

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
FITZGERALD, GEORGIA

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2017
(Including Independent Auditor's Reports)

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SECTION I

FINANCIAL

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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 1-156

Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

GREG S. GRIFFIN
STATE AUDITOR
(404) 656-2174

March 8, 2018

The Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Members of the State Board of Education
and
Superintendent and Members of the
Ben Hill County Board of Education

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Ben Hill County Board of Education (School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the

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effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the School District as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As described in Note 2 to the financial statements, in 2017, the School District adopted new accounting guidance, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 77, *Tax Abatement Disclosures*, GASB Statement No. 80, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units*, and GASB Statement No. 82, *Pension Issues*. Our opinions are not modified with respect to these matters.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, Schedules of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, Schedules of Contributions to Retirement Systems, Notes to the Required Supplementary Information and the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget and Actual as presented on pages i through x and pages 29 through 35 respectively, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, are presented for the purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The *Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards* is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2

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U. S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The accompanying supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 8, 2018 on our consideration of the School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A copy of this report has been filed as a permanent record in the office of the State Auditor and made available to the press of the State, as provided for by Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 50-6-24.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

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BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Ben Hill County Board of Education's (School District) financial performance as a whole. The reader should review the notes to the basic financial statements and the financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School District's financial performance. The School District's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 includes a series of basic financial statements that report financial information for the School District as a whole, its funds, and its fiduciary responsibilities. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities provide financial information about all of the School District's activities and present both a short-term and long-term view of the School District's finances. The fund financial statements provide information about all of the School District's funds.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

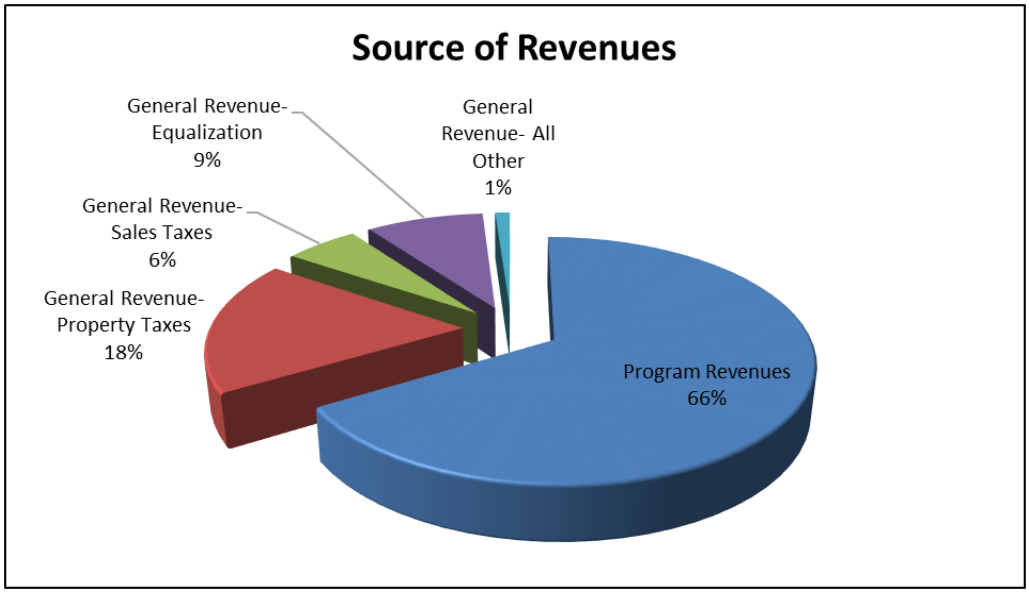
Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2017 are as follows:

On the government-wide financial statements:

- Government-wide net position at June 30, 2017 was approximately $18.5 million. Net position reflects the difference between all assets and deferred outflows of resources of the School District (including capital assets, net of depreciation) and all liabilities, both short-term and long-term and deferred inflows of resources. The net position at June 30, 2017 of $18.5 million represented an increase of approximately $433 thousand when compared to the prior year.

- The School District had over $34.0 million in expenses relating to governmental activities; only $22.8 million of these expenses were offset by program specific charges for services, operating and capital grants and contributions. However, the general revenues (primarily property and sales taxes) of approximately $11.7 provided additional funding of these expenses.

- As stated above, general revenues accounted for $11.7 million or about 34% of all revenues totaling approximately $34.6 million. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services, operating and capital grants, and contributions accounted for the balance of these revenues.



On the fund financial statements:

- Among major funds, the general fund had approximately $32.6 million in revenues and $32.4 million in expenditures. The general fund balance of approximately $2.6 million at June 30, 2017 increased by approximately $132 thousand from the prior year.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements consists of three parts; management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, including notes to the financial statements, and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two levels of statements that present different views of the School District. These include the government-wide and fund financial statements.

The government-wide financial statements include the 'Statement of Net Position' and 'Statement of Activities'. These statements provide information about the activities of the School District presenting both short-term and long-term information about the School District's overall financial status.

The fund financial statements focus on individual parts of the School District, reporting the School District's operation in more detail. The 'Governmental Funds' statements disclose how basic services are financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The 'Fiduciary Funds' statements provide information about the financial relationships in which the School District acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of others. In the case of the Ben Hill County School District, the general fund, capital projects funds, and debt service fund are all considered to be major funds. The School District has no non-major funds as defined by GASB Statement No. 34 for purposes of this report.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements. Additionally, other supplementary information (not required) is also presented that further supplements understanding of the financial statements.

Government-wide Statements

Since the School District has no operations that have been classified as "Business Activities", the government-wide financial statements are basically a consolidation of the entire School District's operating funds into one column called governmental activities. In reviewing the government-wide financial statements, a reader might ask the question, are we in a better financial position now than last year? The 'Statement of Net Position' and the 'Statement of Activities' provides the basis for answering this question. These financial statements include all School District's assets and liabilities and uses the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into accounts all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the School District's net position and any change in net position. The change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the School District as a whole, the financial position of the School District has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the results of many factors, including those not under the School District's control, such as the property tax base, facility conditions, required educational programs, student-teacher ratios, and other factors.

When analyzing government-wide financial statements, it is important to remember these statements are prepared using an economic resources measurement focus (accrual accounting) and involve the following steps to format the Statement of Net Position:

- Capitalize current outlays for capital assets
- Depreciate capital assets
- Report long-term debt as a liability
- Calculate revenue and expense using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting
- Allocate net position as follows:
    - *Net Investment in Capital Assets*
    - *Restricted net position* is that with constraints placed on the use by external sources such as creditors, grantors, contributors or laws and regulations.
    - *Unrestricted net position* is net position that does not meet any of the above restrictions.

Fund Financial Statements

The School District uses many funds or sub-funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions during the fiscal year. The fund financial statements presented in this report provide detail information about the School District's significant or major funds. As discussed previously, the School District has no non-major Funds as defined by generally accepted accounting principles.

The School District has two kinds of funds as discussed below:

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

Fiduciary Funds – The School District is the trustee, or fiduciary, for assets that belong to clubs, organizations and others within the principals' accounts. The School District is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes and by those to whom the assets belong. The School District excludes these activities from the government-wide financial statements because it cannot use these assets to finance its operations.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

Net position, which is the difference between total assets plus deferred outflows of resources and total liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources, is one indicator of the financial condition of the School District. When revenues exceed expenses, the result is an increase in net position. When expenses exceed revenues, the result is a decrease in net position. The relationship between revenues and expenses can be thought of as the School District's operating results. The School District's net position, as measured in the Statement of Net Position, can be one way to measure the School District's financial health, or financial position.

Over time, increases or decreases in the School District's net position as measured in the Statement of Activities - are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. However, the School District's goal and mission is to provide success for each child's education, not to generate profits as private corporations do. For this reason, many other non-financial factors should be considered in assessing the overall health of the School District.

In the case of the Ben Hill County School District, assets plus deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources by approximately $18.5 million at June 30, 2017. To better understand the School District's actual financial position and ability to deliver services in future periods, it is necessary to review the various components of the net position category. For example, of the $18.5 million of net position, about $1.7 million was restricted for continuation of Federal programs, debt service, ongoing capital projects and bus replacements. Accordingly, these funds were not available to meet the School District's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

In addition, the School District had over $38.2 million (net of related debt) invested in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, and equipment). The School District uses these capital assets to provide educational services to students within geographic boundaries served by the School District. Because of the very nature and on-going use of the assets being reported in this component of net position, it must be recognized that this portion of the net position is not available for future spending.

The deficit balance of unrestricted net position of approximately ($21.4) million reflects the net pension liability as required by GASB Statement No. 68 and GASB Statement No. 71.

Table 1 provides a summary of the School District's net position for this fiscal year as compared to the prior fiscal year.

Table 1
Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2016
Assets		
Current and Other Assets	$ 7,500,993	$ 9,417,682
Capital Assets, Net	39,083,695	37,362,783
Total Assets	46,584,688	46,780,465
Deferred Outflows of Resources		
Related to Defined Benefit Pension Plan	7,279,544	2,270,345
Liabilities		
Current and Other Liabilities	3,412,325	3,649,570
Long-Term Liabilities	30,441,487	24,203,812
Total Liabilities	33,853,812	27,853,382
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Related to Defined Benefit Pension Plan	1,538,285	3,157,963
Net Position		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	38,193,792	35,653,314
Restricted	1,704,534	3,191,758
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(21,426,191)	(20,805,607)
Total Net Position	$ 18,472,135	$ 18,039,465

Total net position increased by $432,670 in fiscal year 2017 from the prior year.

Table 2
Change in Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2016
Revenues		
Program Revenues:		
Charges for Services	$ 506,660.00	$ 350,376.00
Operating Grants and Contributions	22,240,070.00	21,754,909.00
Capital Grants and Contributions	77,216.00	1,221,100.00
Total Program Revenues	22,823,946.00	23,326,385.00
General Revenues:		
Taxes		
Property Taxes	6,214,251.00	6,110,522.00
Sales Taxes	2,083,404.00	2,164,870.00
Grants and Contributions not		
Restricted to Specific Programs	3,050,273.00	3,272,607.00
Investment Earnings	19,051.00	27,160.00
Miscellaneous	361,751.00	429,753.00
Special Item		
Loss on Disposal of Land	-	(40,671.00)
Total General Revenues and Special Item	11,728,730.00	11,964,241.00
Total Revenues	34,552,676.00	35,290,626.00
Program Expenses:		
Instruction	22,509,906.00	20,788,097.00
Support Services		
Pupil Services	983,449.00	672,433.00
Improvement of Instructional Services	1,187,147.00	1,016,984.00
Educational Media Services	469,476.00	424,067.00
General Administration	631,550.00	505,075.00
School Administration	2,082,198.00	1,940,594.00
Business Administration	515,380.00	408,095.00
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	2,333,990.00	2,244,147.00
Student Transportation Services	1,270,616.00	1,213,052.00
Central Support Services	67,854.00	59,466.00
Other Support Services	43,427.00	76,097.00
Operations of Non-Instructional Services		
Enterprise Operations	96,372.00	102,480.00
Food Services	1,887,928.00	1,839,119.00
Interest on Short-Term and Long-Term Debt	40,713.00	72,104.00
Total Expenses	34,120,006.00	31,361,810.00
Change in Net Position	$ 432,670.00	$ 3,928,816.00

Cost of Providing Services

The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting these services. Table 3 shows, for governmental activities, the total cost of services and the net cost of services. Net cost of services can be defined as the total cost less fees generated by the activities and intergovernmental revenue provided for specific programs. The net cost reflects the financial burden on the School District's taxpayers by each activity as compared to the prior fiscal year.

Table 3
Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services		Net Cost of Services	
	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2016	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2016
Instruction	$ 22,509,906	$ 20,788,097	$ 6,686,451	$ 4,053,331
Support Services				
Pupil Services	983,449	672,433	719,707	574,660
Improvement of Instructional Services	1,187,147	1,016,984	270,071	276,217
Educational Media Services	469,476	424,067	58,852	(5,095)
General Administrative	631,550	505,075	33,168	(89,324)
School Administrative	2,082,198	1,940,594	1,263,794	1,123,021
Business Administrative	515,380	408,095	508,419	390,229
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	2,333,990	2,244,147	1,355,459	1,197,284
Student Transportation Services	1,270,616	1,213,052	784,682	757,341
Central Support Services	67,854	59,466	56,563	59,366
Other Support Services	43,427	76,097	18,962	2,517
Operations of Non-Instructional Services			(303,924)	
Enterprise Operations	96,372	102,480		(155,787)
Food Services	1,887,928	1,839,119	(196,857)	(220,440)
Interest in Short-Term and Long-Term Debt	40,713	72,104	40,713	72,104
Total Expenses	$ 34,120,006	$ 31,361,810	$ 11,296,060	$ 8,035,424

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FUNDS

Information about the School District's governmental funds is presented starting on Exhibit "E" of this report. Governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. The governmental funds had total revenues over $34.6 million and total expenditures of $36.2 million in fiscal year 2017. Total governmental fund balances of approximately $3.77 million at June 30, 2017, decreased approximately $1.61 million from the prior year. $2.4 million of these expenses were incurred due to construction projects in progress in fiscal year 2017.

General Fund Budget Highlights

The School District's budget is prepared according to Georgia Law. The most significant budgeted fund is the general fund. During the course of fiscal year 2017, the School District amended its general fund budget as needed.

The School District budget is adopted at the aggregate level and maintained at the program, function, object, and site levels to facilitate budgetary control. The budgeting systems are designed to control the total budget, but provide flexibility to meet the ongoing programmatic needs. The budgeting systems are also designed to control total site budgets but provide flexibility for site management as well.

For the general fund, the final actual revenues of $32.6 million were less than the final budgeted amount of $33.1 million by approximately $567 thousand. This can be attributed to receiving less Federal funds and miscellaneous income than originally expected.

The general fund's final actual expenditures of $32.4 million were more than the final budget amount of $32.2 by approximately $233 thousand. The School District believes it effectively managed its budget during the fiscal year. Additionally, the School District did include revenues and expenditures for school activity accounts in the final budget.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

At fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, the School District had over $39.1 million invested in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, all in governmental activities. These assets are made up of a broad range of items including buildings; land; land improvements; and food service, transportation and maintenance equipment. Table 4 reflects a summary of these balances, net of accumulated depreciation, as compared to the prior fiscal year.

Table 4
Capital Assets
(Net of Depreciation)

	Governmental Activities	
	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2016
Land	$ 1,266,020	$ 1,250,020
Construction In Progress	373,932	3,464,098
Building and Improvements	35,256,240	30,451,321
Equipment	1,364,287	1,260,672
Land Improvements	823,216	936,672
Total	$ 39,083,695	$ 37,362,783

Additional information about the School District's capital assets can be found in the Notes to the Basic Financial Statements.

Debt

At June 30, 2017, the Board had $840 thousand in bonds outstanding, being due within one year.

Table 5
Debt at June 30

	Governmental Activities	
	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2016
General Obligation Bonds	$ 840,000	$ 1,650,000

FACTORS BEARING ON THE DISTRICTS'S FUTURE

Currently known circumstances that are expected to have a significant effect on financial position or results of operations in future years are as follows:

- The School District is financially stable. The School District's operating millage for 2017 is 18.077, which produces approximately $326,495 per mill.
- The School District plans to fund additional capital outlays with the one percent local sales tax revenue. Collections began in January of 2017 on the 2017-2021 ESPLOST and are estimated to bring in approximately $1,944,000 annually. This will enable the School District to continue development plans for a new high school and the issuance of a $27.4 million (maximum) bond in the year 2020.
- The School District retired the 2006 series bond of $12.2 million in August of 2017 and currently has no long-term debt. The remaining two and one half years of collections prior to beginning construction of the new high school should provide $3.0 million - $4.0 million in funds to reduce the need for bond debt. By the bond issue date of January 2020 the School District will have earned approximately $9.0 million in state capital outlay funds to further reduce local participation in the construction project and bond debt.
- The School District is now considering a change from the "strategic waiver" format to the "charter" format which will enable the School District to write a new educational plan. This new plan will offer the School District the ability to include valuable strategies for cost reduction such as staffing allowable classes with non-certified employees versus certified employees. The School District may also write in a salary schedule which would not be tied to the state schedule. This could significantly impact overall salaries and benefit requirements.
- The administration has begun research into methods of reducing costs related to classified staff. Requests for proposals are being generated to seek a cost efficient solution to filling lower level positions. It is estimated that this method could reduce add-on costs for those positions from an average 35 cents per wage dollar to 17 cents per wage dollar. This would result in a decrease of $7,000 to $8,000 in expense per employee.
- For 2018 the state increased the state salary scale by two percent, the School District increased all of the classified scales by the same two percent. This will cost the School District approximately $400,000.
- The School District has a goal of $3.75 million as an acceptable fund balance figure. This would provide much greater stability in the event of low ad valorem revenue collections.

- The state health rate for classified employees will match the certified rate of $945.00 per employee, per month on January 1, 2017. This will cost the School District approximately $160,000. The School District anticipates that the state will continue to provide the level of revenue needed to compensate for those increased expenses.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the School District's finances and to show the School District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact Mr. Thomas Rachels, Chief Operating Officer, Ben Hill County School District, 509 West Palm Street, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750. You may also email your questions to Mr. Rachels at thomas.rachels@benhillschools.org.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2017

EXHIBIT "A"

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 3,983,946.71
Accounts Receivable, Net	
Taxes	706,486.76
State Government	2,419,176.62
Federal Government	348,508.70
Other	10,616.04
Inventories	32,258.01
Capital Assets, Non-Depreciable	1,639,952.33
Capital Assets, Depreciable (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	37,443,743.05
Total Assets	46,584,688.22
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Related to Defined Benefit Pension Plans	7,279,543.97
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	11,287.50
Salaries and Benefits Payable	3,360,595.85
Interest Payable	15,558.56
Contracts Payable	18,152.10
Retainage Payable	2,016.90
Deposits and Unearned Revenues	4,714.23
Net Pension Liability	29,571,753.00
Long-Term Liabilities	
Due Within One Year	869,734.50
Total Liabilities	33,853,812.64
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Related to Defined Benefit Pension Plans	1,538,285.00
NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	38,193,791.88
Restricted for	
Bus Replacement	14,098.00
Continuation of Federal Programs	540,765.78
Debt Service	843,341.44
Capital Projects	306,328.42
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(21,426,190.97)
Total Net Position	$ 18,472,134.55

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

	EXPENSES	CHARGES FOR SERVICES
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES		
Instruction	$ 22,509,906.12	$ 15,507.82
Support Services		
Pupil Services	983,448.96	-
Improvement of Instructional Services	1,187,146.85	-
Educational Media Services	469,475.49	-
General Administration	631,549.95	-
School Administration	2,082,197.89	-
Business Administration	515,380.23	-
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	2,333,990.39	48,100.00
Student Transportation Services	1,270,616.30	-
Central Support Services	67,853.68	-
Other Support Services	43,427.37	-
Operations of Non-Instructional Services		
Enterprise Operations	96,372.27	400,295.84
Food Services	1,887,927.72	42,756.75
Interest on Short-Term and Long-Term Debt	40,712.69	-
Total Governmental Activities	$ 34,120,005.91	$ 506,660.41
General Revenues		
Taxes		
Property Taxes		
For Maintenance and Operations		
Railroad Cars		
Sales Taxes		
Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax		
For Capital Projects		
Other Sales Tax		
Grants and Contributions not Restricted to Specific Programs		
Investment Earnings		
Miscellaneous		
Total General Revenues		
Change in Net Position		
Net Position - Beginning of Year		
Net Position - End of Year		

PROGRAM REVENUES		NET (EXPENSES)
OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	REVENUES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
$ 15,807,947.23	$ -	$ (6,686,451.07)
263,741.41	-	(719,707.55)
917,076.14	-	(270,070.71)
410,624.00	-	(58,851.49)
598,382.41	-	(33,167.54)
818,403.84	-	(1,263,794.05)
6,960.80	-	(508,419.43)
930,431.29	-	(1,355,459.10)
408,717.89	77,216.25	(784,682.16)
11,291.01	-	(56,562.67)
24,465.67	-	(18,961.70)
-	-	303,923.57
2,042,027.87	-	196,856.90
-	-	(40,712.69)
$ 22,240,069.56	$ 77,216.25	(11,296,059.69)
		6,195,272.93
		18,977.85
		2,002,203.26
		81,200.79
		3,050,273.00
		19,050.75
		361,751.13
		11,728,729.71
		432,670.02
		18,039,464.53
		$ 18,472,134.55

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2017

EXHIBIT "C"

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	TOTAL
ASSETS				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 2,976,642.30	$ 1,007,304.41	$ -	$ 3,983,946.71
Accounts Receivable, Net			-	
Taxes	528,393.75	178,093.01	-	706,486.76
State Government	2,419,176.62	-	-	2,419,176.62
Federal Government	348,508.70	-	-	348,508.70
Other	10,616.04	-	-	10,616.04
Inventories	32,258.01	-	-	32,258.01
Total Assets	$ 6,315,595.42	$ 1,185,397.42	$ -	$ 7,500,992.84
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	$ 11,287.50	$ -	$ -	$ 11,287.50
Salaries and Benefits Payable	3,360,595.85	-	-	3,360,595.85
Contracts Payable	-	18,152.10	-	18,152.10
Retainage Payable	-	2,016.90	-	2,016.90
Deposits and Unearned Revenue	4,714.23	-	-	4,714.23
Total Liabilities	3,376,597.58	20,169.00	-	3,396,766.58
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Unavailable Revenue - Property Taxes	336,076.30	-	-	336,076.30
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable	32,258.01	-	-	32,258.01
Restricted	522,605.77	1,165,228.42	-	1,687,834.19
Assigned	225,233.28	-	-	225,233.28
Unassigned	1,822,824.48	-	-	1,822,824.48
Total Fund Balances	2,602,921.54	1,165,228.42	-	3,768,149.96
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	$ 6,315,595.42	$ 1,185,397.42	$ -	$ 7,500,992.84

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2017

EXHIBIT "D"

Total fund balances - governmental funds (Exhibit "C")		$ 3,768,149.96
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
Land	$ 1,266,020.01	
Construction in progress	373,932.32	
Buildings	48,612,281.78	
Equipment	6,282,836.87	
Land improvements	2,994,268.28	
Accumulated depreciation	(20,445,643.88)	39,083,695.38
Some liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		
Net pension liability		(29,571,753.00)
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		5,741,258.97
Taxes that are not available to pay for current period expenditures are deferred in the funds.		336,076.30
Long-Term Liabilities, and related accrued interest, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
Bonds payable	$ (840,000.00)	
Accrued interest payable	(15,558.56)	
Unamortized bond premiums	(29,734.50)	(885,293.06)
Net Position of Governmental Activities (Exhibit "A")		$ 18,472,134.55

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

EXHIBIT "E"

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	TOTAL
REVENUES				
Property Taxes	$ 6,289,140.06	$ -	$ -	$ 6,289,140.06
Sales Taxes	81,200.79	2,002,203.26	-	2,083,404.05
State Funds	20,659,197.45	-	-	20,659,197.45
Federal Funds	4,694,580.16	-	-	4,694,580.16
Charges for Services	506,660.41	-	-	506,660.41
Investment Earnings	16,202.02	2,848.73	-	19,050.75
Miscellaneous	332,016.63	-	-	332,016.63
Total Revenues	32,578,997.52	2,005,051.99	-	34,584,049.51
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Instruction	21,263,863.00	58,898.67	-	21,322,761.67
Support Services				
Pupil Services	957,178.58	-	-	957,178.58
Improvement of Instructional Services	1,145,506.26	11,237.12		1,156,743.38
Educational Media Services	438,507.93	-	-	438,507.93
General Administration	621,582.97	-	-	621,582.97
School Administration	2,000,357.26	12,825.58	-	2,013,182.84
Business Administration	489,958.23	6,490.00	-	496,448.23
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	2,271,067.12	30,188.70	-	2,301,255.82
Student Transportation Services	1,271,313.71	9,444.93	-	1,280,758.64
Central Support Services	14,806.89	-	-	14,806.89
Other Support Services	21,897.14	20,169.00	-	42,066.14
Enterprise Operations	96,372.27	-	-	96,372.27
Food Services Operation	1,854,858.75	-	-	1,854,858.75
Capital Outlay	-	2,741,367.47	-	2,741,367.47
Debt Services				
Principal	-	-	810,000.00	810,000.00
Interest	-	-	53,392.50	53,392.50
Total Expenditures	32,447,270.11	2,890,621.47	863,392.50	36,201,284.08
Revenues over (under) Expenditures	131,727.41	(885,569.48)	(863,392.50)	(1,617,234.57)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers In	-	-	863,392.50	863,392.50
Transfers Out	-	(863,392.50)	-	(863,392.50)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	(863,392.50)	863,392.50	-
Net Change in Fund Balances	131,727.41	(1,748,961.98)	-	(1,617,234.57)
Fund Balances - Beginning	2,471,194.13	2,914,190.40	-	5,385,384.53
Fund Balances - Ending	$ 2,602,921.54	$ 1,165,228.42	$ -	$ 3,768,149.96

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF
REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
JUNE 30, 2017

EXHIBIT "F"

Net change in fund balances total governmental funds (Exhibit "E")		$ (1,617,234.57)
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:		
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of capital assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense.		
Capital outlay	$ 2,915,719.47	
Depreciation expense	(1,194,806.68)	1,720,912.79
Taxes reported in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.		(74,889.28)
The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts and the difference between the carrying value of refunded debt and the acquisition cost of refunded debt when debt is first issued. These amounts are deferred and amortized in the Statement of Activities.		
Amortization of bond premium	$ 29,734.50	
Bond principal retirements	810,000.00	839,734.50
District pension contributions are reported as expenditures in the governmental funds when made. However, they are reported as deferred outflows of resources in the Statement of Net Position because the reported net pension liability is measured a year before the School District's report date. Pension expense, which is the change in the net pension liability adjusted for changes in deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions, is reported in the Statement of Activities.		
Pension expense		(448,533.23)
Some items reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.		
Accrued interest on issuance of bonds		12,679.81
Change in net position of governmental activities (Exhibit "B")		$ 432,670.02

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2017

EXHIBIT "G"

	PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUSTS	AGENCY FUNDS
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 4,928.48	$ 102,219.44
LIABILITIES		
Funds Held for Others		$ 102,219.44
NET POSITION		
Held in Trust for Private Purposes	$ 4,928.48	

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

EXHIBIT "H"

	PRIVATE PURPOSE TRUSTS
ADDITIONS	
Investment Earnings	
Interest	$ 61.18
DEDUCTIONS	
Other Deductions	-
Change in Net Position	61.18
Net Position - Beginning	4,867.30
Net Position - Ending	$ 4,928.48

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NOTE 1: DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY

REPORTING ENTITY

The Ben Hill County Board of Education (School District) was established under the laws of the State of Georgia and operates under the guidance of a board elected by the voters and a Superintendent appointed by the Board. The School District is organized as a separate legal entity and has the power to levy taxes and issue bonds. Its budget is not subject to approval by any other entity. Accordingly, the School District is a primary government and consists of all the organizations that compose its legal entity.

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying financial statements of the School District have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). GASB is the accepted standard-setting body for governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The most significant of the School District's accounting policies are described below.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The School District's basic financial statements are collectively comprised of the government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements. The government-wide statements focus on the School District as a whole, while the fund financial statements focus on major funds. Each presentation provides valuable information that can be analyzed and compared between years and between governments to enhance the information's usefulness.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS:

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the financial activities of the overall School District, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions.

The Statement of Net Position presents the School District's non-fiduciary assets and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position. Net position is reported in three categories as follows:

1. **Net investment in capital assets** consists of the School District's total investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, and reduced by outstanding debt obligations related to those capital assets. To the extent debt has been incurred but not yet expended for capital assets, such amounts are not included as a component of net investment in capital assets.
2. **Restricted net position** consists of resources for which the School District is legally or contractually obligated to spend in accordance with restrictions imposed by external third parties or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
3. **Unrestricted net position** consists of resources not meeting the definition of the two preceding categories. Unrestricted net position often has constraints on resources imposed by management which can be removed or modified.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the School District's governmental activities

Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Indirect expenses (expenses of the School District related to the administration and support of the School District's programs, such as office and maintenance personnel and accounting) are not allocated to programs.

Program revenues include (a) charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The fund financial statements provide information about the School District's funds, including fiduciary funds. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. Separate financial statements are presented for governmental and fiduciary funds. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column.

The School District reports the following major governmental funds:

- The general fund is the School District's primary operating fund. It accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.
- The capital projects fund accounts for and reports financial resources including Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), that are restricted, committed or assigned for capital outlay expenditures, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.
- The debt service fund accounts for and reports financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned including taxes (sales) legally restricted for the payment of general long-term principal and interest.

The School District reports the following fiduciary fund types:

- Private purpose trust funds are used to report all trust arrangements, other than those properly reported elsewhere, in which principal and income benefit individuals, private organizations or other governments.
- Agency funds are used to report resources held by the School District in a purely custodial capacity (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The basis of accounting determines when transactions are reported on the financial statements. The government-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the School District gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include property taxes, sales taxes, grants, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from sales taxes is recognized in the fiscal year in which the underlying transaction (sale) takes place. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

The School District uses funds to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain governmental functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The School District considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if they are collected within sixty days after year-end. The School District considers all intergovernmental revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end. Property taxes, sales taxes and interest are considered to be susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded

when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term liabilities are reported as other financing sources.

The School District funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants, categorical grants, and general revenues. Thus, when program costs are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted net assets available to finance the program. It is the School District's policy to first apply grant resources to such programs, followed by cost-reimbursement grants, then general revenues.

NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In fiscal year 2017, the School District adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 77, *Tax Abatement Disclosures.* This statement requires governments that enter into tax abatement agreements to disclose the following information; (1) brief descriptive information, such as the tax being abated, the authority under which tax abatements are provided, eligibility criteria, the mechanism by which taxes are abated, provisions for recapturing abated taxes, and the types of commitments made by tax abatement recipients; (2) the gross dollar amount of taxes abated during the period; and (3) commitments made by a government, other than to abate taxes, as part of a tax abatement agreement. The adoption of this statement does not have a significant impact on the School District's financial statements, although the amount is disclosed as required.

In fiscal year 2017, the School District adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 80, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14*. This statement amends the blending requirements for the financial statement presentation of component units of all state and local governments. The additional criterion requires blending of a component unit incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in which the primary government is the sole corporate member. The additional criterion does apply to component units included in the financial reporting entity pursuant to the provisions of Statement No. 39, *Determining Whether Certain Organization Are Component Units*. The adoption of this statement does not have a significant impact on the School District's financial statements.

In fiscal year 2017, the School District adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 82, *Pension Issues – an amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, No. 68 and No. 73*. This statement addresses certain issues that have been raised with respect to Statements No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*, No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, and No. 73, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement No. 68*, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements No. 67 and No. 68. Specifically, this statement addresses issues regarding (1) the presentation of payroll-related measures in required supplementary information, (2) the selection of assumptions and the treatment of deviations from the guidance in an Actuarial Standard of Practice for financial reporting purposes, and (3) the classification of payments made by employers to satisfy employee (plan member) contribution requirements. The adoption of this statement does not have a significant impact on the School District's financial statements.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, demand deposits, investments in the State of Georgia local government investment pool (Georgia Fund 1) and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition in authorized financial institutions. Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) §45-8-14 authorizes the School District to deposit its funds in one or more solvent banks, insured Federal savings and loan associations or insured chartered building and loan associations.

RECEIVABLES

Receivables consist of amounts due from property and sales taxes, grant reimbursements due on Federal, State or other grants for expenditures made but not reimbursed and other receivables disclosed from information available. Receivables are recorded when either the asset or revenue recognition criteria has been met. Receivables recorded on the basic financial statements do not include any amounts which would necessitate the need for an allowance for uncollectible receivables.

INVENTORIES

Food Inventories

On the basic financial statements, inventories of donated food commodities used in the preparation of meals are reported at their federally assigned value and purchased foods inventories are reported at cost (calculated on the first-in, first-out basis). The School District uses the consumption method to account for inventories whereby donated food commodities are recorded as an asset and as revenue when received, and expenses/expenditures are recorded as the inventory items are used. Purchased foods are recorded as an asset when purchased and expenses/expenditures are recorded as the inventory items are used.

CAPITAL ASSETS

On the government-wide financial statements, capital assets are recorded at cost where historical records are available and at estimated historical cost based on appraisals or deflated current replacement cost where no historical records exist. Donated capital assets are recorded at the acquisition value on the date donated. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of assets or materially extend the useful lives of the assets is not capitalized. The School District does not capitalize book collections or works of art.

Capital acquisition and construction are recorded as expenditures in the governmental fund financial statements at the time of purchase (including ancillary charges), and the related assets are reported as capital assets in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line for all assets, except land, and is used to allocate the actual or estimated historical cost of capital assets over estimated useful lives.

Capitalization thresholds and estimated useful lives of capital assets reported in the government-wide statements are as follows:

	Capitalization Policy	Estimated Useful Life
Land	Any Amount	N/A
Land Improvements	$ 50,000.00	15 years
Buildings and Improvements	$ 50,000.00	60 to 75 years
Equipment	$ 5,000.00	5 to 25 years
Construction in Progress	$ 50,000.00	N/A
Intangible - Software	$ 100,000.00	10 years
All Other - Intangible Assets	$ 10,000.00	20 years

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, represents a consumption of resources that applies to a future period(s) and therefore will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element represents an acquisition of resources that applies to a future period(s) and therefore will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time.

LONG-TERM LIABILITIES AND BOND DISCOUNTS/PREMIUMS

In the School District's government-wide financial statements, outstanding debt is reported as liabilities. Bond premiums and discounts and the difference between the reacquisition price and the net carrying value of refunded debt are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method. To conform to generally accepted accounting principles, bond premiums and discounts should be amortized using the effective interest method. The effect of this deviation is deemed to be immaterial to the fair presentation of the basic financial statements. Bond issuance costs are recognized as an outflow of resources in the fiscal year in which the bonds are issued.

In the governmental fund financial statements, the School District recognizes the proceeds of debt and premiums as other financing sources of the current period. Bond issuance costs are reported as debt service expenditures.

PENSIONS

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position and additions to/deductions from the plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plan. 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.

FUND BALANCES

Fund balance for governmental funds is reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

The School District's fund balances are classified as follows:

Nonspendable consists of resources that cannot be spent either because they are in a nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted consists of resources that can be used only for specific purposes pursuant constraints either (1) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments or (2) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed consists of resources that can be used only for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Board. The Board is the School District's highest level of decision-making authority, and the formal action that is required to be taken to establish, modify, or rescind a fund balance commitment is a resolution approved by the Board. Committed fund balance also should incorporate contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned consists of resources constrained by the School District's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. The intent should be expressed by (1) the Board or (2) the budget or finance committee, or the Superintendent, or designee, to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes.

Unassigned consists of resources within the general fund not meeting the definition of any aforementioned category. The general fund should be the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount. In other governmental funds, it may be necessary to report a negative unassigned fund balance.

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

PROPERTY TAXES

The Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners adopted the property tax levy for the 2016 tax digest year (calendar year) on July 22, 2016 (levy date) based on property values as of January 1, 2016. Taxes were due on December 20, 2016 (lien date). Taxes collected within the current fiscal year or within 60 days after year-end on the 2016 tax digest are reported as revenue in the governmental funds for fiscal year 2017. The Ben Hill County Tax Commissioner bills and collects the property taxes for the School District, withholds 2.5% of taxes collected as a fee for tax collection and remits the balance of taxes collected to the School District. Property tax revenues, at the fund reporting level, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, for maintenance and operations amounted to $5,902,045.55.

The tax millage rate levied for the 2016 tax year (calendar year) for the School District was as follows (a mill equals $1 per thousand dollars of assessed value):

School Operations	18.077 mills

Additionally, Title Ad Valorem Tax revenues, at the fund reporting level, amounted to $368,116.66 during fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.

SALES TAXES

Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST), at the fund reporting level, during the year amounted to $2,002,203.26 and is to be used for capital outlay for educational purposes or debt service. This sales tax was authorized by local referendum and the sales tax must be re-authorized at least every five years.

NOTE 3: BUDGETARY DATA

The budget is a complete financial plan for the School District's fiscal year, and is based upon careful estimates of expenditures together with probable funding sources. The budget is legally adopted each year for the general, debt service and capital projects funds. There is no statutory prohibition regarding over expenditure of the budget at any level. The budget for all governmental funds is prepared and adopted by fund, function and object. The legal level of budgetary control was established by the Board at the aggregate fund level. The budget for the general fund was prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The budgetary process begins with the School District's administration presenting an initial budget for the Board's review. The administration makes revisions as necessary based on the Board's guidelines, and a tentative budget is approved. After approval of this tentative budget by the Board, such budget is advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality, as well as the School District's website. At the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board after advertisement, the Board receives comments on the tentative budget, makes revisions as necessary and adopts a final budget. The approved budget is then submitted, in accordance with provisions of O.C.G.A. §20-2-167(c), to the Georgia Department of Education. The Board may increase or decrease the budget at any time during the year. All unexpended budget authority lapses at fiscal year-end.

See the General Fund Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget to Actual in the Supplementary Information Section for a detail of any over/under expenditures during the fiscal year under review.

NOTE 4: DEPOSITS

COLLATERALIZATION OF DEPOSITS

O.C.G.A. §45-8-12 provides that there shall not be on deposit at any time in any depository for a time longer than ten days a sum of money which has not been secured by surety bond, by guarantee of insurance, or by collateral. The aggregate of the face value of such surety bond and the market value of securities pledged shall be equal to not less than 110% of the public funds being secured after the deduction of the amount of deposit insurance. If a depository elects the pooled method (O.C.G.A. §45-8-13.1) the aggregate of the market value of the securities pledged to secure a pool of public funds shall be not less than 110% of the daily pool balance.

Acceptable security for deposits consists of any one of or any combination of the following:

(1) Surety bond signed by a surety company duly qualified and authorized to transact business within the State of Georgia,

(2) Insurance on accounts provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation,

(3) Bonds, bills, notes, certificates of indebtedness or other direct obligations of the United States or of the State of Georgia,

(4) Bonds, bills, notes, certificates of indebtedness or other obligations of the counties or municipalities of the State of Georgia,

(5) Bonds of any public authority created by the laws of the State of Georgia, providing that the statute that created the authority authorized the use of the bonds for this purpose,

(6) Industrial revenue bonds and bonds of development authorities created by the laws of the State of Georgia, and

(7) Bonds, bills, notes, certificates of indebtedness, or other obligations of a subsidiary corporation of the United States government, which are fully guaranteed by the United States government both as to principal and interest or debt obligations issued by or securities guaranteed by the Federal Land Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Central Bank for Cooperatives, the Farm Credit Banks, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Association, and the Federal National Mortgage Association.

CATEGORIZATION OF DEPOSITS

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the School District's deposits may not be returned to it. The School District does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. At June 30, 2017, the School District had deposits with a carrying amount of $4,091,094.63, and a bank balance of $5,651,046.37. The bank balances insured by Federal depository insurance were $1,601,982.20 and the bank balances collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution in the School District’s name were $4,049,064.17.

NOTE 5: CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of changes in the capital assets for governmental activities during the fiscal year:

	Balances July 1, 2016	Increases	Decreases	Balances June 30, 2017
Governmental Activities				
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated:				
Land	$ 1,250,020.01	$ 16,000.00	$	$ 1,266,020.01
Construction in Progress	3,464,097.64	2,395,863.17	5,486,028.49	373,932.32
Total Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated	4,714,117.65	2,411,863.17	5,486,028.49	1,639,952.33
Capital Assets Being Depreciated				
Buildings and Improvements	43,015,358.55	5,596,923.23	-	48,612,281.78
Equipment	5,986,502.31	392,961.56	96,627.00	6,282,836.87
Land Improvements	2,994,268.28	-	-	2,994,268.28
Less Accumulated Depreciation for:				
Buildings and Improvements	12,564,038.06	792,003.93	-	13,356,041.99
Equipment	4,725,830.28	289,346.34	96,627.00	4,918,549.62
Land Improvements	2,057,595.86	113,456.41	-	2,171,052.27
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	32,648,664.94	4,795,078.11	-	37,443,743.05
Governmental Activity Capital Assets - Net	$ 37,362,782.59	$ 7,206,941.28	$ 5,486,028.49	$ 39,083,695.38

Current year depreciation expense by function is as follows:

Instruction		$ 930,634.82
Support Services		
Pupil Services	$ 749.50	
Educational Media Services	16,433.75	
Business Administration	5,870.15	
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	32,345.99	
Student Transportation Services	111,887.47	
Central Support Services	54,857.02	222,143.88
Food Services		42,027.98
		$ 1,194,806.68

NOTE 6: INTERFUND TRANSFERS

INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2017, consisted of the following:

Transfers to	Transfers from Capital Projects Fund
Debt Service Fund	$ 863,392.50

Transfers are used to move sales tax revenues collected by the capital projects fund to the debt service fund to provide funding to service debt.

NOTE 7: SHORT-TERM DEBT

The School District issues tax anticipation notes and obtains temporary loans in advance of property tax collections, depositing the proceeds in its general fund. This short-term debt is to provide cash for operations until property tax collections are received by the School District. Article IX, Section V, Paragraph V of the Constitution of the State of Georgia limits the aggregate amount of short-term debt to 75% of the total gross income from taxes collected in the preceding year and requires all short-term debt to be repaid no later than December 31 of the calendar year in which the debt was incurred.

Short-term debt activity for the fiscal year is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Issued	Redeemed	Ending Balance
Tax Anticipation Notes	$ -	$ 1,613,537.81	$ 1,613,537.81	$ -

NOTE 8: LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

The changes in long-term liabilities during the fiscal year for governmental activities, were as follows:

	Governmental Activities				
	Balance July 1, 2016	Additions	Deductions	Balance June 30, 2017	Due Within One Year
General Obligation Bonds	$ 1,650,000.00	$ -	$ 810,000.00	$ 840,000.00	$ 840,000.00
Unamortized Bond Premiums	59,469.00	-	29,734.50	29,734.50	29,734.50
	$ 1,709,469.00	$ -	$ 839,734.50	$ 869,734.50	$ 869,734.50

GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT OUTSTANDING

The School District's bonded debt consists of general obligation bonds that are generally noncallable with interest payable semiannually. Bond proceeds primarily pay for acquiring or constructing capital facilities. The School District repays general obligation bonds from voter-approved sales taxes. General obligation bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the School District.

The voters of Ben Hill County have authorized $27,400,000.00 in general obligation bonds that were not issued as of June 30, 2017. The primary purpose of the bonds is to pay for acquiring, constructing, and equipping capital outlay projects.

General obligation bonds currently outstanding are as follows:

Description	Interest Rates	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Amount Issued	Amount Outstanding
General Government - Series 2006	3.85% - 5.00%	4/6/2006	8/1/2017	$ 12,820,000.00	$ 840,000.00

The following schedule details debt service requirements to maturity for the School District's total general obligation bonds payable:

	General Obligation Debt		Unamortized Bond
Fiscal Year Ended June 30:	Principal	Interest	Premium
2018	$ 840,000.00	$ 18,900.00	$ 29,734.50

NOTE 9: RISK MANAGEMENT

INSURANCE

Commercial Insurance

The School District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors or omissions; job related illness or injuries to employees; and natural disasters. Except as described below, the School District carries commercial insurance for these risks. Settled claims resulting from these insured risks have not exceed commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

The School District is self-insured with regard to unemployment compensation claims. The School District accounts for claims within the general fund with expenses/expenditures and liability being reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred, and the amount of that loss can be reasonably estimated. The School District had no unemployment compensation claims in the past two years.

SURETY BOND

The School District purchased surety bonds to provide additional insurance coverage as follows:

Position Covered	Amount
Superintendent	$ 99,000.00
Military Property Custodian	$ 24,000.00
Each Principal	$ 9,000.00
Director of Budget and Finance	$ 8,000.00
Each Lunchroom Manager and Assistant Manager	$ 4,000.00
Each Secretary and Bookkeeper	$ 4,000.00
Payroll Administrator	$ 3,000.00

NOTE 10: FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

The School District's financial statements include the following amounts presented in the aggregate at June 30, 2017:

Nonspendable		
Inventories		$ 32,258.01
Restricted		
Bus replacement	$ 14,098.00	
Continuation of federal programs	508,507.77	
Capital projects	306,328.42	
Debt service	858,900.00	1,687,834.19
Assigned		
School activity accounts		225,233.28
Unassigned		1,822,824.48
Fund Balance, June 30, 2017		$ 3,768,149.96

When multiple categories of fund balance are available for expenditure, the School District will start with the most restricted category and spend those funds first before moving down to the next category with available funds.

NOTE 11: SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS

COMMITMENTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

The following is an analysis of significant outstanding construction or renovation contracts executed by the School District as of June 30, 2017:

Project	Unearned Executed Contracts (1)	Payments through June 30, 2017 (2)
Ben Hill Stadium Upgrades	$ 346,673.00	$ 20,169.00

(1) The amounts described are not reflected in the basic financial statements.
(2) Payments include contracts and retainages payable at year-end.

NOTE 12: SIGNIFICANT CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

FEDERAL GRANTS

Amounts received or receivable principally from the Federal government are subject to audit and review by grantor agencies. This could result in requests for reimbursement to the grantor agency for any costs which are disallowed under grant terms. Any disallowances resulting from the grantor audit may become a liability of the School District. However, the School District believes that such disallowances, if any, will be immaterial to its overall financial position.

LITIGATION

The School District is a defendant in various legal proceedings pertaining to matters incidental to the performance of routine School District operations. The ultimate disposition of these proceedings is not presently determinable, but is not believed to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the School District.

NOTE 13: POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

GEORGIA SCHOOL PERSONNEL POST-EMPLOYMENT HEALTH BENEFIT FUND

Plan Description. The Georgia School Personnel Post-Employment Health Benefit Fund (School OPEB Fund) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment healthcare plan that covers eligible former employees of public school systems, libraries and regional educational service agencies. The School OPEB Fund provides health insurance benefits to eligible former employees and their qualified beneficiaries through the State Employees Health Benefit Plan administered by the Department of Community Health. The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions of the group health plans, including benefits for retirees, to the Board of Community Health (Board). Additional information about the School OPEB Fund is disclosed in the *State of Georgia* Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This report can be obtained from the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts at www.audits.ga.gov/SGD/CAFR.html.

Funding Policy. The contribution requirements of plan members and participating employers are established by the Board in accordance with the current Appropriations Act and may be amended by the Board. Contributions of plan members or beneficiaries receiving benefits vary based on plan election, dependent coverage, and Medicare eligibility and election. For members with fewer than five years of service as of January 1, 2012, contributions also vary based on years of service. On average, members with five years or more of service as of January 1, 2012 pay approximately 25% of the cost of the health insurance coverage. In accordance with the Board resolution dated December 8, 2011, for members with fewer than five years of service as of January 1, 2012, the State provides a premium subsidy in retirement that ranges from 0% for fewer than 10 years of service to 75% (but no greater than the subsidy percentage offered to active employees) for 30 or more years of service. The subsidy for eligible dependents ranges from 0% to 55% (but no greater than the subsidy percentage offered to dependents of active employees minus 20%). No subsidy is available to Medicare eligible members

not enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Option. The Board of Community Health sets all member premiums by resolution and in accordance with the law and applicable revenue and expense projections. Any subsidy policy adopted by the Board may be changed at any time by Board resolution and does not constitute a contract or promise of any amount of subsidy.

Participating employers are statutorily required to contribute in accordance with the employer contribution rates established by the Board. The contribution rates are established to fund all benefits due under the health insurance plans for both active and retired employees based on projected "pay-as-you-go" financing requirements. Contributions are not based on the actuarially calculated annual required contribution (ARC) which represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal cost each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed thirty years.

The combined active and retiree contribution rates established by the Board for employers participating in the School OPEB Fund were as follows for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017:

For certificated teachers, librarians and regional educational service agencies and certain other eligible participants:

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	$945.00 per member per month

For non-certificated school personnel:

July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016	$746.20 per member per month
January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017	$846.20 per member per month

No additional contribution was required by the Board for fiscal year 2017 nor contributed to the School OPEB Fund to prefund retiree benefits. Such additional contribution amounts are determined annually by the Board in accordance with the School plan for other post-employment benefits and are subject to appropriation.

The School District's combined active and retiree contributions to the health insurance plans, which equaled the required contribution, for the current fiscal year and the preceding two fiscal years were as follows:

Fiscal Year	Percentage Contributed	Required Contribution
2017	100%	$ 3,489,316.93
2016	100%	$ 3,329,774.20
2015	100%	$ 3,139,352.40

NOTE 14: RETIREMENT PLANS

The School District participates in various retirement plans administered by the State of Georgia, as further explained below.

TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA (TRS)

Plan Description: All teachers of the School District as defined in O.C.G.A. §47-3-60 and certain other support personnel as defined by §47-3-63 are provided a pension through the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS). TRS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, is administered by the TRS Board of Trustees (TRS Board). Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. The Teachers Retirement System of Georgia issues a publicly available separate financial audit report that can be obtained at www.trsga.com/publications.

Benefits Provided: TRS provides service retirement, disability retirement, and death benefits. Normal retirement benefits are determined as 2% of the average of the employee's two highest paid consecutive years of service, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service up to 40 years.

An employee is eligible for normal service retirement after 30 years of creditable service, regardless of age, or after 10 years of service and attainment of age 60. Ten years of service is required for disability and death benefits eligibility. Disability benefits are based on the employee's creditable service and compensation up to the time of disability. Death benefits equal the amount that would be payable to the employee's beneficiary had the employee retired on the date of death. Death benefits are based on the employee's creditable service and compensation up to the date of death.

Contributions: Per Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., contribution requirements of active employees and participating employers, as actuarially determined, are established and may be amended by the TRS Board. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §47-3-63, the employer contributions for certain full-time public school support personnel are funded on behalf of the employer by the State of Georgia. Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. Employees were required to contribute 6% of their annual pay during fiscal year 2017. The School District's contractually required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2017 was 14.27% of annual School District payroll, of which 14.15% of payroll was required from the School District and 0.12% of payroll was required from the State. For the current fiscal year, employer contributions to the pension plan were $2,309,164.92 and $18,565.80 from the School District and the State, respectively.

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Plan description: The Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERS) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established by the Georgia General Assembly during the 1949 Legislative Session for the purpose of providing retirement allowances for employees of the State of Georgia and its political subdivisions. ERS is directed by a Board of Trustees. Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. ERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at www.ers.ga.gov/formspubs/formspubs.

Benefits provided: The ERS Plan supports three benefit tiers: Old Plan, New Plan, and Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan (GSEPS). Employees under the old plan started membership prior to July 1, 1982 and are subject to plan provisions in effect prior to July 1, 1982. Members hired on or after July 1, 1982 but prior to January 1, 2009 are new plan members subject to modified plan provisions. Effective January 1, 2009, new state employees and rehired state employees who did not retain membership rights under the Old or New Plans are members of GSEPS. ERS members hired prior to January 1, 2009 also have the option to irrevocably change their membership to GSEPS.

Under the old plan, the new plan, and GSEPS, a member may retire and receive normal retirement benefits after completion of 10 years of creditable service and attainment of age 60 or 30 years of creditable service regardless of age. Additionally, there are some provisions allowing for early retirement after 25 years of creditable service for members under age 60.

Retirement benefits paid to members are based upon the monthly average of the member's highest 24 consecutive calendar months, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service, multiplied by the applicable benefit factor. Annually, postretirement cost-of-living adjustments may also be made to members' benefits, provided the members were hired prior to July 1, 2009. The normal retirement pension is payable monthly for life; however, options are available for distribution of the member's monthly pension, at reduced rates, to a designated beneficiary upon the member's death. Death and disability benefits are also available through ERS.

Contributions: Member contributions under the old plan are 4% of annual compensation, up to $4,200.00, plus 6% of annual compensation in excess of $4,200.00. Under the old plan, the state pays member contributions in excess of 1.25% of annual compensation. Under the old plan, these state contributions are included in the members' accounts for refund purposes and are used in the computation of the members' earnable compensation for the purpose of computing retirement benefits. Member contributions under the new plan and GSEPS are 1.25% of annual compensation. The School District's contractually required contribution rate, actuarially determined annually, for the year ended June 30, 2017 was 24.81% of annual covered payroll for old and new plan members and 21.69% for GSEPS members. Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. Employer contributions to the pension plan were $15,352.05 for the current fiscal year.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSERS)

Plan description: PSERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established by the Georgia General Assembly in 1969 for the purpose of providing retirement allowances for public school employees who are not eligible for membership in the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. The ERS Board of Trustees, plus two additional trustees, administers PSERS. Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. PSERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at www.ers.ga.gov/formspubs/formspubs.

Benefits provided: A member may retire and elect to receive normal monthly retirement benefits after completion of ten years of creditable service and attainment of age 65. A member may choose to receive reduced benefits after age 60 and upon completion of ten years of service.

Upon retirement, the member will receive a monthly benefit of $14.75, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service. Death and disability benefits are also available through PSERS. Additionally, PSERS may make periodic cost-of-living adjustments to the monthly benefits. Upon termination of employment, member contributions with accumulated interest are refundable upon request by the member. However, if an otherwise vested member terminates and withdraws his/her member contribution, the member forfeits all rights to retirement benefits.

Contributions: The general assembly makes an annual appropriation to cover the employer contribution to PSERS on behalf of local school employees (bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and maintenance staff). The annual employer contribution required by statute is actuarially determined and paid directly to PSERS by the State Treasurer in accordance with O.C.G.A. §47-4-29(a) and 60(b). Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability.

Individuals who became members prior to July 1, 2012 contribute $4 per month for nine months each fiscal year. Individuals who became members on or after July 1, 2012 contribute $10 per month for nine months each fiscal year. The State of Georgia, although not the employer of PSERS members, is required by statute to make employer contributions actuarially determined and approved and certified by the PSERS Board of Trustees. The current fiscal year contribution was $54,598.00.

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

At June 30, 2017, the School District reported a liability of $29,571,753.00 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability for TRS ($29,449,472.00) and ERS ($122,281.00).

The TRS net pension liability reflected a reduction for support provided to the School District by the State of Georgia for certain public school support personnel. The amount recognized by the School District as its proportionate share of the net pension liability, the related State of Georgia support, and the total portion of the net pension liability that was associated with the School District were as follows:

School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$	29,449,472.00
State of Georgia's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the School District		244,066.00
Total	$	29,693,538.00

The net pension liability for TRS and ERS was measured as of June 30, 2016. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2015. An expected total pension liability as of June 30, 2016 was determined using standard roll-forward techniques. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on contributions to TRS and ERS during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.

At June 30, 2016, the School District's TRS proportion was 0.142743%, which was a decrease of 0.004332% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2015. At June 30, 2016, the School District's ERS proportion was 0.002585%, which was an increase of 0.000027% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2015.

At June 30, 2017, the School District did not have a PSERS liability for a proportionate share of the net pension liability because of a Special Funding Situation with the State of Georgia, which is responsible for the net pension liability of the plan. The amount of the State's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the School District is $383,890.00.

The PSERS net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2016. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2015. An expected total pension liability as of June 30, 2016 was determined using standard roll-forward techniques. The State's proportion of the net pension liability associated with the School District was based on actuarially determined contributions paid by the State during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.

For the year ended June 30, 2017, the School District recognized pension expense of $2,784,540.00 for TRS, $12,338.00 for ERS and $62,934.00 for PSERS and revenue of $24,011.00 for TRS and $62,934.00 for PSERS. The revenue is support provided by the State of Georgia. For TRS the State of Georgia support is provided only for certain support personnel.

At June 30, 2017, the School District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	TRS		ERS	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	$ 438,718.00	$ 145,628.00	$ -	$ 282.00
Changes of assumptions	763,290.00	-	1,036.00	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	3,725,480.00	-	12,433.00	-
Changes in proportion and differences between School District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	14,326.00	1,392,991.00	(256.00)	(616.00)
School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	2,309,164.92	-	15,352.05	-
Total	$ 7,250,978.92	$ 1,538,619.00	$ 28,565.05	$ (334.00)

The School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date of $2,309,164.92 for TRS and $15,352.05 for ERS are reported as deferred outflows of resources and will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2018. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ended June 30:	TRS	ERS
2018	$ 180,307.00	$ 1,508.00
2019	$ 180,306.00	$ 1,179.00
2020	$ 1,748,455.00	$ 6,703.00
2021	$ 1,264,618.00	$ 4,157.00
2022	$ 29,509.00	$ -

Actuarial assumptions: The total pension liability as of June 30, 2016 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2015, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Teachers Retirement System:

Inflation	2.75%
Salary increases	3.25% – 9.00%, average, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.50%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 White Collar Mortality Table with future mortality improvement projected to 2025 with the Society of Actuaries' projection scale BB (set forward one year for males) for service requirements and dependent beneficiaries. The RP-2000 Disabled Mortality table with future mortality improvement projected to 2025 with Society of Actuaries'

projection scale BB (set forward two years for males and four years for females) was used for the death after disability retirement. Rates of mortality in active service were based on the RP-2000 Employee Mortality Table projected to 2025 with projection scale BB.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2015 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2014.

Employees' Retirement System:

Inflation	2.75%
Salary increases	3.25% – 7.00%, average, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.50%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table with future mortality improvement projected to 2025 with the Society of Actuaries' projection scale BB and set forward 2 years for both males and females for service retirements and dependent beneficiaries. The RP- 2000 Disabled Mortality Table with future mortality improvement projected to 2025 with Society of Actuaries' projection scale BB and set back 7 years for males and set forward 3 years for females was used for death after disability retirement. There is a margin for future mortality improvement in the tables used by the System. Based on the results of the most recent experience study adopted by the Board on December 17, 2015, the numbers of expected future deaths are 9-12% less than the actual number of deaths that occurred during the study period for service retirements and beneficiaries and for disability retirements. Rates of mortality in active service were based on the RP-2000 Employee Mortality Table projected to 2025 with projection scale BB.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2015 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2014.

Public School Employees Retirement System:

Inflation	2.75%
Salary increases	N/A
Investment rate of return	7.50%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Blue-Collar Mortality Table projected to 2025 with projection scale BB (set forward 3 years for males and 2 years for females) for the period after service retirements and for dependent beneficiaries. The RP-2000 Disabled Mortality projected to 2025 with projection scale BB (set forward 5 years for both males and females) was used for death after disability retirement. There is a margin for future mortality improvement in the tables used by the System. Based on the results of the most recent experience study adopted by the Board on December 17, 2015, the numbers of expected future deaths are 9-11% less than the actual number of deaths that occurred during the study period for healthy retirees and 9-11% less than expected under the selected table for disabled retirees. Rates of mortality in active service were based on the RP-2000 Employee Mortality Table projected to 2025 with projection scale BB.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2015 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2014.

The long-term expected rate of return on TRS, ERS and PSERS pension plan investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset class	TRS Target allocation	ERS/PSERS Target allocation	Long-term expected real rate of return*
Fixed income	30.00%	30.00%	(0.50)%
Domestic large stocks	39.80%	37.20%	9.00%
Domestic mid stocks	3.70%	3.40%	12.00%
Domestic small stocks	1.50%	1.40%	13.50%
International developed market stocks	19.40%	17.80%	8.00%
International emerging market stocks	5.60%	5.20%	12.00%
Alternative	-	5.00%	10.50%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	

* Rates shown are net of the 2.75% assumed rate of inflation

Discount rate: The discount rate used to measure the total TRS, ERS and PSERS pension liability was 7.50%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer and nonemployer contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the TRS, ERS and PSERS pension 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 pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate: The following presents the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.50%, as well as what the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.50%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.50%) than the current rate:

Teachers Retirement System:	1% Decrease (6.50%)	Current Discount Rate (7.50%)	1% Increase (8.50%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 45,838,467.00	$ 29,449,472.00	$ 15,955,837.00

Employees' Retirement System:	1% Decrease (6.50%)	Current Discount Rate (7.50%)	1% Increase (8.50%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 165,714.00	$ 122,281.00	$ 85,268.00

Pension plan fiduciary net position: Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued TRS, ERS and PSERS financial report which is publically available at www.trsga.com/publications and http://www.ers.ga.gov/formspubs/formspubs.html.

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BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

Year Ended	School District's proportion of the net pension liability	School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	State of Georgia's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the School District	Total	School District's covered-payroll	School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2017	0.142743%	$ 29,449,472.00	$ 244,066.00	$ 29,693,538.00	$ 15,786,646.73	186.55%	76.06%
2016	0.147075%	$ 22,390,708.00	$ 189,996.00	$ 22,580,704.00	$ 15,656,895.31	143.01%	81.44%
2015	0.154807%	$ 19,557,823.00	$ 160,953.00	$ 19,718,776.00	$ 15,932,172.02	122.76%	84.03%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF PORPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

Year Ended	School District's proportion of the net pension liability	School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	School District's covered payroll	School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total net pension liability
2017	0.002585%	$ 122,281.00	$ 60,097.22	203.47%	72.34%
2016	0.002558%	$ 103,635.00	$ 58,488.36	177.19%	76.20%
2015	0.002591%	$ 97,179.00	$ 58,346.42	166.56%	77.99%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF PORPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

Year Ended	School District's proportion of the net pension liability	School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	State of Georgia's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the School District	Total	School District's covered payroll	School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
2017	0.00%	$ -	$ 383,890.00	$ 383,890.00	$ 725,869.10	N/A	81.00%
2016	0.00%	$ -	$ 242,736.00	$ 242,736.00	$ 783,445.60	N/A	87.00%
2015	0.00%	$ -	$ 224,650.00	$ 224,650.00	$ 846,638.60	N/A	88.29%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

Year Ended	Contractually required contribution	Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	School District's covered payroll	Contribution as a percentage of covered payroll
2017	$ 2,309,164.92	$ 2,309,164.92	$ -	$ 16,314,149.47	14.15%
2016	$ 2,234,505.20	$ 2,234,505.20	$ -	$ 15,786,646.73	14.15%
2015	$ 2,041,552.01	$ 2,041,552.01	$ -	$ 15,656,895.31	13.04%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

Year Ended	Contractually required contribution	Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	School District's covered payroll	Contribution as a percentage of covered payroll
2017	$ 15,352.05	$ 15,352.05	$ -	$ 61,878.66	24.81%
2016	$ 14,856.00	$ 14,856.00	$ -	$ 60,097.22	24.72%
2015	$ 12,844.08	$ 12,844.08	$ -	$ 58,488.36	21.96%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Teachers Retirement System

Changes of assumptions: In 2010 and later, the expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP 2000 Mortality Tables rather than the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table, which was used prior to 2010. In 2010, rates of withdrawal, retirement, disability and mortality were adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience. In 2010, assumed rates of salary increase were adjusted to more closely reflect actual and anticipated experience.

On November 18, 2015, the Board adopted recommended changes to the economic and demographic assumptions utilized by the System. Primary among the changes were the updates to rates of mortality, retirement, disability, withdrawal and salary increases. The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to RP 2000 White Collar Mortality Table with future mortality improvement projected to 2025 with the Society of Actuaries' projection scale BB (set forward one year for males).

Employees' Retirement System

Changes of assumptions: On December 17, 2015, the Board adopted recommended changes to the economic and demographic assumptions utilized by the System. Primary among the changes were the updates to rates of mortality, retirement, disability, withdrawal and salary increases.

Public School Employees Retirement System

Changes of assumptions: In 2010 and later, the expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP 2000 Mortality Tables rather than the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table, which was used prior to 2010. In 2010, rates of withdrawal, retirement, disability and mortality were adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience.

On December 17, 2015, the Board adopted recommended changes to the economic and demographic assumptions utilized by the System. Primary among the changes were the updates to rates of mortality, retirement and withdrawal. The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP 2000 Blue Collar Mortality Table projected to 2025 with projection scale BB (set forward 3 years for males and 2 years for females).

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHEDULE "7"
GENERAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

	NONAPPROPRIATED BUDGETS		ACTUAL	VARIANCE
	ORIGINAL	FINAL	AMOUNTS	OVER/UNDER
REVENUES				
Property Taxes	$ 6,307,000.00	$ 6,307,000.00	$ 6,289,140.06	$ (17,859.94)
Sales Taxes	58,000.00	58,000.00	81,200.79	23,200.79
State Funds	20,364,728.00	20,364,728.00	20,659,197.45	294,469.45
Federal Funds	5,515,922.00	5,515,922.00	4,694,580.16	(821,341.84)
Charges for Services	131,138.00	131,138.00	506,660.41	375,522.41
Investment Earnings	10,016.00	10,016.00	16,202.02	6,186.02
Miscellaneous	758,906.00	758,906.00	332,016.63	(426,889.37)
Total Revenues	33,145,710.00	33,145,710.00	32,578,997.52	(566,712.48)
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Instruction	21,321,325.00	21,109,687.20	21,263,863.00	(154,175.80)
Support Services				
Pupil Services	812,883.00	924,764.00	957,178.58	(32,414.58)
Improvement of Instructional Services	1,308,868.00	1,289,651.00	1,145,506.26	144,144.74
Educational Media Services	448,820.00	448,820.00	438,507.93	10,312.07
General Administration	438,489.00	438,492.00	621,582.97	(183,090.97)
School Administration	2,160,009.00	2,160,009.00	2,000,357.26	159,651.74
Business Administration	413,387.00	413,387.00	489,958.23	(76,571.23)
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	2,060,948.00	2,060,948.00	2,271,067.12	(210,119.12)
Student Transportation Services	1,256,388.00	1,256,388.00	1,271,313.71	(14,925.71)
Central Support Services		13,549.00	14,806.89	(1,257.89)
Other Support Services	160,971.00	103,320.00	21,897.14	81,422.86
Enterprise Operations	197,401.00	197,401.00	96,372.27	101,028.73
Food Services Operation	1,798,282.00	1,798,281.98	1,854,858.75	(56,576.77)
Total Expenditures	32,377,771.00	32,214,698.18	32,447,270.11	(232,571.93)
Excess of Revenues over (under) Expenditures	767,939.00	931,011.82	131,727.41	(799,284.41)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Operating Transfers From Other Funds	95,000.00	95,000.00	-	(95,000.00)
Operating Transfers To Other Funds	(95,000.00)	(95,000.00)	-	95,000.00
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Fund Balances	767,939.00	931,011.82	131,727.41	(799,284.41)
Fund Balances - Beginning	2,548,326.96	2,548,326.96	2,471,194.13	(77,132.83)
Adjustments	-	(156,689.69)	-	156,689.69
Fund Balances - Ending	$ 3,316,265.96	$ 3,322,649.09	$ 2,602,921.54	$ (719,727.55)

The accompanying schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances budget and actual is presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting which is the basis of accounting used in the presentation of the fund financial statements.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

FUNDING AGENCY PROGRAM/GRANT	CFDA NUMBER	PASS-THROUGH ENTITY ID NUMBER	EXPENDITURES IN PERIOD
Agriculture, U. S. Department of			
Child Nutrition Cluster			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Food Services			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	17175GA324N1099	$ 446,596.42
National School Lunch Program	10.555	17175GA324N1100	1,330,651.68
Total U. S. Department of Agriculture			1,777,248.10
Education, U. S. Department of			
Special Education Cluster			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Special Education			
Grants to States	84.027	H027A150073	53,778.00
Grants to States	84.027	H027A160073	554,976.63
Preschool Grants	84.173	H173A150081	15,823.00
Preschool Grants	84.173	H173A160081	26,209.16
Total Special Education Cluster			650,786.79
Other Programs			
Pass-Through From Georgia Department of Education			
Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	84.048	V048A150010	35,283.00
English Language Acquisition Grants	84.365	S365A150010	1,583.00
English Language Acquisition Grants	84.365	S365A160010	11,541.49
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	84.367	S367A150001	38,446.00
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	84.367	S367A160001	181,387.87
Migrant Education - State Grant Program	84.011	S011A150011	12,341.00
Migrant Education - State Grant Program	84.011	S011A160011	24,904.38
Rural Education	84.358	S358B150010	8,451.00
Rural Education	84.358	S358B160010	67,299.47
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	S010A150010	82,333.00
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	S010A160010	1,510,065.45
Total Other Programs			1,973,635.66
Total U. S. Department of Education			2,624,422.45
Defense, U. S. Department of			
Direct			
Department of the Army			
R.O.T.C. Program	12. Unknown		25,804.60
Health and Human Services, U. S. Department of			
Pass-Through From Children and Youth Coordinating Council			
Abstinence Education	93.235	NIG95295	79,742.23
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			$ 4,507,217.38

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

Note 1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the "Schedule") includes the federal award activity of the Ben Hill County Board of Education (the "Board") under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2016. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Board, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net assets of the Board.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following, as applicable, either the cost principles in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments* , or the cost principles contained in Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* , wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. The Board has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

AGENCY/FUNDING	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE GENERAL FUND
GRANTS	
Bright From the Start:	
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning	
Pre-Kindergarten Program	$ 724,656.14
Education, Georgia Department of	
Quality Basic Education	
Direct Instructional Cost	
Kindergarten Program	1,216,389.00
Kindergarten Program - Early Intervention Program	75,652.00
Primary Grades (1-3) Program	2,709,369.00
Primary Grades - Early Intervention (1-3) Program	273,294.00
Upper Elementary Grades (4-5) Program	1,299,063.00
Upper Elementary Grades - Early Intervention (4-5) Program	161,568.00
Middle School (6-8) Program	1,843,689.00
High School General Education (9-12) Program	1,415,949.00
Vocational Laboratory (9-12) Program	780,117.00
Students with Disabilities	2,892,036.00
Gifted Student - Category VI	473,790.00
Special Education Supplemental Speech	798.00
Remedial Education Program	124,765.00
Alternative Education Program	135,291.00
English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	122,645.00
Media Center Program	369,443.00
20 Days Additional Instruction	109,762.00
Staff Development Programs	61,721.00
Indirect Cost	
Central Administration	518,567.00
School Administration	694,617.00
Facility Maintenance and Operations	826,806.00
Categorical Grants	
Pupil Transportation	
Regular	362,524.00
Vocational Supervisors	13,306.00
Austerity Reduction	(239,930.00)
Principal Staff and Professional Development	1,083.00
Nursing Services	62,511.00
Mid-term Adjustment Hold Harmless	153,345.00
Education Equalization Funding Grant	3,050,273.00
Other State Programs	
Food Services	48,200.00
Math and Science Supplements	15,833.97
Preschool Handicapped Program	64,297.00
Pupil Transportation - State Bonds	77,216.25
Teachers Retirement	18,565.80
Vocational Education	146,880.04
Teacher of the Year Grant	507.25
Office of the State Treasurer	
Public School Employees Retirement	54,598.00
	$ 20,659,197.45

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BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF APPROVED LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROJECTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

SCHEDULE "10"

PROJECT	ORIGINAL ESTIMATED COST (1)	CURRENT ESTIMATED COSTS (2)	AMOUNT EXPENDED IN CURRENT YEAR (3)	AMOUNT EXPENDED IN PRIOR YEARS (3)	TOTAL COMPLETION COST	EXCESS PROCEEDS NOT EXPENDED	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
(i) Payment of principal and interest on previously incurred general obligation debt of the School District in a maximum amount of $4,422,515.00;	$ 4,422,515.00	$ 3,848,815.27	$ 863,392.50	$ 2,127,400.00	$ -	$ -	2018
(ii) Repairing, improving, rehabilitating and upgrading the "Old Lynwood" building for use as a Central Support facility;	-	2,000,000.00	-	-	-	-	2018
(iii) Adding a new wing at Ben Hill Primary School, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment;	-	6,100,000.00	-	20,000.00	-	-	2018
(iv) Renovating, extending, repairing and equipping existing School District facilities to include roof repairs;	-	6,229,442.54	2,536,403.03	3,693,039.51	-	-	2018
(v) Acquiring and installing system-wide instructional and administrative technology, safety and security equipment;	-	802,008.62	84,665.79	717,342.83			2018
(vi) Acquisition of school buses and transportation equipment;	-	9,444.93	9,444.93	-	-	-	2018
(vii) Acquisition of fine arts, vocational and physical education/athletic equipment and facilities;	-	900,000.00	133,212.98	214,442.72	-	-	2018
(viii) Acquiring textbooks;	-	-	-	-	-	-	2018
(ix) Planning for new School District site development and site acquisition at a maximum cost of $13,000,400.00.	11,077,485.00	11,077,485.00	126,894.74	384,904.40	-	-	2018
	$ 15,500,000.00	$ 30,967,196.36	$ 3,754,013.97	$ 7,157,129.46	$ -	$ -	

(1) The School District's original cost estimate as specified in the resolution calling for the imposition of the Local Option Sales Tax.

(2) The School District's current estimate of total cost for the projects. Includes all cost from project inception to completion.

(3) The voters of Ben Hill County approved the imposition of a 1% sales tax to fund the above projects and retire associated debt. Amounts expended for these projects may include sales tax proceeds, state, local property taxes and/or other funds over the life of the projects.

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SECTION II

COMPLIANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL REPORTS

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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 1-156
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

Greg S. Griffin
STATE AUDITOR
(404) 656-2174

March 8, 2018

The Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Members of the State Board of Education
and
Superintendent and Members of the
Ben Hill County Board of Education

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Ben Hill County Board of Education, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 8, 2018.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the School District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control.

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

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Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs* as item FS2017-001, that we consider to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

School District's Response to Findings

The School District's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs*. The School District's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

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

Respectfully submitted,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 1-156
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

Greg S. Griffin
STATE AUDITOR
(404) 656-2174

March 8, 2018

The Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Members of the State Board of Education
and
Superintendent and Members of the
Ben Hill County Board of Education

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Ben Hill County Board of Education's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2017. The School District's major federal programs are identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs*.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of its federal awards applicable to its federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of the School District's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the School District's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

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We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the School District's compliance.

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

In our opinion, the School District complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2017.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Management of the School District is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the School District's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control over compliance.

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

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

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SECTION III

AUDITEE'S RESPONSE TO PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

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BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AUDITEE'S RESPONSE
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

PRIOR YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.

PRIOR YEAR FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.

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SECTION IV

FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

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BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

I SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issue:
Governmental Activities; General Fund; Capital Projects Fund; Debt Service Fund; Aggregate Remaining Fund Information — Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:
- Material weakness identified? — Yes
- Significant deficiency identified? — None Reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted: — No

Federal Awards

Internal Control over major programs:
- Material weakness identified? — No
- Significant deficiency identified? — None Reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs:
All major programs — Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)? — No

Identification of major programs:

CFDA Numbers	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
84.010	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies
84.027, 84.173	Special Education Cluster

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: $750.000.00

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? — No

II FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FS2017-001 Internal Controls over Financial Reporting Process
Control Category: Financial Reporting
Internal Control Impact: Material Weakness
Compliance Impact: None

Description:
The School District did not have adequate internal controls in place over the financial statement reporting process.

Criteria:
Management is responsible for having adequate controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The School District's internal controls over GAAP financial reporting should include adequately trained personnel with the knowledge, skills and experience to prepare GAAP based financial statements and include all disclosures as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments* (Statement), requires governments to present government-wide and fund financial statements as well as a summary reconciliation of the (a) total governmental funds balances to the net position of governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position, and (b) total change in governmental fund balances to the change in the net position of governmental activities in the Statement of Activities. In addition, the Statement requires information about the government's major and nonmajor funds in the aggregate, to be provided in the fund financial statements.

Chapter II – 2*, Annual Financial Reporting* of the Financial Management for Georgia Local Units of Administration provides that School Districts must prepare their financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Condition:
The following errors and omissions were noted in the School District's financial statements, note disclosures and supplementary information as presented for audit:

- A material adjustment totaling $172,175.32 was proposed and accepted by the client to correctly present beginning fund balance and SPLOST revenue in the capital projects fund on the governmental fund financial statements.
- An audit adjustment total $178,093.01 was proposed and accepted by the client to correctly present accounts receivable and SPLOST revenue on the government-wide financial statements and in the capital projects fund on the governmental fund financial statements. The adjustment was material to the capital projects fund.
- The entity did not properly reconcile beginning net position for private purpose trust funds. An immaterial audit adjustment was proposed to properly report beginning net position.
- Other immaterial audit adjustments and reclassifications were proposed and accepted by the client to properly present the School District's financial statements, note disclosures and supplemental information.

II FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Cause:

In discussing this issue with management, they believe the cause of the errors was from a failure to review the work of the system bookkeeper by the system accountant. The system bookkeeper is being trained to prepare the annual financial statements under the supervision of the system accountant. The Chief Financial Officer asked that the system accountant review the work of the system bookkeeper and that apparently did not happen.

Effect or Potential Effect:

Material misstatements were included in the financial statements presented for audit. The lack of controls and monitoring could impact the reporting of the School District's financial position and results of operation.

Recommendation:

The School District should strengthen their internal controls and preparation and review procedures over financial reporting to ensure that the financial statements, including disclosures, presented for audit are complete and accurate. These procedures should be performed by a properly trained individual(s) possessing a thorough understanding of GAAP, the applicable GASB pronouncements and knowledge of the School District's activities and operations. The School District should also consider implementing the use of a review checklist to assist in the review process over the financial statements.

Views of Responsible Officials:

We concur with this finding.

III FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.

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SECTION V

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION

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BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AUDITEE'S RESPONSE
SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

FS 2017-001	Internal Controls over Financial Reporting
Control Category:	Financial Reporting
Internal Control Impact:	Material Weakness
Compliance Impact:	None

The School District did not have adequate internal controls in place over the financial statement reporting process, resulting in material and immaterial misstatements.

Corrective Action Plans:
In order to ensure that financial reporting is correct in future submissions the Chief Financial Officer will personally review such reports prior to their submission. The system accountant will also report to the Chief Financial Officer when his/her review is complete.

Estimated Completion Date: June 30, 2018

Contact Person: Thomas Rachels, Chief Financial Officer
Telephone: (229) 409-5500
E-mail: thomas.rachels@benhillschools.org

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS - FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS

No matters were reported.