



George Stone Technical Center
*Audit of School Internal Accounts
For the Year Ended June 30, 2016*

Office of Internal Auditing
October 2016

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Preface

The Office of Internal Auditing serves to improve the fiscal accountability and enhance the public's perception of the management and operations of the Escambia County School District. This engagement strives to meet those objectives.

Audits, reviews, and other engagements are determined through a District-wide risk assessment process, and are incorporated into the annual work plan of the Office of Internal Auditing, as approved by the Audit Committee. Other assignments are also undertaken at the request of District management.

This engagement was conducted with the full cooperation of George Stone Technical Center staff and other District personnel.

Any recommendations included in this engagement are designed to improve operations and serve as the basis for informed discussions related to policies and procedures.

This engagement was conducted in accordance with the International Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, as promulgated by the Institute of Internal Auditors.

We thank the principals, assistant principals, bookkeepers, secretaries, and various support personnel throughout the District for their cooperation and commitment.



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Executive Summary

GSTC received a full audit for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Our office audits the internal accounts of the District's schools annually. The authority to conduct these audits is granted in accordance with Florida State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.087 and the Charter for the Office of Internal Auditing.

These audits are conducted on a rotating basis with a sample of schools receiving "full" audits each year, and the other schools receiving "limited" audits. For each full audit, extensive testing procedures are applied to internal funds accounts. Limited audits include cash procedures and reconciliation to independent bank confirmations. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, George Stone Technical Center (GSTC) received a full audit. This report documents the results of the audit.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the long-time Bookkeeper retired, and was replaced. It is because of this administration change that the school is receiving a full audit.

The purpose of our audit was to determine whether the financial information reported in the internal accounts reconciles with bank statements and corresponding independent bank confirmations, and to determine compliance of transactions included in those same internal accounts with the governing provisions of Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules, and policies and procedures of the School Board. We also sought to determine whether any instances of non-compliance were severe enough to render the financial information reported by the school unreliable. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion, findings, and recommendations.

No adjusting journal entries were necessary.

Our audit procedures indicated no matters which required adjustment of the school's records.

No audit findings were issued.

We noted some minor instances of violation of Board Policies and Florida Statutes. None of these infractions are deemed significant, nor do they exhibit a lack of internal controls sufficient to rise to the level of an audit finding; therefore, no formal response from the auditee is required. These matters were documented and provided to the principal and bookkeeper.

The school's overall fund balance as of June 30, 2016 was \$166,304.85.

The overall fund balance reported by the school at June 30, 2016 was \$166,304.85. We have determined that the financial information reported by the school reconciles with bank statements and independent bank confirmations.

The majority of transactions

In our opinion, the majority of transactions included in the school's

included in the school’s internal accounts were processed in accordance with applicable policies and procedures

internal accounts were processed in accordance with all applicable Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules, and policies and procedures of the School Board.

We have also determined that the instances of non-compliance noted above and elsewhere in this report do not have a material effect and are not severe enough to render the financial information unreliable.

Background

Each year, our office audits the District’s schools’ internal accounts. The authority to conduct these audits is granted in accordance with Florida State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.087 and the Charter for the Office of Internal Auditing.

School internal funds are defined in the Internal Funds Policy Manual (the Manual) as “all monies collected and disbursed by school personnel within a school, for the benefit of the school, or a school sponsored activity.” As further explained in the Manual, “School internal funds shall be used to supplement activities approved by the school board when the District budgetary funds are not available or have been exhausted.” More plainly, internal funds include everything from money found on campus to collections from ticket sales for athletic events.

Each year, District schools receive either a “full” audit (including all procedures listed in the Methodology section below), or a “limited” audit, where only certain procedures are performed (such as obtaining third-party confirmation for all cash and investment accounts and reconciliation of bank statements and confirmations). For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, GSTC received a full audit.

Outside support organizations are not included in this report and are not audited by our office.

Outside support organizations (school booster clubs and parent teacher associations) affiliated with this school that operate independent of a school’s internal accounts **are not included** in this report and **are not audited** by the Office of Internal Auditing.

GSTC last received a full audit in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. That audit indicated no violations significant enough to rise to the level of an audit finding.

The bookkeeper was new to the school during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the long-time bookkeeper retired, and was replaced. The new bookkeeper assumed the position in May of 2016.

Objective

The purpose of our audit was to determine whether the financial information contained in the internal accounts reconciles with bank statements and corresponding independent bank confirmations, and to determine compliance of transactions included in those same internal accounts with the governing provisions of Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules, and policies and procedures of the School Board. We also sought to determine whether any instances of non-compliance were severe enough to render the financial information unreliable.

We have conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing promulgated by the Institute of Internal Auditing, and have planned and performed our audit to obtain reasonable assurance that transactions were made in accordance with applicable policies and laws and that the financial information presented is reliable.

We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion, findings, and recommendations.

Scope

State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.087 states that the School Board is responsible for the administration and control of school's internal accounts and in connection therewith shall provide for an audit of those accounts. Pursuant to this rule, we have audited the financial transactions of the internal accounts of the school as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. These accounts are the responsibility of the principal of that school.

Methodology

The audit consists of three phases: planning, fieldwork, and reporting.

Each audit consists of three phases, containing specific steps to ensure it is done in accordance with professional standards and current accepted practice.

The Planning Phase

The planning phase serves as the initial stage of an audit, where the auditor determines which schools are audited, ensures his or her independence, assesses the overall control environment and risk factors,

and selects the samples of transactions to be tested.

School Sample

Rather than auditing 100% of schools each year, a system of rotation is utilized that is based primarily on school classification (i.e., elementary, middle, high).

Ensuring Independence

An independence statement is completed for each school. This statement contains the signature of each auditor certifying that there are no conflicts of interest and that they are free from bias. **No known conflicts were identified.**

Control Risk Assessment

At the beginning of each audit, the two prior audits and work papers, as well as any follow-up audits, are reviewed. We also determine whether there have been any significant personnel changes (i.e., principal, secretary/bookkeeper).

Each school’s secretary/bookkeeper and principal are given internal control questionnaires to complete prior to their audit beginning. We review the responses, and discuss any items of concern with the appropriate staff. These questionnaires represent only a portion of our assessment of the overall control environment.

Based on our experience with the school, control risk is assessed at moderate. Therefore, our audit procedures are limited to those in the audit program. If control risk is assessed at a level higher than moderate, additional procedures may be performed.

Transactional Samples

Statistical sampling for attributes has been chosen. This method allows conclusions to be drawn about the population based on statistical inference. If after testing we determine the sample does not provide adequate coverage of the total population, auditor judgment and discussion with the Director of Internal Auditing are used to determine whether additional sampling methodologies are necessary (judgmental sampling, whole population, etc.).

The Fieldwork Phase

The fieldwork phase involves transactional testing of the school’s internal accounts. The items in each of our samples are tested for compliance with applicable Florida Statutes, State Board of Education Rules, Board Policies, contract terms and conditions, and grantor restrictions.

No known conflicts of interest were identified.

Control Risk for GSTC has been assessed at moderate.

For our purposes, exceptions of greater than or equal to 20% of the total population may exist before an audit finding is issued.

While performing our testing, a percentage of transactions is allowed to contain compliance violations before it is determined to be an audit finding. For our purposes, an audit finding is a recurring issue that is present in greater than or equal to 20% of the sample. In addition, due to seriousness or materiality, a single compliance violation could also result in an audit finding.

Upon the completion of fieldwork, exit conferences to discuss the results of the audit are conducted with principals and secretaries/bookkeepers, if necessary.

The Reporting Phase

Upon the completion of the planning and fieldwork phases of an audit, the results of those phases are compiled into an easily readable and understandable format (i.e., the audit report). The report is presented to, and approved by, the Audit Committee and the School Board at the end of each audit cycle.

Financial information from full audits is combined with information from limited audits and compiled into a District-Wide Report on Internal Accounts.

Detailed Results

Summary of Fund Activity	
Beginning Cash Balance, 7/1/2015	\$ (23,736.65)
Total Receipts	1,385,814.65
Total Disbursements	(1,195,794.00)
Total Net Journal Entries	20.85
Ending Cash Balance, 6/30/2016	\$ 166,304.85
Audit Adjustments	
Ending Fund Balance, 6/30/2016, Per Skyward	<u>\$ 166,304.85</u>
Cash Balance per Confirmation(s)	\$ 172,026.72
Outstanding Deposits	-
Outstanding Checks	(5,982.87)
Other Reconciling Items	261.00
Ending Fund Balance, 6/30/2016, Per Confirmation(s)	<u>\$ 166,304.85</u>

No adjusting journal entries were necessary.

We noted no adjusting journal entries that were necessary.

Minor instances of non-compliance were documented.

During fieldwork, we noted minor instances of non-compliance which are not included in this report. We documented these matters in our audit

field notes, which were provided to the principal and bookkeeper.

Opinion

Financial information reported reconciles with bank statements and independent confirmations.

The majority of transactions included in the school's internal accounts were processed in accordance with all applicable policies and procedures.

Our opinion is divided into two major areas: whether or not the financial information reported by the school reconciles with corresponding bank statements and independent bank confirmations; and an assessment of the compliance of transactions included in the internal accounts with the governing provisions of Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules, and policies and procedures of the School Board. An overall assessment is also made as to whether any instances of non-compliance were severe enough to render the financial information unreliable. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion, findings, and recommendations.

We have determined that the financial information reported reconciles with bank statements and independent bank confirmations.

In our opinion, the majority of transactions included in the school's internal accounts were processed in accordance with all applicable Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules, and policies and procedures of the School Board.

We have also determined that the instances of non-compliance noted above and elsewhere in this report do not have a material effect and are not severe enough to render the financial information unreliable.

Recommendations

As there were no findings identified during our audit for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, no recommendations are issued as a part of this report.

Management Response

As the results of the audit were generally favorable, with no significant observations or findings, a management response is not necessary or expected.