Business Process Audit
Oak View Elementary School
Report Reference Number: 20-13392

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Prepared by
Office of Auditor General

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Executive Summary

This audit report summarizes the results of the Office of Auditor General’s Business Process Audit at Oak View Elementary School conducted on January 13, 2020. The audit was performed in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2020 audit plan approved by the Fairfax County School Board. The primary objective of the audit was to determine the adequacy of controls and processes in place for managing local school activity funds and appropriated funds during FY 2020. There was one low risk finding identified during the audit.

We appreciate the consultation, cooperation, and courtesies extended to our staff by the administrative assistant and principal at Oak View Elementary School.

Background, Scope and Objectives, and Methodology

Background

All departments and schools are responsible for business processes that support their core mission. These processes include procuring goods and services needed to meet their objectives and processing cash receipts. For departments, most of these processes are limited to appropriated fund transactions. However, in a school, there are both appropriated fund transactions and local school activity fund transactions.

These audits will be performed on an ad hoc basis depending on (1) changes in management/staff, (2) the results of the continuous audit process, or (3) situations as deemed necessary. The potential risks are (1) job duties not performed in accordance with required policies, procedures, and guidance; and (2) questionable transactions not timely identified. The primary regulations include, but are not limited to:

- Regulation 5111 Financial Management Reports (FMR)
- Regulation 5810 School Activity Funds Management
- Regulation 5350 Procurement Card Management
- Regulation 5012 Purchasing Goods and Services Using Appropriated and Nonappropriated Funds

Scope and Objectives

We conducted this audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, with the exception of peer review. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

The audit covered FY 2020 financial activity. The audit’s objectives were to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of processes and compliance with applicable regulations and policies
- Determine if internal controls are adequate and functioning as intended
- Determine if transactions are reasonable and do not appear to be fraudulent
To answer the audit objectives the audit team used various methods, including the following:

- Meeting with school-based staff
- Reviewing relevant laws, rules, FCPS policies and regulations
- Reviewing prior audits and reviews
- Testing sampled transactions (procurement card, receipt, disbursement, etc.)

The FCPS Office of Auditor General is free from organizational impairments to independence in our reporting as defined by government auditing standards. The office reports directly to the School Board through the Audit Committee. We report the results of our audits to the Audit Committee and the reports are made available to the public via the FCPS website.

Methodology

The Office of Auditor General’s audit approach assessed the school’s current management of internal controls covering local school activity funds and appropriated funds. The structure of this audit was designed to assist principals and finance technicians in understanding the question “where are we now?” and what processes and controls must be in place to ensure compliance with FCPS regulations and best practice guidelines moving forward. The audit examined monthly expenditures, records, and statements; reviewed monthly reconciliations; conducted interviews with appropriate employees; with the goal of understanding the school’s current standing moving forward. Information was extracted from Payment Net, Great Plains, and FOCUS for sampling and verification to source documentation during the audit; however, our audit did not include an independent review of system controls.

Audit Findings, Recommendations, and Management’s Responses

The finding within this report has been attributed a risk rating in accordance with established risk criteria as defined in Table 1:

Table 1: Risk criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High (one or more of these exists)</td>
<td>Controls are not in place or are inadequate. Compliance with legislation and regulations or contractual obligations is inadequate. Important issues are identified that could negatively impact the achievement of program/operational objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate (one or more of these exists)</td>
<td>Controls are in place but are not sufficiently complied with. Compliance with subject government regulations or FCPS policies and established procedures is inadequate, or FCPS policies and established procedures are inadequate. Issues are identified that could negatively impact the efficiency and effectiveness of operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low (one or more of these exists)</td>
<td>Controls are in place, but the level of compliance varies. Compliance with government regulations or FCPS policies and established procedures varies. Issues identified are less significant, but opportunities exist that could enhance operations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All completed Business Process Audits with findings in which the risk ratings are deemed moderate or high will require a management response. During this audit, OAG identified one low risk finding which is detailed below:

Finding 1 – Accounting Procedures - Reconciliations  
Risk Rating – Low

Condition:  
While Financial Management Reports (FMR) reconciliations were being completed, the FMR reconciliations for the month sampled was not approved in a timely manner. The printed FMR position and non-position reconciliations for the month of November 2019 were not approved until January 6, 2020. In addition, approval of the non-position reconciliation for the month of November 2019 through the Online Application did not occur until January 7, 2020.

Criteria:  
- Notice 5111 Financial Management Report (FMR) Distribution and Reconciliation Schedule provides the availability of FOCUS month-end close, and reconciliation schedule for FY 2020 for position and expenditure data. For the November 2019 reconciliation, information was available on December 10, 2019, and the reconciliation was to be completed by December 31, 2019.
- Regulation 5111 Financial Management Reports (FMR) establishes the responsibilities and procedures for the reconciliation of the monthly FMR.
- The School Finance Handbook states that FMR reports are submitted “for approval and signature by the principal” and “retain[ed] on site.” Additionally, The School Finance Handbook states that “the principal should review and sign the FMR1110 – Financial Management Report and approve the Non-Position Report through the online application.”

Effect:  
Reconciliations reduce the risk of undetected errors and increase the timeliness of corrections. Additionally, reconciliations provide a confirmation of funds available to be spent for the benefit of students.

Recommendation:  
OAG recommends that reconciliations be reviewed and approved in a timely manner.

Management Response (Not Required):  
A management response is not required for this finding due to the level of risk rating. The school will be subject to further review during the annual local school activity fund audit scheduled to be performed later in the year continuous audit procedures conducted throughout the year.