

ST. HOPE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

September 26, 2019

To the Audit Committee
St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School

We have audited the financial statements of St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School (the “School”) for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018 and are prepared to issue our report thereon dated September 26, 2019. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit. This letter is divided into two sections: 1) required communications from the auditors to those with audit oversight responsibilities and 2) opportunities for strengthening internal controls or enhancing operating efficiency and our related recommendations.

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

A. Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards:

As stated in our engagement letter April 9, 2019, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express an opinion about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control. We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

B. Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit:

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you in our meeting about planning matters on July 2019.

C. Auditor Independence:

We affirm that MBAF CPAs, LLC is independent with respect to St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School.

D. Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices:

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School are described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

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As described in Note 2 to the financial statements, during the year ended June 30, 2019, the School adopted Accounting Standards Update 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958) – *Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. The update amends the current reporting model for not-for-profit organizations and enhances their required disclosures. The major changes include, but are not limited to: (a) requiring the presentation of two classes of net assets now entitled “net assets without donor restrictions” and “net assets with donor restrictions,” (b) modifying the presentation of underwater endowment funds and related disclosures, (c) requiring the use of the placed in service approach to recognize the expirations on gifts used to acquire or construct long-lived assets absent explicit donor restrictions otherwise, (d) requiring the presentation of an analysis of expenses by function and nature, (e) requiring the disclosure of information regarding liquidity and availability of resources, and (f) presenting investment return net of external and direct internal investment expenses. In addition, the update removes the requirement that statements of cash flows using the direct method also present a reconciliation consistent with the indirect method. The School has applied the update retrospectively to all periods presented and adjusted the presentation of these financial statements accordingly. As a result, the School reclassified amounts formerly classified as unrestricted net assets to net assets without donor restrictions. The adoption of this update had no other material effect on the School’s financial position and changes in net assets. In addition, the School has elected to continue to present a reconciliation in the statement of cash flows consistent with the direct method.

We noted no transactions entered into by the School during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. There are no significant transactions that have been recognized in the financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred.

E. Accounting Estimates Used in the Financial Statements:

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts:

As of June 30, 2019, St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School recorded grants and other receivables of \$59,398. Management concluded that no allowance for doubtful accounts was necessary. Management calculated based on the assessment of the credit-worthiness of the School’s grantors, the aged basis of the receivables, as well as economic conditions and historical information. Based on our audit procedures which included a discussion with the School fiscal Consultant, we concur with management’s conclusion.

Functional Statement Allocation:

Management's estimate of the allocation of functional expenses is directly identified with the program or supporting service to which they relate. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Depreciation:

Management's estimate of depreciation is based on estimated useful lives of assets. We evaluated the estimated useful lives of assets in comparison to generally accepted accounting principles in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

F. Sensitive Disclosures Affecting the Financial Statements:

The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear. Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure(s) affecting the financial statements were:

The disclosure of risk management in Note 9 to the financial statements describes various risks to which the School is exposed.

G. Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements:

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. We will identify those adjustments proposed both corrected and uncorrected:

Proposed and Corrected:

Proposed and Corrected:

There were two audit adjustments that was proposed and corrected during the period that decreased net assets by \$1,800. The most significant adjustment was to adjust unearned grant revenue, general education and special education per pupil funding received by the School.

Proposed and Uncorrected:

There were no audit adjustments proposed and uncorrected.

H. Audit Difficulties and Disagreements with Management:

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report.

We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

I. Management Representations:

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 26, 2019.

J. Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants:

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a

consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the School's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

K. Other Audit Findings or Issues:

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the School's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING INTERNAL CONTROLS OR
ENHANCING OPERATING EFFICIENCY**

Property, Plant and Equipment Testing:

Our testing of property plant and equipment revealed a capitalization policy of \$1,000 which leads to a larger number of inconsequential items being capitalized. We recommend that the School consider raising the threshold between \$3,000 to \$5,000. We also found that assets were being capitalized according to invoice amounts. We recommend that the determination to expense or capitalize assets be done by individual items not by invoice.

Expense Testing:

Our testing of expenses revealed that the School paid some sales tax to some of their vendors. Since the School is tax-exempt, we recommend that the School consider providing a sales tax exempt form for all purchases.

We wish to thank management and personnel for their support and assistance during our audit. We would be pleased to further discuss the contents of this report with you at your convenience.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Audit Committee, Board of Trustees, and management of St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

MBAF CPAs, LLC

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