2,039,526	369,318	2,881,354
Less: Allowance for Uncollectibles	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Total Receivables	<u>\$ 472,510</u>	<u>\$ 2,039,526</u>	<u>\$ 369,318</u>	<u>\$ 2,881,354</u>

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 3 DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (Continued)**

**C. Unearned Revenue**

Governmental funds report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned. At the end of the current fiscal year, the various components of unearned revenue reported in the governmental funds were as follows:

	<u>Unearned</u>
Special Revenue Fund	
Unencumbered Grant Draw Downs	\$ 4,215
Grant Draw Downs Year-End for Encumbrances	<u>581,439</u>
 Total Deferred Revenue for Governmental Funds	 <u><u>\$ 585,654</u></u>

**D. Capital Assets**

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 was as follows:

	Balance, July 1, 2023	Increases	Decreases	Transfers	Balance, June 30, 2024
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>					
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated:					
Land	\$ 443,610				\$ 443,610
Construction in Progress	<u>6,082</u>	<u>\$ 503,622</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ (6,082)</u>	<u>503,622</u>
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	<u>449,692</u>	<u>503,622</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,082)</u>	<u>947,232</u>
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:					
Land Improvements	4,779,018				4,779,018
Building and Building Improvements	63,911,108	121,205		6,082	64,038,395
Machinery and Equipment	3,502,314	1,155,536			4,657,850
Right-to-use Leased Equipment	<u>109,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,200</u>
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated	<u>72,301,640</u>	<u>1,276,741</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,082</u>	<u>73,584,463</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation for:					
Land Improvements	(904,970)	(223,948)			(1,128,918)
Buildings and Improvements	(25,128,654)	(1,893,081)			(27,021,735)
Machinery and Equipment	(2,369,502)	(355,658)		-	(2,725,160)
Right-to-use Leased Equipment	<u>(74,620)</u>	<u>(21,840)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(96,460)</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(28,477,746)</u>	<u>(2,494,527)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(30,972,273)</u>
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	<u>43,823,894</u>	<u>(1,217,786)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,082</u>	<u>42,612,190</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u><u>\$ 44,273,586</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (714,164)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 43,559,422</u></u>

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 3 DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (Continued)**

**D. Capital Assets (Continued)**

	Balance, <u>July 1, 2023</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	Balance, <u>June 30, 2024</u>
<b>Business-Type Activities:</b>				
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:				
Building Improvements	\$ 193,959	\$ 78,350		\$ 272,309
Equipment	<u>413,763</u>	<u>131,651</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>545,414</u>
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated	<u>607,722</u>	<u>210,001</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>817,723</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation for:				
Building Improvements	(23,365)	(32,924)		(56,289)
Equipment	<u>(333,356)</u>	<u>(38,854)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(372,210)</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(356,721)</u>	<u>(71,778)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(428,499)</u>
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	<u>251,001</u>	<u>138,223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>389,224</u>
Business-Type Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 251,001</u>	<u>\$ 138,223</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 389,224</u>

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

**Governmental Activities:**

Instruction	
Regular	\$ 213,903
Special Education	<u>3,106</u>
Total Instruction	<u>217,009</u>

Support Services	
Student and Instruction Related Services	36,562
General Administrative Services	36,475
School Administrative Services	15,452
Plant Operations and Maintenance	2,146,608
Pupil Transportation	<u>42,421</u>
Total Support Services	<u>2,277,518</u>

Total Depreciation Expense - Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 2,494,527</u>
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**Business-Type Activities:**

Food Service Fund	<u>\$ 71,778</u>
Total Depreciation Expense - Business-Type Activities	<u>\$ 71,778</u>

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 3 DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (Continued)**

**D. Capital Assets (Continued)**

**Construction and Other Significant Commitments**

The District has the following active construction projects as of June 30, 2024:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Remaining Commitment</u>
Preschool Classroom Addition Projects at Elementary Schools	\$ 13,872,392
District-Wide Interior Door Upgrades	391,152
District-Wide LED Lighting Project	<u>737,569</u>
	<u>\$ 15,001,113</u>

**E. Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers**

The composition of interfund balances as of June 30, 2024, is as follows:

**Due To/From Other Funds**

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,197,456
Food Service Fund	General Fund	<u>6,270</u>
		<u>\$ 1,203,726</u>

The above balances are the result of revenues deposited in one fund which are due to another fund or to cover cash balances which were in an overdraft position.

The District expects all interfund balances to be liquidated within one year.

**Interfund Transfers**

<u>Transfer Out:</u>	<u>Transfer In:</u>				
	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Food Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund	<u>\$ 80,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,773,001</u>	<u>\$ 700,000</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>	<u>\$ 7,703,001</u>

The above transfers are the result of budget appropriations or fund balances available in one fund to finance expenditures in another fund.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 3 DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (Continued)**

**F. Leases Payable**

On February 13, 2020, the District entered into a 5 year lease agreement as lessee for the use of photo copiers. An initial lease liability was recorded in the amount of \$109,200. The lease has an interest rate of 2.5%. The District is required to make monthly payments of \$1,938. In addition, the District has the option to purchase the equipment for fair market value at the end of the lease term. As of June 30, 2024 the value of the lease liability was \$13,455. The equipment has a 5 year estimated useful life. The value of the right -to-use asset as of June 30, 2024 is \$109,200 and had accumulated depreciation of \$96,460.

The future principal and interest lease payments as of June 30, 2024 were as follows:

**Governmental Activities:**

Fiscal Year Ending <u>June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ <u>13,455</u>	\$ <u>112</u>	\$ <u>13,567</u>

**G. Long-Term Debt**

**General Obligation Bonds**

The Board issued general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities and other capital assets. The full faith and credit of the Board are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of the bonds and the interest thereon.

Bonds payable at June 30, 2024 are comprised of the following issues:

\$9,290,000, 2014 Bonds, due in a final annual installment of \$470,000 on August 1, 2024 with interest at 5.00%.	\$ 470,000
\$21,275,000, 2014 Refunding Bonds, due in a final annual installment of \$1,500,000 on August 1, 2024 with interest at 5.00%.	1,500,000
\$13,335,000, 2024 Refunding Bonds, due in annual installments of \$70,000 to \$2,240,000 through August 1, 2034, interest at 5.00%	<u>13,335,000</u>
	<u>\$ 15,305,000</u>

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 3 DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (Continued)**

**G. Long-Term Debt (Continued)**

The Board's schedule of principal and interest for long-term debt issued and outstanding is as follows:

**Governmental Activities:**

Year Ended June 30,	<u>Serial Bonds</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	
2025	\$ 2,040,000	\$ 532,746	\$ 2,572,746
2026	1,940,000	614,750	2,554,750
2027	2,030,000	515,500	2,545,500
2028	2,140,000	411,250	2,551,250
2029	2,230,000	302,000	2,532,000
2030-2034	4,380,000	514,000	4,894,000
2035	<u>545,000</u>	<u>13,625</u>	<u>558,625</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 15,305,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,903,871</u>	<u>\$ 18,208,871</u>

**Statutory Borrowing Power**

The Board's remaining borrowing power under N.J.S. 18A:24-19, as amended, at June 30, 2024 was as follows:

4% of Equalized Valuation Basis (Municipal)	\$ 106,198,631
Less: Net Debt Issued and Authorized But Not Issued	<u>15,305,000</u>
Remaining Borrowing Power	<u>\$ 90,893,631</u>

**Current Refundings of Debt**

On May 9, 2024 the District issued \$13,335,000 in School District Refunding Bonds having an interest rate of 5%. These Bonds were issued in order to currently refund certain principal maturities of the District's 2014 Bonds and 2014 Refunding Bonds. The total principal currently refunded was \$14,110,000. The reacquisition price was less than the net carrying amount of the old debt by \$748,412. This amount has been reported as Deferred Inflows of Resources on the financial statements and will be amortized over the new debt's life, which is the same as the refunded debt. This current refunding was undertaken to reduce total debt service payments over the next 10 years by \$608,754 and resulted in an economic gain of \$525,003.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 3 DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (Continued)**

**H. Other Long-Term Liabilities**

**Changes in Long-Term Liabilities**

Long-term liability activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
<b>Governmental activities:</b>					
Bonds Payable	\$ 17,970,000	\$ 13,335,000	\$ 16,000,000	\$ 15,305,000	\$ 2,040,000
Add: Unamortized Premium	<u>1,247,269</u>	<u>1,040,078</u>	<u>1,247,269</u>	<u>1,040,078</u>	<u>-</u>
	19,217,269	14,375,078	17,247,269	16,345,078	2,040,000
Compensated Absences	1,082,538	61,751	23,363	1,120,926	30,000
Leases Payable	36,067		22,612	13,455	13,455
Net Pension Liability	<u>5,176,648</u>	<u>656,689</u>	<u>492,792</u>	<u>5,340,545</u>	<u>-</u>
Governmental Activities Long-Term Liabilities	<u>\$ 25,512,522</u>	<u>\$ 15,093,518</u>	<u>\$ 17,786,036</u>	<u>\$ 22,820,004</u>	<u>\$ 2,083,455</u>

For the governmental activities, the liabilities for compensated absences, leases payable and net pension liability are generally liquidated by the general fund.

**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION**

**A. Risk Management**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to property, general liability, automobile coverage, theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; student accident; termination of employees and natural disasters. The Board has obtained insurance coverage to guard against these events to minimize the exposure to the District should they occur. A complete schedule of insurance coverage can be found in the statistical section of this Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

The District is a member of the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (NJSIG or Group). The Group is a risk sharing public entity pool, established for the purpose of insuring against worker's compensation claims.

The relationship between the Board and the Group is governed by a contract and by-laws that have been adopted by resolution of each unit's governing body. The Board is contractually obligated to make all annual and supplementary contributions to the Group, to report claims on a timely basis, cooperate with the management of the Group, its claims administrator and attorneys in claims investigation and settlement, and to follow risk management procedures as outlined by the Group. Members have a contractual obligation to fund any deficit of the Group attributable to a membership year during which they were a member.

NJSIG provides its members with risk management services, including the defense of and settlement of claims and to establish reasonable and necessary loss reduction and prevention procedures to be followed by the members. Complete financial statements of the NJSIG are on file with the School's Business Administrator.

There has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the previous year nor have there been any settlements in excess of insurance coverage's in any of the prior three years.

ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)

B. Contingent Liabilities

The District is a party defendant in some lawsuits, none of a kind unusual for a school district of its size and scope of operation. In the opinion of the Board's Attorney the potential claims against the District not covered by insurance policies would not materially affect the financial condition of the District.

**Federal and State Awards** – The Board participates in a number of federal and state programs that are fully or partially funded by grants received from other governmental units. Expenditures financed by grants are subject to audit by the appropriate grantor government. If expenditures are disallowed due to noncompliance with grant program regulations, the Board may be required to reimburse the grantor government. As of June 30, 2024, significant amounts of grant expenditures have not been audited by the various grantor agencies but the Board believes that disallowed expenditures, if any, based on subsequent audits will not have a material effect on any of the individual governmental funds or the overall financial position of the District.

C. Federal Arbitrage Regulations

The District is subject to Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code as it pertains to the arbitrage rebate on all tax-exempt obligations, both long and short-term debt. Under the 1986 Tax Reform Act, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) required that all excess earnings from investment proceeds be rebated to the IRS. Arbitrage, for purposes of these regulations, is defined as the difference between the yield on the investment and the yield on the obligations issued. If there are excess earnings, this amount may be required to be rebated to the IRS. At June 30, 2024, the District has not estimated its arbitrage earnings due to the IRS, if any.

D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

Plan Descriptions and Benefits Provided

The State of New Jersey sponsors and administers the following contributory defined benefit public employee retirement systems (retirement systems) covering substantially all Board employees who are eligible for pension coverage:

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)** – Established in January 1955, under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:15A to provide coverage, to substantially all full time employees of the State or any county, municipality, school district, or public agency provided the employee is not a member of another State-administered retirement system. Membership is mandatory for such employees. PERS is a cost sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan. For additional information about PERS, please refer to the State Division of Pension and Benefits (Division's) Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) which can be found at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions).

The vesting and benefit provisions are set by N.J.S.A. 43:15A. PERS provides retirement, death, and disability benefits. All benefits vest after ten years of service, except for medical benefits, which vest after 25 years of service or under the disability provisions of PERS.

The following represents the membership tiers for PERS:

Tier	Definition
1	Members who were enrolled prior to July 1, 2007
2	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after July 1, 2007 and prior to November 2, 2008
3	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after November 2, 2008 and prior to May 22, 2010
4	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after May 22, 2010 and prior to June 28, 2011
5	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after June 28, 2011

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Continued)**

Service retirement benefits of 1/55<sup>th</sup> of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to tier 1 and 2 members upon reaching age 60 and to tier 3 members upon reaching age 62. Service retirement benefits of 1/60<sup>th</sup> of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to tier 4 members upon reaching age 62 and tier 5 members upon reaching age 65. Early retirement benefits are available to tier 1 and 2 members before reaching age 60, tier 3 and 4 members with 25 or more years of service credit before age 62, and tier 5 members with 30 or more years of service credit before age 65. Benefits are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month that a member retires prior to the age at which a member can receive full early retirement benefits in accordance with their respective tier. Tier 1 members can receive an unreduced benefit from age 55 to age 60 if they have at least 25 years of service. Deferred retirement is available to members who have at least ten years of service credit and have not reached the service retirement age for the respective tier.

**Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF)** – Established in January 1955, under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:66 to provide coverage to substantially all full time certified teachers or professional staff of the public school systems in the State. Membership is mandatory for such employees. TPAF is a cost sharing multiple- employer defined benefit pension plan with a special funding situation, by which the State is responsible to fund 100% of local employer contributions, excluding any local employer early retirement incentive (ERI) contributions. For additional information about TPAF, please refer to the State Division of Pension and Benefits (Division's) Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) which can be found at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions).

The vesting and benefit provisions are set by N.J.S.A. 18A:66. TPAF provides retirement, death, and disability benefits. All benefits vest after ten years of service, except for medical benefits, which vest after 25 years of service or under the disability provisions of TPAF. Members are always fully vested for their own contributions and, after three years of service credit, become vested for 2% of related interest earned on the contributions. In the case of death before retirement, members' beneficiaries are entitled to full interest credited to the members' accounts.

**Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) (Continued)**

The following represent the membership tiers for TPAF:

<b>Tier</b>	<b>Definition</b>
1	Members who were enrolled prior to July 1, 2007
2	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after July 1, 2007 and prior to November 2, 2008
3	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after November 2, 2008 and prior to May 22, 2010
4	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after May 22, 2010 and prior to June 28, 2011
5	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after June 28, 2011

Service retirement benefits of 1/55<sup>th</sup> of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to tier 1 and 2 members upon reaching age 60 and to tier 3 members upon reaching age 62. Service retirement benefits of 1/60<sup>th</sup> of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to tier 4 members upon reaching age 62 and tier 5 members upon reaching age 65. Early retirement benefits are available to tier 1 and 2 members before reaching age 60, tier 3 and 4 members with 25 or more years of service credit before age 62, and tier 5 members with 30 or more years of service credit before age 65. Benefits are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month that a member retires prior to the retirement age for their respective tier. Deferred retirement is available to members who have at least ten years of service credit and have not reached the service retirement age for the respective tier.

The State of New Jersey sponsors and administers the following defined contribution public employee retirement program covering certain state and local government employees which include those Board employees who are eligible for pension coverage.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

**Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP)** – established under the provisions of Chapter 92, P.L. 2007 and Chapter 103, P.L. 2008 to provide coverage to elected and certain appointed officials, effective July 1, 2007 and employees enrolled in PERS or TPAF on or after July 1, 2007 who earn in excess of established annual maximum compensation limits (equivalent to annual maximum wage for social security deductions). This provision was extended by Chapter 1, P.L. 2010, effective May 21, 2010, to new employees (Tier 2) of the PFRS and new employees who would otherwise be eligible to participate in PERS or TPAF on or after November 2, 2008 and do not earn the minimum salary required for tier 3 enrollment or do not work the minimum required hours for tier 4 and tier 5 enrollments but earn a base salary of at least \$5,000 are eligible for participation in the DCRP. Membership is mandatory for such individuals with vesting occurring after one (1) year of membership. DCRP is a defined contribution pension plan.

**Other Pension Funds**

The State established and administers a Supplemental Annuity Collective Trust Fund (SACT) which is available to active members of the State-administered retirement systems to purchase annuities to supplement the guaranteed benefits provided by their retirement system. The state or local government employers do not appropriate funds to SACT.

The cost of living increase for PERS and TPAF, are funded directly by each of the respective systems but are currently suspended as a result of reform legislation.

According to state law, all obligations of each retirement system will be assumed by the State of New Jersey should any retirement system be terminated.

The State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits (“Division”), issues publicly available financial reports that include the financial statements and required supplementary information of each of the above systems. The financial reports may be accessed via the New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits, website at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions).

**Plan Amendments**

The authority to amend the provisions of the above plans rests with legislation passed by the State of New Jersey. Pension reforms enacted pursuant to Chapter 78, P.L. 2011 included provisions creating special Pension Plan Design Committees for TPAF and PERS, once a Target Funded Ratio (TFR) is met. The Pension Plan Design Committees will have the discretionary authority to modify certain plan design features, including member contribution rate; formula for calculation of final compensation of final salary; fraction used to calculate a retirement allowance; age at which a member may be eligible and the benefits for service or early retirement; and benefits provided for disability retirement. The committees will also have the authority to reactivate the cost of living adjustment (COLA) on pensions. However, modifications can only be made to the extent that the resulting impact does not cause the funded ratio to drop below the TFR in any one year of a 30-year projection period.

**Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the retirement systems are prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental organizations. In doing so, the Division adheres to reporting requirements established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

The accrual basis of accounting is used for measuring financial position and changes in net position of the pension trust funds. Under this method, contributions are recorded in the accounting period in which they are legally due from the employer or plan member, and deductions are recorded at the time the liabilities are due and payable in accordance with the terms of each plan. The accounts of the Division are organized and operated on the basis of funds. All funds are accounted for using an economic resources measurement focus.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

**Investment Valuation**

The Division of Investment, Department of the Treasury, State of New Jersey (Division of Investment) manages and invests certain assets of the retirement systems. Empower Retirement (formerly Prudential) is the third-party administrator for the DCRP and provides record keeping, administrative services and investment options. Investment transactions are accounted for on a trade or investment date basis. Interest and dividend income is recorded on the accrual basis, with dividends accruing on the ex-dividend date. The net increase or decrease in the fair value of investments includes the net realized and unrealized gains or losses on investments.

The State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Investment issues publicly available financial reports that include the financial statements of the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund. The financial reports may be obtained in writing to the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Investment, P.O. Box 290, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0290 or at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/doinvest](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/doinvest).

**Collective Net Pension Liability**

The collective net pension liability of the participating employers for local PERS at June 30, 2023 is \$14.6 billion and the plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability is 65.23%. The collective net pension liability of the State funded TPAF at June 30, 2023 is \$51.1 billion and the plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability is 34.68%.

The total pension liabilities for the June 30, 2023 measurement date were determined based on actuarial valuations as of July 1, 2022 which were rolled forward to June 30, 2023.

**Actuarial Methods and Assumptions**

In the July 1, 2022 PERS and TPAF actuarial valuation, the actuarial assumptions and methods used in these valuations were described in the Actuarial Assumptions and Methods section of the Actuary's report and are included here in this note to the financial statements. The pension systems selected economic and demographic assumptions and prescribed them for use for purposes of compliance with GASB Statement No. 68. The Actuary provided guidance with respect to these assumptions, and it is their belief that the assumptions represent reasonable expectations of anticipated plan experience.

**Employer and Employee Pension Contributions**

The contribution policy is set by laws of the State of New Jersey and contributions are required by active members and participating employers. Plan members and employer contributions may be amended by State of New Jersey legislation with the amount of contributions by the State of New Jersey contingent upon the Annual Appropriations Act. As defined, the retirement systems require employee contributions based on 7.50% for PERS, 7.50% for TPAF and 5.50% for DCRP of the employee's annual compensation for fiscal year 2024.

PERS employers' and TPAF State's nonemployer contributions are based on actuarially determined amounts, which include the normal cost and unfunded accrued liability. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 for TPAF, which is a cost sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan with a special funding situation, the State's annual pension contribution was more than the actuarial determined amount. For local PERS, which is a cost sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan, the annual pension contributions were equal to the actuarial determined amounts. TPAF nonemployer contributions are made annually by the State of New Jersey to the pension system on behalf of the Board. PERS employer contributions are made annually by the Board to the pension system in accordance with Chapter 114, P.L. 1997. In the DCRP, which is a defined contribution plan, member contributions are matched by a 3% employer contribution. All PERS and DCRP contributions made by the Board for fiscal years 2024, 2023 and 2022 were equal to the required contributions.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

**Employer and Employee Pension Contributions (Continued)**

During the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022 the Board was required to contribute for PERS and DCRP and the State of New Jersey, as a nonemployer contributing entity, contributed for TPAF, respectively, for normal cost pension and unfunded accrued liability contributions (including non-contributory group life insurance (NCGI)) the following amounts:

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,	<u>PERS</u>	On-behalf <u>TPAF</u>	<u>DCRP</u>
2024	\$ 492,792	\$ 6,046,139	\$ 40,232
2023	432,565	5,722,155	47,981
2022	397,549	5,717,115	44,786

In addition for fiscal years 2024, 2023 and 2022 the State contributed \$3,278, \$2,927 and \$3,050, respectively for TPAF for Long Term Disability Insurance Premium (LTDI).

The PERS contributions are recognized in the governmental fund financial statements (modified accrual basis) as an expenditure. The on-behalf TPAF contributions are recognized in the governmental fund financial statements (modified accrual basis) as both a revenue and expenditure in accordance with GASB Statement No. 85, *Omnibus 2017* (GASB No. 85). The DCRP contributions are recognized in the governmental fund financial statements (modified accrual basis) as an expenditure, as well as, the district-wide financial statements (accrual basis) as an expense.

Also, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:66-66 the State of New Jersey reimbursed the Board \$1,367,746 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 for the employer's share of social security contributions for TPAF members as calculated on their base salaries. This amount has been recognized in the district-wide financial statements (accrual basis) and the governmental fund financial statements (modified accrual basis) as both a revenue and expense/expenditure in accordance with GASB No. 85.

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

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)**

GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, (GASB No. 68) requires participating employers in PERS to recognize their proportionate share of the collective net pension liability, collective deferred outflows of resources, collective deferred inflows of resources and collective pension expense based on a measurement date no earlier than the end of the employer's prior fiscal year. The employer allocation percentages presented are based on the ratio of the contributions as an individual employer to total contributions to the PERS during the measurement period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Employer allocation percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes. Contributions from employers are recognized when due based on statutory requirements.

Although the NJ Division of Pensions and Benefits ("Division") administers one cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan, separate (sub) actuarial valuations are prepared to determine the actuarial determined contribution rate by group. Following this method, the measurement of the collective net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources and pension expense are determined separately for each individual employer of the State and local groups of the plan.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

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

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) (Continued)**

To facilitate the separate (sub) actuarial valuations, the Division maintains separate accounts to identify additions, deductions, and fiduciary net position applicable to each group. The allocation percentages are presented for each group. The allocation percentages for each group as of June 30, 2023 are based on the ratio of each employer's contributions to total employer contributions of the group for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

At June 30, 2024, the District reported in the statement of net position (accrual basis) a liability of \$5,340,545 for its proportionate share of the PERS net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022. The District's proportionate share of the net pension liability was based on the ratio of the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the total contributions of all participating governmental entities, for the year ended June 30, 2023. At June 30, 2023, the District's proportionate share was .03687 percent, which was an increase of .00257 percent from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2022 of .03430 percent.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the District recognized in the district-wide statement of activities (accrual basis) pension expense/(benefit) of (\$23,581) for PERS. The pension contribution made by the District during the current 2023/2024 fiscal year is the contribution that is applied to the net pension liability reported at the end of the current fiscal year of June 30, 2024 with a measurement date of the prior fiscal year end of June 30, 2023. Since the State of New Jersey applies the current year pension contribution towards the calculation of the net pension liability reported at the end of the current fiscal year, which has a measurement date of the preceding fiscal year end, there is no deferred outflows of resources reported as of June 30, 2024 for contributions made subsequent to the measurement date. At June 30, 2024, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PERS pension from the following sources:

	<b><u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u></b>	<b><u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u></b>
Difference Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 51,062	\$ 21,830
Changes of Assumptions	11,732	323,660
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	24,594	
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between District Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	<u>421,153</u>	<u>71,134</u>
Total	<u>\$ 508,541</u>	<u>\$ 416,624</u>

ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)

D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)

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

Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) (Continued)

At June 30, 2024, the amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PERS pension will be recognized in pension expense/(benefit) as follows:

Year Ending <u>June 30,</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	\$ (313,946)
2025	(14,018)
2026	353,364
2027	58,347
2028	8,170
Thereafter	-
	<u>\$ 91,917</u>

*Actuarial Assumptions*

The District’s total pension liability for the June 30, 2023 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2023. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement.

Inflation Rate:	
Price	2.75%
Wage	3.25%
Salary Increases:	2.75-6.55%
	Based on Years of Service
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%

*Mortality Rates*

Pre-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Employee mortality table with an 82.2% adjustment for males and 101.4% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 General Below-Median Income Healthy Retiree mortality table with a 91.4% adjustment for males and 99.7% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Disability retirement rates used to value disabled retirees were based on the Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree mortality table with a 127.7% adjustment for males and 117.2% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on generational basis. Mortality improvement is based on Scale MP-2021.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

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

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) (Continued)**

***Long-Term Expected Rate of Return***

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7% at June 30, 2023) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investment and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees and actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plans investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the PERS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 are summarized in the following table:

<b><u>Asset Class</u></b>	<b><u>Target Allocation</u></b>	<b><u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u></b>
Risk Mitigation Strategies	3.00%	6.21%
Cash Equivalents	2.00%	3.31%
U.S. Treasuries	4.00%	3.31%
Investment Grade Credit	7.00%	5.19%
US Equity	28.00%	8.98%
Non-US Developed Markets Equity	12.75%	9.22%
Emerging Markets Equity	5.50%	11.13%
High Yield	4.50%	6.97%
Real Assets	3.00%	8.40%
Private Credit	8.00%	9.20%
Real Estate	8.00%	8.58%
Private Equity	13.00%	12.50%
International Small Cap Equity	1.25%	9.22%

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**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

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

**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) (Continued)**

***Discount Rate***

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability for PERS was 7.00% as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers and the nonemployer contributing entity will be based on 100% of the actuarially determined contributions for the State employer and 100% of actuarially determined contributions for the local employers. Based on those assumptions, the plan’s 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 plan investments was applied to all projected benefit payments in determining the total pension liability.

***Sensitivity of Net Pension Liability***

The following presents the District’s proportionate share of the PERS net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00, as well as what the District’s proportionate share of the PERS net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.00 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease <u>6.00%</u>	Current Discount Rate <u>7.00%</u>	1% Increase <u>8.00%</u>
District's Proportionate Share of the PERS Net Pension Liability	\$ <u>6,952,253</u>	\$ <u>5,340,545</u>	\$ <u>3,968,768</u>

The sensitivity analysis was based on the proportionate share of the District’s net pension liability as of the measurement date of June 30, 2023. A sensitivity analysis specific to the District’s net pension liability at June 30, 2023 was not provided by the pension system.

***Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position***

Detailed information about the PERS pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued financial report from the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Pension and Benefits. The financial report may be accessed via the New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits, website at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions).

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**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

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

**Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF)**

GASB No. 68, requires participating employers in TPAF to recognize their proportionate share of the collective net pension liability, collective deferred outflows of resources, collective deferred inflows of resources and collective pension expense based on a measurement date no earlier than the end of the employer's prior fiscal year. The non-employer allocation percentages presented are based on the ratio of the State's actual contributions made as an employer and non-employer adjusted for unpaid early retirement incentives to total contributions to TPAF during the measurement period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Non-employer allocation percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes.

The contribution policy for TPAF is set by N.J.S.A. 18A:66 and requires contributions by active members and non-employer contributions by the State. State legislation has modified the amount that is contributed by the State. The State's pension contribution is based on an actuarially determined amount, which includes the employer portion of the normal cost and an amortization of the unfunded accrued liability. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the State's pension contribution was more than the actuarial determined amount.

In accordance with GASB No. 68, the District is not required to recognize a net pension liability for TPAF. The State of New Jersey, as a nonemployer contributing entity, is the only entity that has a legal obligation to make employer contributions to TPAF on behalf of the District. Accordingly, the District's proportionate share percentage determined under Statement No. 68 is zero percent and the State's proportionate share is 100% of the net pension liability attributable to the District for TPAF. Therefore, in addition, the District does not recognize any portion of the TPAF collective deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the District recognized in the district-wide statement of activities (accrual basis) pension expense of \$1,730,854 for TPAF. This amount has been included in the district-wide statement of activities (accrual basis) as both a revenue and expense in accordance with GASB No. 85.

At June 30, 2024 the State's proportionate share of the net pension liability attributable to the District is \$70,454,169. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022. The nonemployer allocation percentages are based on the ratio of the State's contributions made as a nonemployer attributable to the District adjusted for unpaid early retirement incentives relative to total contributions to TPAF during the year ended June 30, 2023. At June 30, 2023, the State's share of the net pension liability attributable to the District was .13806 percent, which was an increase of .00111 percent from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2022 of .13695 percent.

ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)

D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)

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

Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2023 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2023. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement.

Inflation Rate:	
Price	2.75%
Wage	3.25%
Salary Increases:	2.75-4.25%
	Based on Years of Service
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%

*Mortality Rates*

Pre-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Above-Median Income Employee mortality table with a 93.9% adjustment for males and 85.3% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Above-Median Income Healthy Retiree mortality table with a 114.7% adjustment for males and 99.6% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Disability mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree mortality table with a 106.3% adjustment for males and 100.3% adjustment for females, and with future improvement from the base year of 2010 on a generational basis. Mortality improvement is based on Scale MP-2021.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

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

**Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) (Continued)**

**Long-Term Expected Rate of Return**

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7% at June 30, 2023) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investment and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees and actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rate of return (expected returns, net of pension plans investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the TPAF's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Risk Mitigation Strategies	3.00%	6.21%
Cash Equivalents	2.00%	3.31%
U.S. Treasuries	4.00%	3.31%
Investment Grade Credit	7.00%	5.19%
US Equity	28.00%	8.98%
Non-US Developed Markets Equity	12.75%	9.22%
Emerging Markets Equity	5.50%	11.13%
High Yield	4.50%	6.97%
Real Assets	3.00%	8.40%
Private Credit	8.00%	9.20%
Real Estate	8.00%	8.58%
Private Equity	13.00%	12.50%
International Small Cap Equity	1.25%	9.22%

***Discount Rate***

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability for TPAF was 7.00% as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be based on 100% of the actuarially determined contributions for the State. Based on those assumptions, the plan's 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 plan investments was applied to all projected benefit payments in determining the total pension liability.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**D. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)**

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

**Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) (Continued)**

***Sensitivity of Net Pension Liability***

The following presents the State’s proportionate share of the TPAF net pension liability attributable to the District calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the State’s proportionate share of the TPAF net pension liability attributable to the District that would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.00% percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.00% percent) than the current rate:

	<b>1% Decrease <u>(6.00%)</u></b>	<b>Current Discount Rate <u>(7.00%)</u></b>	<b>1% Increase <u>(8.00%)</u></b>
State's Proportionate Share of the TPAF Net Pension Liability Attributable to the District	<u>\$ 83,078,250</u>	<u>\$ 70,454,169</u>	<u>\$ 59,821,692</u>

The sensitivity analysis was based on the State’s proportionate share of the net pension liability attributable to the District as of the measurement date of June 30, 2023. A sensitivity analysis specific to the State’s proportionate share of the net pension liability attributable to the District at June 30, 2023 was not provided by the pension system.

***Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position***

Detailed information about the TPAF pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued financial report from the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Pension and Benefits. The financial report may be accessed via the New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits, website at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions).

**E. Post-Retirement Medical Benefits**

The State of New Jersey sponsors and administers the post-retirement health benefit program plan for school districts.

As a result of implementing GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other than Pension Plans*, the post-retirement health benefit program plan is reported in a Custodial Fund in the New Jersey Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. In addition, the plan is administered on a pay-as-you-go basis. Therefore, the plan has no assets accumulated in a qualified trust. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pension* (GASB No. 75), the plan is classified as a multiple-employer defined benefit OPEB plan with a special funding situation that is not administered through a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of GASB No. 75.

**Plan Description and Benefits Provided**

The State of New Jersey sponsors and administers the following post-retirement health benefit program plan covering certain local school district employees, including those Board employees and retirees eligible for coverage.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**E. Post-Retirement Medical Benefits (Continued)**

**State Health Benefit Program Fund – Local Education Retired Employees Plan** (including Prescription Drug Program Fund) – N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.32f provides medical coverage, prescription drug benefits and Medicare Part B reimbursement to qualified retired education employees and their covered dependents. The State of New Jersey provides employer-paid coverage to members of the TPAF who retire from a board of education or county college with 25 years of service or on a disability retirement. Under the provisions of Chapter 126, P.L. 1992, the State also provides employer-paid coverage to members of the PERS, the Police and Firemen Retirement System (PFRS) or Alternate Benefits Program (ABP) who retire from a board of education or county college with 25 years of service or on a disability retirement. Retirees who are not eligible for employer paid health coverage at retirement can continue in the program if their employer participates in this program or if they are participating in the health benefits plan of their former employer and are enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B by paying the cost of the insurance for themselves and their covered dependents.

Pursuant to Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, future retirees eligible for postretirement medical coverage who have less than 20 years of creditable service on June 28, 2011 will be required to pay a percentage of the cost of their health care coverage in retirement provided they retire with 25 or more years of pension service credit. The percentage of the premium for which the retiree will be responsible will be determined based on the retiree’s annual retirement benefit and level of coverage.

The State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits, issues publicly available financial reports that include the financial statements and required supplementary information of the above Fund. The financial reports may be accessed via the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits, website at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions).

**Plan Membership**

Membership of the defined benefit OPEB plan consisted of the following at June 30, 2022:

Active Plan Members	217,212
Inactive Plan Members or Beneficiaries Currently Receiving Benefits	<u>152,383</u>
Total	<u>369,595</u>

**Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the post-employment health benefit plans are prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental organizations. In doing so, the Division adheres to reporting requirements established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

The accrual basis of accounting is used for measuring financial position and changes in net position of the post-employment health benefit plan. Under this method, contributions are recorded in the accounting period in which they are legally due from the employer or plan member, and deductions are recorded at the time the liabilities are due and payable in accordance with the terms of each plan. The accounts of the Division are organized and operated on the basis of funds. All funds are accounted for using an economic resources measurement focus.

**Collective Net OPEB Liability**

The collective net OPEB liability of the State, as the non-employer contributing entity, of the plan at June 30, 2023 is \$52.4 billion, and the plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability is zero percent.

The total OPEB liabilities at June 30, 2023 were determined based on actuarial valuations as of June 30, 2022 which were rolled forward to June 30, 2023.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**E. Post-Retirement Medical Benefits (Continued)**

**Actuarial Methods and Assumptions**

In the June 30, 2022 OPEB actuarial valuation, the actuarial assumptions and methods used in these valuations were described in the Actuarial Assumptions and Methods section of the Actuary's report and are included here in this note to the financial statements. The Plan selected economic and demographic assumptions and prescribed them for use for purposes of compliance with GASB Statement No. 75. The Actuary provided guidance with respect to these assumptions, and it is their belief that the assumptions represent reasonable expectations of anticipated plan experience.

**Post-Retirement Medical Benefits Contributions**

The funding policy of the OPEB plan is pay as you go basis; therefore, there is no prefunding of the liability. Contributions to pay for the health benefit premiums of participating employees in the OPEB plan are made by the State, as a non-employer contributing entity, under a special funding situation in accordance with State statutes as previously disclosed. The State as a non-employer contributing entity made contributions of \$1.44 billion to the OPEB plan in fiscal year 2023.

The State sets the contribution rate based on a pay as you go basis rather than the actuarial determined contribution an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement 75. The actuarial determined contribution represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal cost each year and any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) of the plan using a systematic and rational method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with OPEB through the Plan. The State's contributions, as a nonemployer contributing entity, to the State Health Benefits Program Fund – Local Education Retired Employees Plan for retirees' post-retirement benefits on behalf of the School District for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022 were \$1,645,538, \$1,503,196 and \$1,335,749, respectively, which equaled the required contributions for each year. The State's contributions to the State Health Benefits Program Fund – Local Education Retired Employees Plan for PERS retirees' post-retirement benefits on behalf of the School District was not determined or made available by the State of New Jersey. The on-behalf OPEB contributions are recognized in the governmental fund financial statements (modified accrual basis) as both a revenue and expenditure in accordance with GASB No. 85.

**OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expenses and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

GASB Statement No. 75 requires participating employers in the State Health Benefit Program Fund – Local Education Retired Employees Plan to recognize their proportionate share of the collective OPEB liability, collective deferred outflows of resources, collective deferred inflows of resources and collective OPEB expense based on a measurement date no earlier than the end of the employer's prior fiscal year. The nonemployer allocation percentages presented are based on the ratio of the State's contributions made as a nonemployer toward the actuarially determined contribution amount to total contributions to the plan during the measurement period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Nonemployer allocation percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes.

In accordance with GASB No. 75, the District is not required to recognize an OPEB liability for the post-employment health benefit plan. The State of New Jersey, as a nonemployer contributing entity, is the only entity that has a legal obligation to make employer contributions to the plan on behalf of the District. Accordingly, the District's proportionate share percentage determined under Statement No. 75 is zero percent and the State's proportionate share is 100% of the OPEB liability attributable to the District. Therefore, in addition, the District does not recognize any portion of the collective deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the plan.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the District recognized in the district-wide statement of activities (accrual basis) OPEB expense of \$2,532,270. This amount has been included in the district-wide statement of activities (accrual basis) as both a revenue and expense in accordance with GASB No. 85.

At June 30, 2024 the State's proportionate share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District is \$54,954,266. The nonemployer allocation percentages are based on the ratio of the State's proportionate share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District at June 30, 2023 to the total OPEB liability of the State Health Benefit Program Fund – Local Education Retired Employees Plan at June 30, 2023. At June 30, 2023, the state's share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District was .10495 percent, which was a decrease of .00105 percent from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2022 of .10600 percent.

ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)

E. Post-Retirement Medical Benefits (Continued)

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expenses and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions

The OPEB liability for the June 30, 2023 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2023. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement.

	<u>PERS</u>	<u>TPAF</u>
Salary Increases	2.75% to 6.55% Based on Years of Service	2.75% to 4.25% Based on Years of Service

Preretirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 Health “Teachers” (TPAF) and “General” (PERS) classification headcount-weighted mortality table with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using Scale MP-2021. Postretirement mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 “General” classification headcount-weighted mortality table with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using Scale MP-2021. Disability mortality was based on the Pub-2010 “General” classification headcount-weighted disabled mortality table with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using Scale MP-2021 for current disables retirees. Future disabled retirees was based on the Pub-2010 “General” (PERS) and “Teachers” (TPAF) classification headcount-weighted disabled mortality table with fully generational mortality improvement projections from the central year using Scale MP-2021.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were based on the results of the TPAF and PERS actuarial experience studies for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

100% of active members are considered to participate in the plan upon retirement.

Health Care Trend Assumptions

For pre-Medicare medical benefits, the trend rate is initially 6.50% and decreases to a 4.50% long-term trend rate after nine years. For post-65 medical benefits PPO, the trend is increasing to 14.8% in fiscal year 2026 and decreases to 4.50% in fiscal year 2033. For HMO the trend is increasing to 17.4% in fiscal year 2026 and decreases to 4.5% in fiscal year 2033. For prescription drug benefits, the initial trend rate is 9.5% and decreases to a 4.50% long-term trend rate after seven years. For the Medicare Part B reimbursement, the trend rate is 5.00%.

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**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**E. Post-Retirement Medical Benefits (Continued)**

**OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expenses and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (Continued)**

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate for June 30, 2023 was 3.65%. This represents the municipal bond return rate as chosen by the Division. The source is the Bond Buyer Go 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index, which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. As the long-term rate of return is less than the municipal bond rate, it is not considered in the calculation of the discount rate, rather the discount rate is set at the municipal bond rate.

**Changes in the Total OPEB Liability**

The change in the State’s proportionate share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 (measurement date June 30, 2023) is as follows:

	Total OPEB Liability (State Share 100%)
Balance, June 30, 2022 Measurement Date	\$ 53,683,718
Changes Recognized for the Fiscal Year:	
Service Cost	3,086,715
Interest on the Total OPEB Liability	1,935,422
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	(2,403,259)
Changes of Assumptions	110,765
Gross Benefit Payments	(1,508,693)
Contributions from the Member	49,598
Net Changes	\$ 1,270,548
Balance, June 30, 2023 Measurement Date	\$ 54,954,266

Changes of assumptions and other inputs reflect a change in the discount rate from 3.54% in 2022 to 3.65% in 2023.

The change in the total OPEB liability was based on the State’s proportionate share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District at June 30, 2023.

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**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**E. Post-Retirement Medical Benefits (Continued)**

**OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expenses and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB (Continued)**

**Sensitivity of OPEB Liability**

*Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate.* The following presents the State's proportionate share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District calculated using the discount rate of 3.65%, as well as what the State's proportionate share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District that would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.65%) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.65%) than the current rate:

	<b>1% Decrease <u>(2.65%)</u></b>	<b>Current Discount Rate <u>(3.65%)</u></b>	<b>1% Increase <u>(4.65%)</u></b>
State's Proportionate Share of the OPEB Liability Attributable to the District	<u>\$ 64,424,442</u>	<u>\$ 54,954,266</u>	<u>\$ 47,350,814</u>

*Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates.* The following presents the State's proportionate share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	<b>1% Decrease <u></u></b>	<b>Healthcare Cost Trend Rates <u></u></b>	<b>1% Increase <u></u></b>
State's Proportionate Share of the OPEB Liability Attributable to the District	<u>\$ 45,620,513</u>	<u>\$ 54,954,266</u>	<u>\$ 67,167,506</u>

The sensitivity analyses were based on the State's proportionate share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District at June 30, 2023. Sensitivity analyses specific to the State's proportionate share of the OPEB liability attributable to the District at June 30, 2023 were not provided by the pension system.

**F. Tax Abatements**

As defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), a tax abatement is an agreement between a government and an individual or entity in which the government promises to forgo tax revenues and the individual or entity promises to subsequently take a specific action that contributes to economic development or otherwise benefits the government or its citizens. School districts are not authorized by New Jersey statute to enter into tax abatement agreements. However, the county or municipality in which the school district is situated may have entered into tax abatement agreements, and that potential school tax revenue must be disclosed in these financial statements. If the county or municipality entered into tax abatement agreements, those agreements will not directly affect the school district's local tax revenue because N.J.S.A. 54:4-75 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-76 require that amounts so forgiven must effectively be recouped from other taxpayers and remitted to the school district.

For Elmwood Park Board of Education, the District's share of abated taxes resulting from the municipality having entered into a tax abatement agreement is indeterminate.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**NOTE 4 OTHER INFORMATION (Continued)**

**G. Subsequent Events**

**Appropriation of Fund Balance**

On August 27, 2024 the Board approved the appropriation of \$850,300 of General Fund unassigned fund balance to the 2024/2025 budget.

On August 27, 2024 the Board approved the appropriations of an additional \$141,544 of Maintenance Reserve restricted fund balance to the 2024/2025 budget.

**NOTE 5 RECENT HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENTS**

In early March of 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic following the global outbreak of COVID-19, a respiratory disease caused by a newly discovered strain of coronavirus. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national public health emergency to unlock federal funds and assistance to help states and local governments fight the pandemic. The Governor of the State declared a state of emergency and a public health emergency on March 9, 2020. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, federal and State legislation and executive orders were implemented to mitigate the spread of the disease and provide relief to State and local governments. The pandemic and certain mitigation measures altered the behavior of businesses and people with negative impacts on regional, State and local economies. The national public health emergency and the State public health emergency have since ended, while the state of emergency declared by the State and several executive orders signed by the Governor remain to manage COVID-19 on an endemic level. Depending on future circumstances, ongoing actions could be taken by State, federal and local governments and private entities to mitigate the spread and impacts of COVID-19, its variants or other critical health care challenges.

To date, the overall finances and operations of the Board have not been materially adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, the degree of any future impact to the Board's operations and finances is difficult to predict due to the dynamic nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and any additional actions that may be taken by governmental and other health care authorities to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, H.R. 1319 (the "Plan"), signed into law by the President of the United States on March 11, 2021, provided \$1.9 trillion in relief designed to provide funding to address the COVID-19 pandemic and alleviate the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plan, in part, provides funding for State and local governments to offset costs to safely reopen schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and to subsidize COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs. In addition, the Plan includes \$350 billion in relief funds to public entities, such as the Board.

The Board has been awarded a total of \$8,197,974 in federal aid to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## **BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES**

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Adjustments</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Final To Actual</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Local Sources					
Property Tax Levy	\$ 35,460,498		\$ 35,460,498	\$ 35,460,498	
Tuition from Other LEA's / Within State				134,892	\$ 134,892
Interest Earned				1,548,461	1,548,461
Interest Earned in Emergency Reserve	250		250		(250)
Interest Earned in Maintenance Reserve	750		750		(750)
Interest Earned in Capital Reserve Funds	1,000		1,000		(1,000)
Unrestricted Miscellaneous Revenues	130,000	-	130,000	588,238	458,238
Total Local Revenues	35,592,498	-	35,592,498	37,732,089	2,139,591
State Sources					
Special Education Aid	2,318,383		2,318,383	2,318,383	-
Equalization Aid	16,347,421		16,347,421	16,347,421	-
Security Aid	760,674		760,674	760,674	-
Transportation Aid	547,120		547,120	547,120	-
Extraordinary Special Education Costs Aid				850,300	850,300
Nonpublic School Transportation Costs				82,810	82,810
Homeless Tuition Reimbursement				253,833	253,833
On-Behalf TPAF Contributions (Non-Budgeted)					
Pension Benefit Contribution				5,977,964	5,977,964
Pension - NCGI Premium				68,175	68,175
Post Retirement Medical Benefit Contribution				1,645,538	1,645,538
Long Term Disability Insurance				3,278	3,278
Reimbursed Social Security Contribution	-	-	-	1,367,746	1,367,746
Total State Revenues	19,973,598	-	19,973,598	30,223,242	10,249,644
Federal Sources					
Special Education Medicaid Initiative Reimbursement	53,315	-	53,315	16,501	(36,814)
Total Federal Revenues	53,315	-	53,315	16,501	(36,814)
Total Revenues	55,619,411	-	55,619,411	67,971,832	12,352,421
<b>CURRENT EXPENDITURES</b>					
Regular Programs - Instruction					
Salaries of Teachers					
Kindergarten	907,538	\$ (50,000)	857,538	536,241	321,297
Grades 1-5	3,861,353	51,858	3,913,211	3,629,868	283,343
Grades 6-8	2,437,622	(101,858)	2,335,764	2,209,458	126,306
Grades 9-12	3,773,653	(135,730)	3,637,923	3,324,551	313,372
Regular Programs - Home Instruction					
Salaries of Teachers	15,000	37,890	52,890	52,890	-
Purchased Professional-Educational Services	12,000	5,855	17,855	10,882	6,973
Regular Programs - Undistributed Instruction					
Other Salaries for Instruction	147,350	(6,091)	141,259	135,406	5,853
Purchased Professional-Educational Services	15,000	-	15,000	9,375	5,625
Purchased Technical Services	85,000	15,232	100,232	99,291	941
Other Purchased Services	260,700	23,699	284,399	199,348	85,051
General Supplies	1,103,132	(3,050)	1,100,082	214,518	885,564
Textbooks	26,552	(19,493)	7,059	7,059	-
Total Regular Programs	12,644,900	(181,688)	12,463,212	10,428,887	2,034,325

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Adjustments</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Final To Actual</u>
<b>CURRENT EXPENDITURES (Continued)</b>					
Special Education					
Learning / Language Disabilities					
Salaries of Teachers	\$ 456,655	\$ (25,000)	\$ 431,655	\$ 377,183	\$ 54,472
Other Salaries for Instruction	93,200	(10,000)	83,200	46,088	37,112
Total Learning / Language Disabilities	549,855	(35,000)	514,855	423,271	91,584
Behavioral Disabilities					
Salaries of Teachers	113,528	-	113,528	107,681	5,847
Other Salaries for Instruction	20,100	(10,000)	10,100	-	10,100
Total Behavioral Disabilities	133,628	(10,000)	123,628	107,681	15,947
Multiple Disabilities					
Salaries of Teachers	328,706	(28,000)	300,706	188,877	111,829
Other Salaries for Instruction	60,300	-	60,300	32,888	27,412
General Supplies	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000
Total Multiple Disabilities	391,006	(28,000)	363,006	221,765	141,241
Resource Room / Resource Center					
Salaries of Teachers	1,983,840	237,224	2,221,064	2,217,337	3,727
Other Salaries for Instruction	176,400	(48,627)	127,773	111,076	16,697
General Supplies	1,000	-	1,000	198	802
Total Resource Room / Resource Center	2,161,240	188,597	2,349,837	2,328,611	21,226
Autism					
Salaries of Teachers	532,520	(50,000)	482,520	404,429	78,091
Other Salaries for Instruction	525,000	(178,915)	346,085	183,038	163,047
General Supplies	15,000	318	15,318	12,441	2,877
Total Autism	1,072,520	(228,597)	843,923	599,908	244,015
Preschool Disabilities - Part - Time					
Salaries of Teachers	192,645	-	192,645	126,266	66,379
Other Salaries for Instruction	37,200	-	37,200	-	37,200
Total Preschool Disabilities - Part - Time	229,845	-	229,845	126,266	103,579
Preschool Disabilities - Full - Time					
Salaries of Teachers	172,233	15,037	187,270	187,270	-
Other Salaries for Instruction	134,200	(63,036)	71,164	68,087	3,077
Total Preschool Disabilities - Full - Time	306,433	(47,999)	258,434	255,357	3,077
Home Instruction					
Salaries of Teachers	40,000	-	40,000	19,680	20,320
Total Home Instruction	40,000	-	40,000	19,680	20,320
Total Special Education	4,884,527	(160,999)	4,723,528	4,082,539	640,989

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Adjustments</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Final To Actual</u>
<b>CURRENT EXPENDITURES (Continued)</b>					
Basic Skills/Remedial					
Salaries of Teachers	\$ 518,899	\$ 1,914	\$ 520,813	\$ 508,996	\$ 11,817
Total Basic Skills/Remedial	<u>518,899</u>	<u>1,914</u>	<u>520,813</u>	<u>508,996</u>	<u>11,817</u>
Bilingual Education					
Salaries of Teachers	<u>343,137</u>	<u>46,087</u>	<u>389,224</u>	<u>331,306</u>	<u>57,918</u>
Total Bilingual Education	<u>343,137</u>	<u>46,087</u>	<u>389,224</u>	<u>331,306</u>	<u>57,918</u>
School Sponsored Co-Curricular Activities					
Salaries	214,008	15,251	229,259	229,206	53
Purchased Services	10,000	(7,500)	2,500	2,499	1
Supplies and Materials	<u>8,000</u>	<u>(3,287)</u>	<u>4,713</u>	<u>4,285</u>	<u>428</u>
Total School Sponsored Co-Curricular Activities	<u>232,008</u>	<u>4,464</u>	<u>236,472</u>	<u>235,990</u>	<u>482</u>
School Sponsored Athletics - Instruction					
Salaries	415,911	(3,381)	412,530	339,721	72,809
Purchased Services	125,500	(80,000)	45,500	15,872	29,628
Supplies and Materials	51,975	(500)	51,475	32,652	18,823
Other Objects	<u>18,531</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>19,031</u>	<u>18,016</u>	<u>1,015</u>
Total School Sponsored Athletics - Instruction	<u>611,917</u>	<u>(83,381)</u>	<u>528,536</u>	<u>406,261</u>	<u>122,275</u>
Other Suppl./At-Risk Program - Instruction					
Salaries of Teacher Tutors	<u>300,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>181,341</u>	<u>118,659</u>
Total Other Suppl./At-Risk Program - Instruction	<u>300,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>181,341</u>	<u>118,659</u>
Total - Instruction	<u>19,535,388</u>	<u>(373,603)</u>	<u>19,161,785</u>	<u>16,175,320</u>	<u>2,986,465</u>
Undistributed Expenditures					
Instruction (Tuition)					
Tuition - Other LEA's Within State - Special	880,000	(379,062)	500,938		500,938
Tuition to County Vocational School District-Reg.	558,900	(69,852)	489,048	456,000	33,048
Tuition to County Vocational School District-Spec.	1,116,720	-	1,116,720	691,857	424,863
Tuition to County Special Services School					
Districts & Regional Day Schools	2,222,850	448,098	2,670,948	1,297,264	1,373,684
Tuition to Private Schools - Disabled Within State	1,792,185	384,172	2,176,357	1,862,037	314,320
Tuition - State Facilities	<u>65,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,000</u>
Total Undistributed - Instruction (Tuition)	<u>6,635,655</u>	<u>383,356</u>	<u>7,019,011</u>	<u>4,307,158</u>	<u>2,711,853</u>
Attendance and Social Work Services					
Salaries	188,571	13,230	201,801	201,801	-
Supplies and Materials	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total Attendance and Social Work Services	<u>189,571</u>	<u>13,230</u>	<u>202,801</u>	<u>201,801</u>	<u>1,000</u>

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Budget Adjustments</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance Final To Actual</b>
<b>CURRENT EXPENDITURES (Continued)</b>					
Health Services					
Salaries	\$ 364,666	\$ (38,245)	\$ 326,421	\$ 291,860	\$ 34,561
Purchased Professional and Technical Services	63,500	73,613	137,113	121,313	15,800
Supplies and Materials	28,020	(15,145)	12,875	12,236	639
Total Health Services	456,186	20,223	476,409	425,409	51,000
Speech, OT, PT and Related Services					
Salaries	626,413	50,462	676,875	642,917	33,958
Purchased Professional - Educational Services	414,000	27,187	441,187	375,926	65,261
Supplies and Materials	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	-
Total Speech, OT, PT and Related Services	1,044,413	77,649	1,122,062	1,022,843	99,219
Other Support Services-Students-Extra Services					
Salaries	793,800	(191,952)	601,848	601,848	-
Purchased Professional-Educational Services	1,065,000	199,837	1,264,837	1,055,543	209,294
Supplies and Materials	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000
Total Other Support Services-Extra Services	1,860,800	7,885	1,868,685	1,657,391	211,294
Guidance					
Salaries of Other Professional Staff	869,545	(159,068)	710,477	563,465	147,012
Salaries of Secretarial and Clerical Assistants	49,927	(4,388)	45,539	42,706	2,833
Other Purchased Services	8,800	-	8,800	4,959	3,841
Supplies and Materials	1,200	(123)	1,077	381	696
Total Guidance	929,472	(163,579)	765,893	611,511	154,382
Child Study Team					
Salaries of Other Professional Staff	911,421	149,562	1,060,983	1,060,983	-
Salaries of Secretarial and Clerical Assistants	40,388	1,137	41,525	41,525	-
Other Purchased Professional and Technical Services	150,000	(134,587)	15,413	13,373	2,040
Other Purchased Services	5,000	(1,493)	3,507	3,506	1
Supplies and Materials	15,000	539	15,539	15,539	-
Total Child Study Team	1,121,809	15,158	1,136,967	1,134,926	2,041
Improvement of Instruction Services					
Salaries of Supervisor of Instruction	122,651	3,029	125,680	125,680	-
Salaries of Other Professional Staff	34,063	-	34,063	31,273	2,790
Other Salaries		4,000	4,000	3,006	994
Other Purchased Professional and Technical Services	93,500	(10,242)	83,258	15,260	67,998
Other Purchased Services	10,000	-	10,000	3,506	6,494
Supplies and Materials	20,000	-	20,000	12,986	7,014
Total Improvement of Instruction Services	280,214	(3,213)	277,001	191,711	85,290

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Budget Adjustments</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance Final To Actual</b>
<b>CURRENT EXPENDITURES (Continued)</b>					
Educational Media Services/School Library					
Salaries	\$ 182,997	\$ 20,905	\$ 203,902	\$ 203,902	-
Salaries - Technology Coordinator	325,725	(5,198)	320,527	320,527	-
Other Purchased Services	8,000	(1,223)	6,777	6,776	\$ 1
Supplies and Materials	8,290	(3,285)	5,005	4,125	880
Total Educational Media Services/School Library	525,012	11,199	536,211	535,330	881
Instructional Staff Training Services					
Salaries of Supervisor of Instruction	117,651	3,213	120,864	120,864	-
Total Instructional Staff Training Services	117,651	3,213	120,864	120,864	-
Support Services General Administration					
Salaries	574,622	32,372	606,994	473,689	133,305
Legal Services	93,000	(3,450)	89,550	69,445	20,105
Audit Fees	45,000	37,750	82,750	82,750	-
Architectural/Engineering Services	15,000	6,000	21,000		21,000
Other Purchased Professional Services	24,350	-	24,350	5,660	18,690
Communications/Telephone	229,000	-	229,000	104,094	124,906
Miscellaneous Purchased Services	346,914	-	346,914	283,078	63,836
General Supplies	9,110	-	9,110	335	8,775
Miscellaneous Expenditures	2,000	-	2,000	1,300	700
BOE Membership Dues and Fees	28,055	2,275	30,330	27,806	2,524
Total Support Services General Administration	1,367,051	74,947	1,441,998	1,048,157	393,841
Support Services School Administration					
Salaries of Principals/Asst. Principals/Prog. Dir.	1,893,207	84,673	1,977,880	1,936,630	41,250
Salaries of Secretarial and Clerical Assistants	460,560	15,327	475,887	455,812	20,075
Other Purchased Services	59,792	-	59,792	55,723	4,069
Supplies and Materials	38,110	(3,732)	34,378	23,193	11,185
Total Support Services School Administration	2,451,669	96,268	2,547,937	2,471,358	76,579
Central Services					
Salaries	613,923	56,581	670,504	662,943	7,561
Purchased Professional Services	66,000	21,274	87,274	69,798	17,476
Purchased Technical Services	28,000	7,200	35,200	34,696	504
Travel	2,081	-	2,081	526	1,555
Other Objects	16,500	(6,000)	10,500	8,960	1,540
Supplies and Materials	12,768	-	12,768	9,738	3,030
Total Central Services	739,272	79,055	818,327	786,661	31,666

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Adjustments</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Final To Actual</u>
<b>CURRENT EXPENDITURES (Continued)</b>					
Administration Information Technology					
Salaries	\$ 281,000	\$ (29,055)	\$ 251,945	\$ 206,095	\$ 45,850
Purchased Technical Services	159,356	3,484	162,840	94,627	68,213
Other Purchased Services	39,052	266	39,318	7,787	31,531
Supplies and Materials	28,236	-	28,236	19,768	8,468
Total Administration Information Technology	507,644	(25,305)	482,339	328,277	154,062
Required Maintenance for School Facilities					
Salaries	369,932	-	369,932	329,029	40,903
Cleaning, Repair & Maintenance Services	545,107	2,122,162	2,667,269	1,658,196	1,009,073
General Supplies	107,404	31,149	138,553	90,438	48,115
Other Objects	1,180	475	1,655	1,075	580
Total Required Maintenance for School Facilities	1,023,623	2,153,786	3,177,409	2,078,738	1,098,671
Custodial Services					
Salaries	1,425,153	35,806	1,460,959	1,362,670	98,289
Salaries of Non-Instructional Aides	130,500	(36,660)	93,840	84,908	8,932
Cleaning, Repair and Maintenance Services	94,497	13,136	107,633	54,745	52,888
Other Purchased Property Services	37,886	-	37,886	14,919	22,967
Insurance	326,127	-	326,127	262,501	63,626
General Supplies	139,408	(51,450)	87,958	45,824	42,134
Energy (Natural Gas)	300,000	105,000	405,000	348,757	56,243
Energy (Electricity)	694,700	(135,000)	559,700	388,249	171,451
Energy (Gasoline)	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000
Total Custodial Services	3,158,271	(69,168)	3,089,103	2,562,573	526,530
Care and Upkeep of Grounds					
Cleaning, Repair and Maintenance Services	130,000	-	130,000	81,648	48,352
General Supplies	28,632	-	28,632	2,184	26,448
Total Care and Upkeep of Grounds	158,632	-	158,632	83,832	74,800
Security					
Salaries	50,750	-	50,750	49,118	1,632
Purchased Professional and Technical Services	191,320	-	191,320	184,219	7,101
General Supplies	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000
Total Security	247,070	-	247,070	233,337	13,733
Student Transportation Services					
Salaries for Pupil Transportation					
(Between Home and School) - Regular	15,900	-	15,900	15,441	459
Salaries for Pupil Transportation					
(Between Home and School) - Special	15,900	-	15,900	15,441	459
Salaries for Pupil Transportation					
(Other Than Between Home & School)	30,000	(50)	29,950	26,480	3,470
Cleaning, Repair and Maintenance Services	9,500	7,170	16,670	16,123	547
Contracted Services - Aid-in-Lieu-Nonpublic Schools	200,000	71,018	271,018	253,619	17,399
Contracted Services (Other Than Between Home					
and School) - Vendors	165,000	(14,923)	150,077	82,014	68,063
Contracted Services (Regular) - ESC's & CTSA's	365,000	-	365,000	215,528	149,472
Contracted Services (Spec. Ed.) - ESC's & CTSA's	3,842,613	324,097	4,166,710	3,023,172	1,143,538
Miscellaneous Purchased Services - Transportation	1,393	186,295	187,688	150	187,538
Total Student Transportation Services	4,645,306	573,607	5,218,913	3,647,968	1,570,945

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Budget Adjustments</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance Final To Actual</b>
<b>CURRENT EXPENDITURES (Continued)</b>					
Unallocated Benefits					
Social Security Contributions	\$ 550,000	\$ 13,475	\$ 563,475	\$ 563,475	-
Other Retirement Contributions - PERS	495,000	-	495,000	492,792	\$ 2,208
Other Retirement Contributions - DCRP	60,000	(2,350)	57,650	40,232	17,418
Unemployment Compensation	100,000	-	100,000	94,963	5,037
Workmen's Compensation	237,539	-	237,539	218,671	18,868
Health Benefits	7,110,315	(77,600)	7,032,715	6,058,220	974,495
Tuition Reimbursement	64,260	-	64,260	45,000	19,260
Other Employee Benefits	112,000	56,198	168,198	168,197	1
Unused Sick Payment to Terminated/Retired Staff	13,086	10,277	23,363	23,363	-
Total Unallocated Benefits	8,742,200	-	8,742,200	7,704,913	1,037,287
On-Behalf TPAF Contributions (Non-Budgeted)					
Pension Benefit Contribution				5,977,964	(5,977,964)
Pension - NCGI Premium				68,175	(68,175)
Post Retirement Medical Benefit Contribution				1,645,538	(1,645,538)
Long Term Disability Insurance				3,278	(3,278)
Reimbursed Social Security Contribution	-	-	-	1,367,746	(1,367,746)
Total On-Behalf Contributions	-	-	-	9,062,701	(9,062,701)
Total Undistributed Expenditures	36,201,521	3,248,311	39,449,832	40,217,459	(767,627)
Interest on Maintenance Reserve	750	-	750		750
Interest on Current Expense Emergency Reserve	250	-	250	-	250
Total Expenditures - Current Expenditures	55,737,909	2,874,708	58,612,617	56,392,779	2,219,838
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>					
Equipment					
Undistributed Expenditures - Req. Maint. for School Facilities		69,889	69,889	69,889	-
Undistributed Expenditures - Custodial Services	-	68,693	68,693	68,693	-
Total Equipment	-	138,582	138,582	138,582	-
Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services					
Architectural/Engineering Services	847,991	160,418	1,008,409	129,584	878,825
Construction Services	7,631,910	(6,442,357)	1,189,553	309,018	880,535
Assessment for Debt Service on SDA Funding	170,358	-	170,358	170,358	-
Total Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services	8,650,259	(6,281,939)	2,368,320	608,960	1,759,360
Interest on Capital Reserve	1,000	-	1,000	-	1,000
Total Capital Outlay	8,651,259	(6,143,357)	2,507,902	747,542	1,760,360
Transfer of Funds to Charter Schools	1,175,000	77,667	1,252,667	1,242,818	9,849
Total Expenditures	\$ 65,564,168	\$ (3,190,982)	\$ 62,373,186	\$ 58,383,139	\$ 3,990,047
(Under) Expenditures	(9,944,757)	3,190,982	(6,753,775)	9,588,693	16,342,468
Other Financing Sources / (Uses)					
Transfer Out - Special Revenue Fund		(80,000)	(80,000)	(80,000)	-
Transfer Out - Capital Projects Fund		(6,773,001)	(6,773,001)	(6,773,001)	-
Transfer Out - Debt Service Fund	(700,000)	-	(700,000)	(700,000)	-
Transfer Out - Food Service Enterprise Fund	-	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	-
Total Other Financing Sources / (Uses)	\$ (700,000)	\$ (7,003,001)	\$ (7,703,001)	\$ (7,703,001)	\$ -

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GENERAL FUND  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Budget Adjustments</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Final To Actual</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	\$ (10,644,757)	\$ (3,812,019)	\$ (14,456,776)	\$ 1,885,692	\$ 16,342,468
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	<u>34,668,519</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,668,519</u>	<u>34,668,519</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balances, End of Year	<u>\$ 24,023,762</u>	<u>\$ (3,812,019)</u>	<u>\$ 20,211,743</u>	<u>\$ 36,554,211</u>	<u>\$ 16,342,468</u>
<b>Recapitulation of Fund Balance</b>					
<b>Restricted</b>					
Capital Reserve				\$ 20,996,122	
Capital Reserve - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures				7,482,805	
Maintenance Reserve				2,111,853	
Emergency Reserve				450,000	
Reserved Excess Surplus				1,114,111	
Reserved Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures				1,114,111	
<b>Committed</b>					
Year-End Encumbrances				135,394	
<b>Assigned</b>					
Year-End Encumbrances				1,079,236	
<b>Unassigned</b>				<u>2,070,579</u>	
Fund Balance Per State Budgetary Basis of Accounting				36,554,211	
<b>Reconciliation to Governmental Funds Statements (GAAP)</b>					
Less: State Aid Revenue Not Recognized on GAAP Basis				<u>(2,719,310)</u>	
Fund Balance Per Governmental Funds (GAAP)				<u>\$ 33,834,901</u>	

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<b><u>Original Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Budget Adjustments</u></b>	<b><u>Final Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Variance Final to Actual</u></b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Intergovernmental					
State	\$ 193,372	\$ 112,836	\$ 306,208	\$ 228,537	\$ (77,671)
Federal	1,140,549	3,495,405	4,635,954	4,313,268	(322,686)
Local Sources					
Miscellaneous	70,000	146,927	216,927	211,594	(5,333)
Total Revenues	<u>1,403,921</u>	<u>3,755,168</u>	<u>5,159,089</u>	<u>4,753,399</u>	<u>(405,690)</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Instruction					
Salaries	\$ 652,850	\$ (211,474)	\$ 441,376	\$ 371,376	\$ 70,000
Purchased Professional and Educational Services	51,534	(51,534)		-	-
Tuition	506,165	221,963	728,128	728,128	-
General Supplies	34,373	526,198	560,571	480,643	79,928
Textbooks	9,507	434,976	444,483	444,282	201
Other Objects		500	500	500	-
Co-Curricular/Extra-Curricular Activities		174,379	174,379	174,379	-
Athletic Activities	-	75,989	75,989	75,989	-
Total Instruction	<u>1,254,429</u>	<u>1,170,997</u>	<u>2,425,426</u>	<u>2,275,297</u>	<u>150,129</u>
Support Services					
Other Salaries		493,606	493,606	466,036	27,570
Personal Services - Employee Benefits		193,686	193,686	178,745	14,941
Purchased Professional and Technical Services		310,570	310,570	300,435	10,135
Purchased Professional and Educational Services	149,492	120,716	270,208	159,259	110,949
Other Purchased Services		169,413	169,413	151,009	18,404
Supplies and Materials	-	6,805	6,805	50	6,755
Total Support Services	<u>149,492</u>	<u>1,294,796</u>	<u>1,444,288</u>	<u>1,255,534</u>	<u>188,754</u>
Capital Outlay					
Buildings	-	1,289,375	1,289,375	1,280,996	8,379
Total Capital Outlay	<u>-</u>	<u>1,289,375</u>	<u>1,289,375</u>	<u>1,280,996</u>	<u>8,379</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>1,403,921</u>	<u>3,755,168</u>	<u>5,159,089</u>	<u>4,811,827</u>	<u>347,262</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over/(Under) Expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(58,428)</u>	<u>(58,428)</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
Transfers In - General Fund	-	-	-	80,000	80,000
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>80,000</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	-	-	-	21,572	21,572
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	<u>132,596</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,596</u>	<u>132,596</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 132,596</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 132,596</u>	<u>\$ 154,168</u>	<u>\$ 21,572</u>
<b>Recapitulation of Fund Balance</b>					
<b>Restricted</b>					
Student Activities				<u>\$ 154,168</u>	

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES  
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

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

The following presents a reconciliation of the General and Special Revenue Funds from the budgetary basis of accounting as presented in the Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund and Special Revenue Fund to the GAAP basis of accounting as presented in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds.

	<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Special Revenue Fund</u></b>
<b>Sources/inflows of resources</b>		
Actual amounts (budgetary basis) "revenue" from the budgetary comparison schedule	\$ 67,971,832	\$ 4,753,399
Difference - Budget to GAAP:		
State Aid payments recognized for budgetary purposes, not recognized for GAAP statements. (2023-2024)	(2,719,310)	
State Aid payments recognized for GAAP statements, not recognized for budgetary purposes. (2022-2023)	2,453,859	
Grant accounting budgetary basis differs from GAAP in that encumbrances are recognized as expenditures, and the related revenue is recognized.		
Encumbrances - June 30, 2023		124,907
Encumbrances - June 30, 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>(581,439)</u>
Total revenues as reported on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds.	<u>\$ 67,706,381</u>	<u>\$ 4,296,867</u>
<b>Uses/outflows of resources</b>		
Actual amounts (budgetary basis) "total expenditures" from the budgetary comparison schedule	\$ 58,383,139	\$ 4,811,827
Differences - Budget to GAAP		
Encumbrances for supplies and equipment ordered but not received are reported in the year the order is placed for <i>budgetary</i> purposes, but in the year the supplies are received for financial reporting purposes.		
Encumbrances - June 30, 2023		130,977
Encumbrances - June 30, 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>(582,557)</u>
Total expenditures as reported on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	<u>\$ 58,383,139</u>	<u>\$ 4,360,247</u>

**PENSION INFORMATION  
AND  
OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS INFORMATION**

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY**

**Public Employees Retirement System**

**Last Ten Fiscal Years\***

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
District's Proportion of the Net Position Liability (Asset)	0.03687%	0.03430%	.03395%	.03455%	.03383%	.03565%	.03542%	0.03524%	0.03370%	0.03506%
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ 5,340,545	\$ 5,176,648	\$ 4,021,432	\$ 5,633,865	\$ 6,095,315	\$ 7,019,420	\$ 8,244,092	\$ 10,437,473	\$ 7,565,220	\$ 6,564,359
District's Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 2,848,637	\$ 2,566,657	\$ 2,573,752	\$ 2,486,928	\$ 2,417,083	\$ 2,441,484	\$ 2,449,487	\$ 2,336,786	\$ 2,268,342	\$ 2,464,462
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll	187.48%	201.69%	156.25%	226.54%	252.18%	287.51%	336.56%	446.66%	333.51%	266.36%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	65.23%	62.91%	70.33%	58.32%	56.27%	53.60%	48.10%	40.14%	47.93%	52.08%

\* The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the previous fiscal year-end.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Public Employees Retirement System**

**Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 492,792	\$ 432,565	\$ 397,549	\$ 377,938	\$ 329,049	\$ 354,608	\$ 328,084	\$ 313,079	\$ 289,739	\$ 289,037
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>492,792</u>	<u>432,565</u>	<u>397,549</u>	<u>377,938</u>	<u>329,049</u>	<u>354,608</u>	<u>328,084</u>	<u>313,079</u>	<u>289,739</u>	<u>289,037</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-Employee Payroll	\$ 3,350,532	\$ 2,848,637	\$ 2,566,657	\$ 2,573,752	\$ 2,486,928	\$ 2,417,083	\$ 2,441,484	\$ 2,449,487	\$ 2,336,786	\$ 2,268,342
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	14.71%	15.18%	15.49%	14.68%	13.23%	14.52%	13.44%	12.78%	12.40%	12.74%

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY**

**Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund**

**Last Ten Fiscal Years\***

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
District's Proportion of the Net Position Liability (Asset)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) Associated with the District	<u>\$ 70,454,169</u>	<u>\$ 70,656,250</u>	<u>\$ 64,917,328</u>	<u>\$ 84,319,464</u>	<u>\$ 78,125,309</u>	<u>\$ 78,909,522</u>	<u>\$ 79,894,315</u>	<u>\$ 91,219,332</u>	<u>\$ 72,022,972</u>	<u>\$ 63,892,836</u>
Total	<u>\$ 70,454,169</u>	<u>\$ 70,656,250</u>	<u>\$ 64,917,328</u>	<u>\$ 84,319,464</u>	<u>\$ 78,125,309</u>	<u>\$ 78,909,522</u>	<u>\$ 79,894,315</u>	<u>\$ 91,219,332</u>	<u>\$ 72,022,972</u>	<u>\$ 63,892,836</u>
District's Covered Payroll	\$ 17,082,644	\$ 16,348,717	\$ 15,974,491	\$ 15,245,371	\$ 14,606,965	\$ 13,693,149	\$ 13,506,891	\$ 12,040,919	\$ 11,393,763	\$ 11,250,968
District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	34.68%	32.29%	35.52%	24.60%	26.95%	26.49%	25.41%	22.33%	28.71%	33.64%

\* The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the previous fiscal year-end.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY  
AND SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS  
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Change of Benefit Terms:** None.

**Change of Assumptions:** Assumptions used in calculating the net pension liability and  
statutorily required employer contribution are presented in Note 4D.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF  
TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY**

**Postemployment Health Benefit Plan**

**Last Seven Fiscal Years\***

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>							
Service Cost	\$ 3,086,715	\$ 4,086,128	\$ 4,699,112	\$ 2,534,947	\$ 2,223,563	\$ 2,427,458	\$ 2,960,139
Interest on Total OPEB Liability	1,935,422	1,422,678	1,660,512	1,612,890	1,920,201	2,006,606	1,713,733
Changes of Benefit Terms			(68,132)				
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	(2,403,259)	(70,910)	(13,064,453)	11,754,289	(7,382,258)	(3,872,671)	
Changes of Assumptions	110,765	(14,401,139)	63,152	13,149,429	658,280	(5,513,442)	(7,165,584)
Gross Benefit Payments	(1,508,693)	(1,409,204)	(1,308,018)	(1,253,223)	(1,355,274)	(1,284,715)	(1,649,441)
Contribution from the Member	<u>49,598</u>	<u>45,208</u>	<u>42,451</u>	<u>37,985</u>	<u>40,174</u>	<u>44,402</u>	<u>60,737</u>
<b>Net Change in Total OPEB Liability</b>	1,270,548	(10,327,239)	(7,975,376)	27,836,317	(3,895,314)	(6,192,362)	(4,080,416)
<b>Total OPEB Liability - Beginning</b>	<u>\$ 53,683,718</u>	<u>\$ 64,010,957</u>	<u>\$ 71,986,333</u>	<u>\$ 44,150,016</u>	<u>\$ 48,045,330</u>	<u>\$ 54,237,692</u>	<u>58,318,108</u>
<b>Total OPEB Liability - Ending</b>	<u>\$ 54,954,266</u>	<u>\$ 53,683,718</u>	<u>\$ 64,010,957</u>	<u>\$ 71,986,333</u>	<u>\$ 44,150,016</u>	<u>\$ 48,045,330</u>	<u>\$ 54,237,692</u>
 District's Proportionate Share of OPEB Liability	 \$ -	 \$ -	 \$ -	 \$ -	 \$ -	 \$ -	 \$ -
State's Proportionate Share of OPEB Liability	<u>54,954,266</u>	<u>53,683,718</u>	<u>64,010,957</u>	<u>71,986,333</u>	<u>48,045,330</u>	<u>48,045,330</u>	<u>54,237,692</u>
Total OPEB Liability - Ending	<u>\$ 54,954,266</u>	<u>\$ 53,683,718</u>	<u>\$ 64,010,957</u>	<u>\$ 71,986,333</u>	<u>\$ 48,045,330</u>	<u>\$ 48,045,330</u>	<u>\$ 54,237,692</u>
 District's Covered Payroll	 <u>\$ 19,931,281</u>	 <u>\$ 18,915,374</u>	 <u>\$ 18,548,243</u>	 <u>\$ 17,732,299</u>	 <u>\$ 17,024,048</u>	 <u>\$ 16,134,633</u>	 <u>\$ 15,956,378</u>
 District's Proportionate Share of the Total OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	 0%	 0%	 0%	 0%	 0%	 0%	 0%

Note: No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of GASB 75.

\*The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the previous fiscal year end.

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years in accordance with GASB Statement No. 75. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, the District will only present information for those years for which information is available.

**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE OPEB LIABILITY  
AND SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE OPEB LIABILITY  
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Changes in Benefit Terms:**

None.

**Changes of Assumptions**

Assumptions used in calculating the OPEB liability are presented in Note 4E.

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## **APPENDIX C**

### **Form of Bond Counsel's Approving Legal Opinion**

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90 Woodbridge Center Drive  
Suite 900 Box 10  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-0958  
732.636.8000

\_\_\_\_\_, 2025

The Board of Education of the  
Borough of Elmwood Park  
Elmwood Park, New Jersey

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have served as bond counsel in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance of \$\_\_\_\_\_ aggregate principal amount of Energy Savings Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2025 (the “Bonds”) of The Board of Education of the Borough of Elmwood Park in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the “Board” when referring to the governing body and the “School District” when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board).

The Bonds are issued pursuant to: (i) the Energy Savings Improvement Program Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.6(c)(3) (the “Energy Savings Improvement Law”) and N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.1 et seq. (the “School Bond Law”), (ii) a refunding bond ordinance finally adopted by the Board on August 26, 2025 (the “Refunding Bond Ordinance”) and (iii) a resolution duly adopted by the Board on August 26, 2025 (the “Resolution”).

The Bonds are being issued for the purpose of (i) financing the costs of an energy savings improvement program and (ii) paying the costs of issuance with respect to the Bonds.

The Bonds are issued in fully registered book-entry only form, without coupons, initially registered in the name of and held by Cede & Co., as nominee for The Depository Trust Company, Brooklyn, New York (“DTC”), an automated depository for securities and clearing house for securities transactions. Purchases of the Bonds will be made in book-entry only form in principal amounts of \$1,000 each or any integral multiple thereof with a minimum purchase of \$5,000 required, through book entries made on the books and records of DTC and its participants. So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of the Bonds, payments of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made by the Board directly to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC. Disbursement of such payments to DTC participants is the responsibility of DTC and disbursement of such payments to the beneficial owners of the Bonds is the responsibility of DTC participants.

The Bonds are dated their date of delivery and shall bear interest from such date, which interest shall be payable commencing September 15, 2026 and semi-annually thereafter on the fifteenth day of March and September in each year until maturity or prior redemption, and shall mature on September 15 of the years and in the principal amounts as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2027			2037		
2028			2038		
2029			2039		
2030			2040		
2031			2041		
2032			2042		
2033			2043		
2034			2044		
2035			2045		
2036			2046		

The Bonds of this issue are subject to optional redemption prior to their stated maturities.

We have examined such matters of law, certified copies of the proceedings, including the bond referendum proceedings, and other documents and proofs relative to the issuance and sale of the Bonds as we have deemed necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the opinion rendered below. In such examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals and the conformity to the original documents of all documents submitted to us as copies. As to any facts material to our opinion we have, when relevant facts were not independently established, relied upon the aforesaid instruments, certificates and documents.

We are of the opinion that (i) such proceedings and proofs show lawful authority for the sale and issuance of the Bonds pursuant to the Energy Savings Improvement Law, the School Bond Law, the Refunding Bond Ordinance and the Resolution, (ii) the Bonds are valid and legally binding obligations of the Board, and (iii) all the taxable real property within the School District is subject to the levy of *ad valorem* taxes for the payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds.

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), sets forth certain requirements which must be met subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the Bonds for the interest thereon to be and remain excludable from gross income for Federal income tax purposes. Noncompliance with such requirements could cause interest on the Bonds to be included in gross income for Federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of the

issuance of the Bonds. The Board has covenanted to maintain the exclusion of the interest on the Bonds from gross income for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103(a) of the Code.

In our opinion, under existing law, and assuming continuing compliance by the Board with the aforementioned covenant, under existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, interest on the Bonds is not includable for Federal income tax purposes in the gross income of the owners of the Bonds pursuant to Section 103 of the Code. The Bonds are not “specified private activity bonds” within the meaning of Section 57 of the Code and, therefore, the interest on the Bonds will not be treated as a preference item for purposes of computing the Federal alternative minimum tax; however, such interest is taken into account in determining the annual adjusted financial statement income of certain corporations for the purpose of computing the alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations for tax years beginning after December 31, 2022.

We are further of the opinion that the Bonds constitute “qualified tax-exempt obligations” within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3)(B) of the Code and, therefore, will be treated as if it was acquired on August 7, 1986 for purposes of the limitations on deductibility by financial institutions of interest expense allocable to tax-exempt interest.

We are also of the opinion that, under existing laws of the State of New Jersey, interest on the Bonds and any gain on the sale thereof is not includable in gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act, 1976 N.J. Laws c. 47, as amended and supplemented.

[The Bonds maturing on September 15 in the years 20\_\_ through 20\_\_, inclusive (the “[Premium] Bonds”), have been sold to the public at a premium. Section 171 of the Code provides rules under which a bond premium may be amortized and a deduction allowed for the amount of the amortizable bond premium for a taxable year. Under Section 171(a)(2) of the Code, however, no deduction is allowable for the amortizable bond premium in the case of bonds, like the [Premium] Bonds, the interest on which is excludable from gross income. Under Section 1016(a)(5) of the Code, the purchaser's basis in a [Premium] Bond will be reduced by the amount of the amortizable bond premium disallowable as a deduction under Section 171(2) of the Code. Proceeds received from the sale, exchange, redemption or payment of a [Premium] Bond in excess of the owner's adjusted basis (as reduced pursuant to Section 1016(a)(5) of the Code), will be treated as a gain from the sale or exchange of such [Premium] Bonds and not as interest.]

[We are also of the opinion that the difference between the stated principal amount of the Bonds maturing on September 15 in the years 20\_\_ through 20\_\_, inclusive (the “[Discount] Bonds”) and their respective initial offering prices to the public (excluding bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters or wholesalers), at which price a substantial amount of the [Discount] Bonds of the same maturity and interest rate were sold, constitutes original issue discount which is excluded

from gross income for federal income tax purposes to the same extent as interest on the [Discount] Bonds. Further, such original issue discount accrues actuarially on a constant interest rate basis over the term of each [Discount] Bond and the basis of each [Discount] Bond acquired at such initial offering price by an initial purchaser thereof will be increased by the amount of such accrued original issue discount.]

This opinion is qualified to the extent that the enforceability of the rights or remedies with respect to the Bonds may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, debt adjustment, moratorium, reorganization or other similar laws affecting creditors' rights or remedies heretofore or hereafter enacted to the extent constitutionally applicable and their enforcement may also be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases.

We have examined one of the executed Bonds and, in our opinion, its form and execution are regular and proper.

Very truly yours,

WILENTZ, GOLDMAN & SPITZER, P.A.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Form of Continuing Disclosure Certificate**

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## CONTINUING DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE

This Continuing Disclosure Certificate dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 (the "Disclosure Certificate") is executed and delivered by The Board of Education of the Borough of Elmwood Park in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) in connection with the issuance of its \$\_\_\_\_\_ aggregate principal amount of Energy Savings Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2025 dated their date of delivery (the "Bonds"). The Bonds are being issued pursuant to a Refunding Bond Ordinance finally adopted by the Board on August 26, 2025 and a resolution duly adopted by the Board on August 26, 2025 (the "Bond Resolution"). The Board covenants and agrees as follows:

**SECTION 1. Purpose of the Disclosure Certificate.** This Disclosure Certificate is being executed and delivered by the Board for the benefit of the Bondholders and Beneficial Owners of the Bonds and in order to assist the Participating Underwriter(s) in complying with the Rule (as defined below). The Board acknowledges it is an "Obligated Person" under the Rule (as defined below).

**SECTION 2. Definitions.** In addition to the definitions set forth in the Bond Resolution which apply to any capitalized term used in this Disclosure Certificate unless otherwise defined in this Section, the following capitalized terms shall have the following meanings:

*"Annual Report"* shall mean any Annual Report provided by the Board pursuant to, and as described in, Sections 3 and 4 of this Disclosure Certificate.

*"Beneficial Owner"* shall mean any person which (a) has the power, directly or indirectly, to vote or consent with respect to, or to dispose of ownership of any Bonds, as applicable (including persons holding Bonds, as applicable through nominees, depositories or other intermediaries), or (b) is treated as the owner of any Bonds, as applicable, for Federal income tax purposes.

*"Continuing Disclosure Information"* shall mean, collectively, (i) each Annual Report, (ii) any notice required to be filed by the Board with the EMMA (as defined herein) pursuant to Section 3 of this Disclosure Agreement, and (iii) any notice of a Listed Event required to be filed by the Authority with EMMA pursuant to Section 5 of this Disclosure Agreement.

*"Disclosure Representative"* shall mean the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the Board or his/her designee, or such other person as the Board shall designate in writing from time to time for the purposes of this Disclosure Certificate.

*"Dissemination Agent"* shall mean, initially, the Board or any Dissemination Agent subsequently designated in writing by the Board which has filed with the Board a written acceptance of such designation.

*“EMMA”* shall mean the Electronic Municipal Market Access system, a website created by the MSRB (as defined herein) and approved by the SEC (as defined herein) to provide a central location where investors can obtain municipal bond information including disclosure documents. The Board or the Dissemination Agent shall submit disclosure documents to EMMA as a PDF file to [www.emma.msrb.org](http://www.emma.msrb.org).

*“Financial Obligation”* shall mean a: (a) debt obligation; (b) derivative instrument entered into in connection with, or pledged as security or a source of payment for, an existing or planned debt obligation; or (c) guarantee of (a) or (b) listed hereinabove. The term *“Financial Obligation”* shall not include municipal securities as to which a final official statement has been provided to the MSRB (as defined below) consistent with the Rule (as defined below).

*“Listed Events”* shall mean any of the events listed in Section 5(a) of this Disclosure Certificate.

*“MSRB”* shall mean the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

*“Rule”* shall mean Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as the same may be amended from time to time.

*“SEC”* shall mean the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

*“SEC Release No. 34-59062”* shall mean Release No. 34-59062 of the SEC dated December 5, 2008.

*“State”* shall mean the State of New Jersey.

*“Underwriters”* shall mean any of the original underwriters of the Bonds required to comply with the Rule in connection with the purchase of the Bonds.

**SECTION 3. Provision of Annual Reports.** (a) The Board shall provide or cause to be provided to the Dissemination Agent not later than December 31 of each year, commencing December 31, 2025 (for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025), an Annual Report which is consistent with the requirements of Section 4 of this Disclosure Certificate. Each Annual Report may be submitted as a single document or as separate documents comprising a package, and may cross-reference other information as provided in Section 4 of this Disclosure Certificate; provided that the audited financial statements of the Board may be submitted separately from the balance of the Annual Report; and provided, further, that if the audited financial statements of the Board are not available by December 31, the Board shall include unaudited financial statements with its Annual Report and when such audited financial statements become available to the Board, the same shall be submitted to the Dissemination Agent no later than thirty (30) days after the receipt of the same by the Board.

(b) Not later than January 31 of each year (commencing January 31, 2026) the Dissemination Agent shall provide to EMMA a copy of the Annual Report received by the Dissemination Agent pursuant to subsection (a) hereof.

(c) If the Board does not provide or is unable to provide an Annual Report by the applicable date required in subsection (a) above, such that the Dissemination Agent cannot file the Annual Report with EMMA in accordance with subsection (b) above, the Dissemination Agent shall, in a timely manner, send a notice of such event to EMMA in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, with copies to the Board (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board).

(d) Each year the Dissemination Agent shall file a report with the Board (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board), certifying that the Annual Report has been provided to EMMA pursuant to this Disclosure Certificate, stating the date it was provided.

(e) If the fiscal year of the Board changes, the Board shall give written notice of such change to the Dissemination Agent and the Dissemination Agent shall, within five (5) business days after the receipt thereof from the Board, forward a notice of such change to EMMA in the manner provided in Section 5(e) hereof.

**SECTION 4. Content of Annual Reports.** The Board's Annual Report shall contain or incorporate by reference the following:

(1) The audited financial statements of the Board (or unaudited financial statements if audited financial statements are not then available, which audited financial statements will be delivered when and if available as described in 3(a) above).

The audited financial statements are to be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

(2) The general financial information and operating data consistent with the information set forth in the Official Statement dated September 16, 2025, prepared in connection with the sale of the Bonds (the "Official Statement") consisting of (1) Board indebtedness; (2) property valuation information; and (3) tax rate, levy and collection data.

Any or all of the items listed above may be incorporated by reference from other documents, including official statements of debt issues with respect to which the Board is an "Obligated Person" (as defined by the Rule), which have been filed with EMMA or the Securities and Exchange Commission. If the document incorporated by reference is a final official statement, it must be available from the MSRB. The Board shall clearly identify each such other document so incorporated by reference.

**SECTION 5. Reporting of Significant Events.** (a) This Section 5 shall govern the giving of notices of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds:

- (1) Principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (2) Nonpayment related defaults, if material;
- (3) Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (4) Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
- (5) Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- (6) Adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the Bonds, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Bonds;
- (7) Modifications to rights of Bondholders, if material;
- (8) Bond calls, if material, and tender offers;
- (9) Defeasances of the Bonds;
- (10) Release, substitution or sale of property securing repayment of the Bonds, if material;
- (11) Rating changes of the Bonds;
- (12) Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the Board;
- (13) The consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the Board or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Board, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;
- (14) Appointment of a successor or additional trustee for the Bonds or the change of name of a trustee for the Bonds, if material;

- (15) Incurrence of a Financial Obligation of the Board, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a Financial Obligation of the Board, any of which affect Bondholders, if material; and
- (16) Default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a Financial Obligation of the Board, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

The Board shall, in a timely manner not in excess of ten (10) business days after the occurrence of any Listed Event, file a notice of the occurrence of such Listed Event with the MSRB in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of this Disclosure Certificate. In determining the materiality of any of the Listed Events specified in this subsection (a) of this Section 5, the Board may, but shall not be required to, rely conclusively on an opinion of counsel.

(b) Whenever the Board has or obtains knowledge of the occurrence of any of the Listed Events, the Board shall, as soon as possible, determine if such event would constitute information material to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds.

(c) If the Board determines that the occurrence of a Listed Event would be material to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, the Board shall promptly notify the Dissemination Agent in writing (if the Board is not the Dissemination Agent) and the Board shall instruct the Dissemination Agent to report such Listed Event and the Dissemination Agent shall report the occurrence of such Listed Event pursuant to subsection (e) hereof.

(d) If the Board determines that the occurrence of a Listed Event would not be material to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, the Board shall promptly notify the Dissemination Agent in writing (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board) and the Dissemination Agent (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board) shall be instructed by the Board not to report the occurrence.

(e) If the Dissemination Agent has been instructed in writing by the Board to report the occurrence of a Listed Event, the Dissemination Agent shall file a notice of such occurrence with EMMA, with a copy to the Board (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board). Notwithstanding the foregoing, notice of Listed Events described in subsections (a)(8) and (9) hereof need not be given under this subsection any earlier than the notice (if any) of the underlying event is given to the Beneficial Owner of the affected Bonds pursuant to the Bond Resolution.

**SECTION 6. Termination of Reporting Obligation.** The Board's obligations under this Disclosure Certificate shall terminate upon the defeasance, prior redemption or payment in full of all of the Bonds or when the Board is no longer an "Obligated Person" (as defined in the Rule). The Board shall file a notice of the termination of its reporting obligations pursuant to the provisions hereof with the Dissemination Agent, which notice shall be filed with EMMA in accordance with the provisions of Section 5(e) hereof.

**SECTION 7. Dissemination Agent; Compensation.** The Board may, from time to time, appoint or engage a Dissemination Agent to assist it in carrying out its obligations under this Disclosure Certificate, and may discharge any such Dissemination Agent, with or without appointing a successor Dissemination Agent. The initial Dissemination Agent shall be the Board. The Board shall compensate the Dissemination Agent (which shall be appointed) for the performance of its obligations hereunder in accordance with an agreed upon fee structure.

**SECTION 8. Amendment; Waiver.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Disclosure Certificate, the Board may amend this Disclosure Certificate and any provision of this Disclosure Certificate may be waived, if such amendment or waiver (supported by an opinion of counsel expert in Federal securities laws acceptable to the Board to the effect that such amendment or waiver would not, in and of itself, cause the undertakings herein to violate the Rule if such amendment or waiver had been effective on the date hereof) is (a) made in connection with a change in circumstances that arises from a change in legal requirements, change in law, or change in the identity, nature, or status of the obligated person, or type of business conducted; (b) the undertaking, as amended or waived, would have complied with the requirements of the Rule at the time of the primary offering of the Bonds, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of the Rule, as well as any change in circumstances; and (c) the amendment or waiver does not materially impair the interests of holders, as determined either by parties unaffiliated with the Board or “Obligated Person,” or by approving vote of the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, as applicable pursuant to the terms of the Bond Resolution at the time of the amendment. The Board shall give notice of such amendment or waiver to this Disclosure Certificate to the Dissemination Agent, which notice shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 hereof. Notwithstanding the above, the addition of or change in the Dissemination Agent shall not be construed to be an amendment under the provisions hereof.

In the event of any amendment or waiver of a provision of this Disclosure Certificate, the Board shall describe such amendment in the next Annual Report, and shall include, as applicable, a narrative explanation of the reason for the amendment or waiver and its impact on the type (or in the case of a change of accounting principles, on the presentation) of financial information or operating data being presented by the Board. In addition, if the amendment relates to the accounting principles to be followed in preparing financial statements (i) notice of such change shall be given in the same manner as a Listed Event under Section 5 hereof, and (ii) the Annual Report for the year in which the change is made should present a comparison (in narrative form and also, if feasible, in quantitative form) between the financial statements as prepared on the basis of the new accounting principles and those prepared on the basis of the former accounting principles.

**SECTION 9. Additional Information.** Nothing in this Disclosure Certificate shall be deemed to prevent the Board from disseminating any other information, using the means of dissemination set forth in this Disclosure Certificate or any other means of communication, or including any other information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event, in addition to that which is required by this Disclosure Certificate. If the Board chooses to include any information in any Annual Report or notice

of occurrence of a Listed Event, in addition to that which is specifically required by this Disclosure Certificate, the Board shall have no obligation under this Disclosure Certificate to update such information or include it in any future Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event.

**SECTION 10. Default.** In the event of a failure of the Board to comply with any provision of this Disclosure Certificate, the Holders of at least 25% aggregate principal amount of Outstanding Bonds or any Beneficial Owner of the Bonds may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance by court order, to cause the Board to comply with its obligations under this Disclosure Certificate. A default under this Disclosure Certificate shall not be deemed an Event of Default on the Bonds and the sole remedy under this Disclosure Certificate in the event of any failure of the Board to comply with this Disclosure Certificate shall be an action to compel performance.

**SECTION 11. Duties, Immunities and Liabilities of the Dissemination Agent.** The Dissemination Agent shall have only such duties as are specifically set forth in this Disclosure Certificate, and, to the extent permitted by law, the Board agrees to indemnify and hold the Dissemination Agent (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board) and its respective officers, directors, employees and agents, harmless against any loss, expense and liabilities which it may incur arising out of or in the exercise or performance of its powers and duties hereunder, including the costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees) of defending against any claim of liability, but excluding liabilities due to the Dissemination Agent's gross negligence or willful misconduct. To the extent permitted by law, the Board further releases the Dissemination Agent from any liability for the disclosure of any information required by the Rule and this Disclosure Certificate. The obligations of the Board under this Section shall survive resignation or removal of the Dissemination Agent and payment of the Bonds.

**SECTION 12. Beneficiaries.** This Disclosure Certificate shall inure solely to the benefit of the Board, the Dissemination Agent, the Underwriters, and the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, including Bondholders, and shall create no rights in any other person or entity.

**SECTION 13. Notices.** All notices and submissions required hereunder shall be given to the following, or their successors, by facsimile transmission (with written confirmation of receipt), followed by hard copy sent by certified or registered mail, personal delivery or recognized overnight delivery:

(a) If to the Board of Education:

The Board of Education of the  
Borough of Elmwood Park  
60 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407  
Attention: Business Administrator/Board Secretary

(b) Copies of all notices to the Dissemination Agent from time to time with respect to the Bonds, initially:

The Board of Education of the  
Borough of Elmwood Park  
60 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407  
Attention: Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Each party shall give notice from time to time to the other parties, in the manner specified herein, of any change of the identity or address of anyone listed herein.

**SECTION 14. Counterparts.** This Disclosure Certificate may be executed in any number of counterparts which shall be executed by authorized signatories of the Board and the Dissemination Agent, as applicable, and all of which together shall be regarded for all purposes as one original and shall constitute and be but one and the same.

**SECTION 15. Severability.** If any one or more of the covenants or agreements in this Disclosure Certificate to be performed on the part of the Board and the Dissemination Agent should be contrary to law, then such covenant or covenants, agreement or agreements, shall be deemed severable from the remaining covenants and agreements and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this Disclosure Certificate.

**SECTION 16. Governing Law.** This Disclosure Certificate shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the Laws of the United States of America and the State of New Jersey as applicable.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**MARK S. JACOBUS,**  
**Business Administrator/**  
**Board Secretary**

**EXHIBIT A**

**NOTICE TO EMMA OF FAILURE  
TO FILE ANNUAL REPORT**

Name of Issuer:           The Board of Education of the  
                                  Borough of Elmwood Park  
                                  in the County of Bergen, New Jersey

Name of Issue:           \$\_\_\_\_\_ Energy Savings Obligation  
                                  Refunding School Bonds, Series 2025  
                                  Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025  
                                  (CUSIP Number: 290096\_\_\_\_)

Date of Issuance:       \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above designated Board has not provided an Annual Report with respect to the above-named Bonds as required by the Bond Resolution and a Continuing Disclosure Certificate for the Bonds dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 executed by the Board.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DISSEMINATION AGENT**  
(on behalf of the Board)

cc: The Board

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