

**PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED JULY 19, 2017**

**NEW ISSUE – Book-Entry Only**

**Ratings: See “RATINGS” herein**

*In the opinion of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, New Jersey (“Bond Counsel”), under existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, and assuming continuing compliance with certain covenants described herein, interest on the Bonds (as herein defined) (i) is not includable in gross income for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and (ii) is not treated as a preference item under Section 57 of the Code for purposes of computing the Federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and corporations. Bond Counsel is further of the opinion that, under existing laws of the State of New Jersey, interest on the Bonds and any gain on the sale thereof are not includable in gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act, as amended. See “TAX EXEMPTION” herein.*

**\$3,315,000  
SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2017  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL  
IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY  
(New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, 1980 N.J. Laws c. 72, as amended)**

**CALLABLE  
BANK-QUALIFIED**

**Dated: Date of Delivery**

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

The \$3,315,000 aggregate principal amount of School Bonds, Series 2017 (the “Bonds”), of The Board of Education of the Township of East Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey (the “Board” when referring to the governing body and the “School District” when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) are valid and legally binding general obligations of the Board, and unless paid from other sources, are payable from *ad valorem* taxes levied upon all the taxable real property within the School District for the payment of the Bonds and the interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount. Payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds is also secured under the provisions of the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, 1980 N.J. Laws c. 72, as amended.

The Bonds will be issued as fully registered bonds in book-entry only form (without certificates) in the form of one certificate for the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds maturing in each year and when issued will be registered in the name of and held by Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”). Individual purchases may be made in the principal amount of \$1,000 each or any integral multiple thereof with a minimum purchase of \$5,000 required, through book-entries made on the books and records of DTC and its participants. Individual purchasers of the Bonds will not receive certificates representing their beneficial ownership interests in the Bonds, but each book-entry Bond owner will receive a credit balance on the books of its nominee, and this credit balance will be confirmed by an initial transaction statement stating the details of the Bonds purchased. See “BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM” herein.

The Bonds shall bear interest from their date of delivery, which interest shall be payable semi-annually on the fifteenth day of January and July in each year, commencing July 15, 2018, until maturity or prior redemption. Interest on the Bonds will be credited to the participants of DTC as listed on the records of DTC as of each immediately preceding July 1 and January 1 (the “Record Dates” for the payment of interest on the Bonds).

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

The Bonds are offered when, as and if issued and delivered to the Underwriter, subject to prior sale, to withdrawal or modification of the offer without notice and to approval of legality by the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, New Jersey, Bond Counsel to the Board, and certain other conditions described herein. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the Board by Fogarty & Hara, Fair Lawn, New Jersey, General Counsel to the Board. Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Bordentown, New Jersey, served as municipal advisor in connection with the Bonds. Delivery of the Bonds in definitive form to DTC in Jersey City, New Jersey, is anticipated to occur on or about August 9, 2017.

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS FOR THE BONDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FULL NOTICE OF SALE, MUST BE MADE VIA PARITY AT 11:00 A.M. EASTERN DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ON JULY 26, 2017. FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOW TO BID ELECTRONICALLY, VIEW THE FULL NOTICE OF SALE POSTED AT WWW.MUNIHUB.COM.**

**\$3,315,000**  
**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE**  
**TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL**  
**IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY**  
**SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2017**

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

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

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

<u>Maturity</u> <u>(January 15)</u>	<u>Principal</u> <u>Amounts</u>	<u>Interest</u> <u>Rates</u>	<u>Yields</u>	<u>CUSIP</u> <u>Numbers*</u>
2019	\$110,000	%	%	270515__
2020	130,000			270515__
2021	135,000			270515__
2022	140,000			270515__
2023	140,000			270515__
2024	145,000			270515__
2025	145,000			270515__
2026	150,000			270515__
2027	155,000			270515__
2028	160,000			270515__
2029	165,000			270515__
2030	170,000			270515__
2031	175,000			270515__
2032	180,000			270515__
2033	185,000			270515__
2034	190,000			270515__
2035	200,000			270515__
2036	205,000			270515__
2037	215,000			270515__
2038	220,000			270515__

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

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL  
IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

President – Charles Miles, Jr.  
Vice President – Anne Kenyon

Carole Ammann  
John Bedard  
Doreen Kraycirik  
Carole McGee  
Charles Miller  
Peter Miller  
Kim Williard

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Edward Stoloski

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY**

Judy Holladay

**BOARD ATTORNEY**

Fogarty & Hara  
Fair Lawn, New Jersey

**BOARD AUDITOR**

Bedard, Kurowicki & Co., CPA's, PC  
Flemington, New Jersey

**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

Phoenix Advisors, LLC  
Bordentown, New Jersey

**BOND COUNSEL**

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

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

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

This Official Statement is not to be construed as a contract or agreement among the Board, the Underwriter and the owners of any of the Bonds. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice, and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in any of the information herein since the date hereof, or the date as of which such information is given, if earlier.

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

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

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

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

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**  
**OF**  
**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE**  
**TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL**  
**IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY**

**\$3,315,000**  
**SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2017**  
**(NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOND RESERVE ACT, 1980 N.J. Laws c. 72, as amended)**

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

**INTRODUCTION**

This Official Statement, which includes the cover page and the appendices attached hereto, has been prepared by The Board of Education of the Township of East Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) in connection with the offering, sale and issuance of its \$3,315,000 aggregate principal amount of School Bonds, Series 2017 (the "Bonds"). This Official Statement has been executed by and on behalf of the Board by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and its distribution and use in connection with the offering and sale of the Bonds have been authorized by the Board.

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

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

**DESCRIPTION OF THE BONDS**

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

**Terms and Interest Payment Dates**

The Bonds shall be dated their date of delivery and shall mature on January 15 in each of the years and in the amounts set forth on the inside cover page hereof. The Bonds shall bear interest from their date of delivery which interest shall be payable semi-annually on the fifteenth day of January and July (each an "Interest Payment Date"), commencing on July 15, 2018, in each of the years and at the interest rates set forth on the inside cover page hereof until maturity or prior redemption by check mailed by the Board or a duly appointed paying agent to the registered owners of the Bonds as of each July 1 and January 1 immediately preceding the respective Interest Payment Date (the "Record Dates"). So long as The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), or its nominee is the registered owner of the Bonds, payments of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made by the Board or a designated paying agent directly to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., which will in turn remit such payments to DTC participants, which will in turn remit such payments to the beneficial owners of the Bonds. See "BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM" herein.

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

### **Redemption**

The Bonds of this issue maturing prior to January 15, 2028 are not subject to redemption prior to their stated maturities. The Bonds of this issue maturing on or after January 15, 2028 are redeemable at the option of the Board in whole or in part on any date on or after January 15, 2027 upon notice as required herein at one hundred percent (100%) of the principal amount being redeemed (the "Redemption Price"), plus accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption.

### **Notice of Redemption**

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

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

### **Security for the Bonds**

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

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

All school bonds are secured by the School Bond Reserve (the "School Bond Reserve") established in the Fund for the Support of Free Public Schools of the State of New Jersey (the "Fund") in accordance with the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:56-17 et seq. (P.L. 1980, c. 72, approved July 16, 1980, as amended by P.L. 2003, c. 118, approved July 1, 2003 (the "Act")). The 2003



amendments to the Act provide that the Fund will be divided into two School Bond Reserve accounts. All bonds issued prior to July 1, 2003 shall be benefited by a School Bond Reserve account funded in an amount equal to 1-1/2% of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes (the "Old School Bond Reserve Account") and all bonds, including the Bonds, issued on or after July 1, 2003 shall be benefited by a School Bond Reserve account funded in an amount equal to 1% of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes (the "New School Bond Reserve Account"), provided such amounts do not exceed the moneys available in the Fund. If a municipality, county or school district is unable to make payment of principal of or interest on any of its bonds issued for school purposes, the trustees of the Fund will purchase such bonds at par value and will pay to the bondholders the interest due or to become due within the limits of funds available in the applicable School Bond Reserve account in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

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

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

### **Authorization and Purpose**

The Bonds have been authorized and are issued pursuant to Title 18A, Chapter 24 of the New Jersey Statutes, Chapter 271 of the Laws of 1967, as amended and supplemented, (ii) a proposal adopted by the Board on September 20, 2016, and approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the legal voters present and voting at the special School District election held on January 24, 2017 and (iii) a resolution duly adopted by the Board on June 20, 2017 (the "Resolution").

The proceeds of the Bonds will be used to finance various capital improvements in and for the School District (the "Project") and to pay the costs of issuance associated with the issuance of the Bonds. The State has awarded the School District aid for the Project in the amount of 15.358% of the eligible costs of such Project. As such, the State has agreed to pay 15.358% of the annual debt service on the eligible costs financed by the Bonds each year.

## **BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM**

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

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

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

Purchases of the Bonds under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Bonds on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Bond ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Bonds are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the Bonds, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Bonds is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Bonds deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co. or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Bonds with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Bonds; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Bonds are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial Owners of the Bonds may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the Bonds, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the Bond documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of the Bonds may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Bonds for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to Beneficial Owners, or in the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

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

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

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

DTC may discontinue providing its services as Securities Depository with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Board or Paying Agent. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor Securities Depository is not obtained, Bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

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

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

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

In the event that the book-entry-only system is discontinued and the Beneficial Owners become registered owners of the Bonds, the following provisions apply: (i) the Bonds may be exchanged for an equal aggregate principal amount of Bonds in other authorized denominations and of the same maturity, upon surrender thereof at the office of the Board or its paying agent; (ii) the transfer of any Bonds may be registered on the books maintained by the registrar for such purposes only upon the surrender thereof to the Board or its paying agent together with the duly executed assignment in form satisfactory to the Board

or its paying agent; and (iii) for every exchange or registration of transfer of Bonds, the Board or its paying agent may make a charge sufficient to reimburse for any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect to such exchange or registration of transfer of the Bonds. Interest on the Bonds will be payable by check or draft mailed on each Interest Payment Date to the registered owners thereof as of the close of business on the Record Dates.

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

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

The School District provides a full range of educational services appropriate to grade Kindergarten (K) through grade eight (8), including regular and special education programs for students of the Township of East Amwell. The School District operates one elementary school. See "APPENDIX A – Certain Economic and Demographic Information Relating to The Board of Education of the Township of East Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey."

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

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

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

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

An Executive County Superintendent of Schools (the "County Superintendent") is appointed for each county in the State by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner with the advice and consent of the State Senate. The County Superintendent is the local representative of the Commissioner. The County Superintendent is responsible for the daily supervision of the school districts in the county and is charged with the enforcement of rules pertaining to the certification of teachers, pupil registers and financial reports and the review of budgets. Under the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, P.L. 2007, c. 63, approved April 3, 2007 (A4), the role of the County Superintendent

was changed to create the post of the Executive County Superintendent with expanded powers for the operation and management of school districts to, among other things, promote administrative and operational efficiencies, eliminate non-operating school districts and recommend a school district consolidation plan to eliminate districts through the establishment or enlargement of regional school districts, subject to voter approval.

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

### **Categories of School Districts**

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

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

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

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

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

(5) County vocational school districts have boards of education consisting of the County Superintendent and four (4) members unless it is a county of the first class, which adopted an ordinance, in which case it can have a board consisting of seven (7) appointed members which the board of chosen freeholders of the county appoints. Such vocational school districts shall also have a board of school estimate, consisting of two (2) members appointed by the board of education of the school district, two (2) members appointed by the board of chosen freeholders and a fifth member being the county executive or the director of the board of chosen freeholders of the county, which approves all fiscal matters; and

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

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

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

In a Type I school district, a separate body from the school district, known as the board of school estimate, examines the budget requests and fixes the appropriation amounts for the next year's operating budget at or after a public hearing. This board, whose composition is fixed by statute, certifies the budget to the municipal governing body or board of education. If the board of education disagrees with the certified budget of the board of school estimate, then it can appeal to the Commissioner to request changes if such certified budget is less than or equal to the maximum T&E budget and may appeal to the Commissioner if such certified budget amount is in excess of the maximum T&E budget. See "SUMMARY OF STATE AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS" herein.

In a Type II school district, the elected board of education develops the budget proposal and, at or after a public hearing, submits it for voter approval. Debt service provisions are not subject to public referendum. If approved, the budget goes into effect. If defeated, the governing bodies of the constituent municipalities must develop the school budget by May 19 of each year. Should the governing bodies be unable to do so, the Commissioner establishes the local school budget.

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

School districts that opt to move the annual school election to November would no longer be required to submit the budget to the voters for approval if the budget is at or below the two percent (2%) property tax levy cap as provided in the New Cap Law (as hereinafter defined). For school districts that opt to change the annual school election date to November, proposals to spend above the two percent (2%) property tax levy cap would be presented to voters at the annual school election in November.

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

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

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

#### **Budgets and Appropriations**

School districts in the State must operate on an annual cash basis budget. Each school district must adopt an annual budget in such detail and upon forms as prescribed by the Commissioner, to which must be attached an itemized statement showing revenues, including State and Federal aid, and expenditures. The Commissioner must approve a budget prior to its final adoption and has the power to increase or decrease individual line items in a budget. Any amendments to a school district's budget must be approved by the board of education or the board of school estimate, as the case may be. Every budget submitted must provide no less than the minimum permissible amount deemed necessary under State law to provide for a thorough and efficient education as mandated by the State Constitution. The Commissioner may not approve any budget unless the Commissioner is satisfied that the school district has adequately implemented within the budget the Core Curriculum Content Standards (as defined herein) required by State law. If necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to order changes in the local school district's budget. The Commissioner will also ensure that other provisions of law are met including the limitations on taxes and spending explained below.

## Tax and Spending Limitations

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

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

The Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996, N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-1 et seq., P.L. 1996, c. 138 (the "CEIFA"), as amended by P.L. 2004, c. 732, effective July 1, 2004 and P.L. 2010, c. 44, effective July 13, 2010, which followed QEA, also limits the annual increase in a school district's general fund tax levy which does not exceed the school district's adjusted tax levy, defined as the amount raised by property taxation for the purposes of the school district, excluding any debt service payments (the "Adjusted Tax Levy"). The CEIFA limited the amount school districts can increase their annual current expense and capital outlay budgets (the "Spending Growth Limitations"). Generally, budgets could increase either by two and one-half percent (2.5%) or the consumer price index, whichever is greater. Prior amendments to the CEIFA decreased the budget cap to two and one-half percent (2.5%) from three percent (3%). As a result of recent amendments to CEIFA, the budget presented to the voters may not have an increase in the Adjusted Tax Levy that exceeds the pre-budget year Adjusted Tax Levy and an adjustment for enrollment by two percent (2%). See the description of the New Cap Law (as defined herein) below. A school district is required to submit, as applicable, to the board of school estimate or to the voters of the district at the annual school budget election, a general fund tax levy if it exceeds the school district's Adjusted Tax Levy as calculated by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38 and 39. Any school district may also submit at the annual school budget election, a separate proposal or proposals for additional funds, including interpretive statements, specifically identifying the program purposes for which the proposed funds shall be used. The Executive County Superintendent may prohibit the submission of such a separate proposal if he or she determines that the district has not implemented all potential efficiencies in the administrative operations of the district, which efficiencies would eliminate the need for such additional funds. Parts of the CEIFA have been found to be unconstitutional. See "SUMMARY OF STATE AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS" herein.

P.L. 2010, c. 44, effective July 13, 2010 (the "New Cap Law"), further provides limitations on school district spending by limiting the amount a school district can raise for school district purposes through the property tax levy by two percent (2%) over the prior year's tax levy. See "SUMMARY OF STATE AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS" herein. The New Cap Law provides for certain adjustments to the tax levy cap for specific circumstances relating to enrollment increases, health care cost increases and increases in amounts for certain normal and accrued liability pension contributions.

The New Cap Law provides that school districts may submit to voters during April school elections or on other dates set by regulation of the Commissioner, a proposal or proposals to increase the Adjusted Tax Levy by more than the allowable amount authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-38. The proposal or proposals to increase the Adjusted Tax Levy shall be approved if a majority of the people voting shall vote affirmatively. For school districts with boards of school estimate, the additional Adjusted Tax Levy shall be authorized only if a quorum is present for the vote and a majority of those board members who are present vote affirmatively to authorize the Adjusted Tax Levy.

Debt service on bonds, such as the Bonds, is not limited either by the two percent (2%) cap on the tax levy increase imposed by the New Cap Law.

## **Issuance of Debt**

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

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

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

## **Capital Lease Financing**

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

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

Except as provided below, no additional debt shall be authorized if the principal amount, when added to the net debt previously authorized, exceeds a statutory percentage of the average equalized valuation of taxable property in a school district. As a grades Kindergarten (K) through eight (8) school district, the School District can borrow up to 3% of the average equalized valuation of taxable property in the School District. The School District has not exceeded its 3% debt limit. See "APPENDIX A – Certain Economic and Demographic Information Relating to The Board of Education of the Township of East Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey."

## **Exceptions to Debt Limitation**

A Type II school district (other than a regional district) may also utilize its constituent municipality's remaining statutory borrowing power (i.e. the excess of 3.5% of the average equalized valuation of taxable property within the constituent municipality over the constituent municipality's net debt). A school district may also authorize debt in excess of this limit with the consent of the Commissioner and the Local Finance Board.



## Energy Saving Obligations

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

## SUMMARY OF STATE AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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

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

The School District is not an "SDA District".

The legislative response to *Abbott v. Burke* was the passage of the QEA (now repealed). The QEA established a new formula for the distribution of State aid for public education, beginning with the 1991-92 fiscal year. The QEA provided a formula that took into account property values and personal income to determine a school district's capacity to raise money for public education. A budgetary limitation, or "CAP" on expenditures, was also provided in the law. The "CAP" was intended to control the growth in local property taxes. The QEA was amended and revised by chapter 62 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1991, and further amended by chapter 7 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1993.

On July 12, 1994, the Court declared the school aid formula under the QEA unconstitutional on several grounds as it applied to the 28 SDA Districts in the ongoing litigation commonly known as *Abbott v. Burke II*. No specific remediation was ordered, but the Court ultimately held that the Legislature and the Governor were required to have a new funding formula in effect by December 31, 1996 so that any new formula would be implemented during the 1997-1998 fiscal period and thereafter.

In keeping with the Court's deadline, the Governor signed the CEIFA into law on December 20, 1996. The CEIFA departed from other funding formulas adopted in the State by defining what constituted a "thorough and efficient" education, as is required by the Constitution of the State. The CEIFA further established the costs necessary provide each student with such an education.

In defining what constitutes a "thorough" education, the State Board adopted a set of Core Curriculum Content Standards (the "Core Curriculum Content Standards"). The purpose of the Core Curriculum Content Standards is to provide all students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to be productive citizens when they graduate from any State high school, regardless of the school's location or socioeconomic condition. The CEIFA provided State funding assistance in the form of Core Curriculum Content Standards Aid based on a school district's financial ability to raise sufficient tax revenue for its students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

On May 14, 1997, the Court held that the CEIFA was unconstitutional as applied to the SDA Districts because (1) its funding provisions failed to assure that students in such districts would receive a thorough and efficient education and (2) supplemental programs to increase student performance in such districts were neither adequately identified nor funded. The Court recognized the Core Curriculum

Content Standards as a valid means of identifying a "thorough and efficient" education under the State Constitution, but found that the State did not adequately determine or provide the adequate funding level to allow those standards to be met in the SDA Districts. To bridge the gap between SDA Districts and non-special needs districts, the Court ordered the parity remedy, designed as an interim remedy whereby the State would provide parity aid and supplemental funding to SDA Districts. The CEIFA has not been used to calculate State aid for public schools since the 2001-2002 school year.

Pursuant to the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 (the "EFCFA"), which became law on July 18, 2000, the State provides aid to school facilities projects. Under the EFCFA, the State provides one hundred percent (100%) State funding for school facilities projects undertaken by SDA Districts; for non-SDA Districts, the State provides aid in an amount equal to the greater of the district aid percentage or forty percent (40%) times the eligible costs determined by the Commissioner either in the form of a grant or debt service aid as determined under the EFCFA. The amount of the aid is established prior to the authorization of the project.

Since the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the State has funded debt service aid at eighty-five (85%) of the amount that school districts were entitled to receive under the EFCFA. See "Recent Developments in the Reduction of State Aid" herein.

### **The School Funding Reform Act of 2008**

The School Funding Reform Act of 2008 (the "SFRA") was signed into law in January 2008 and is a five-year product of the State's latest effort to craft a redesigned school funding formula that satisfies the constitutional standard. While the SFRA maintains the Core Curriculum Content Standards established by the CEIFA, it repeals the provisions of the CEIFA which established State aid formulas for programs to support the Core Curriculum Content Standards and has established new formulas. Essentially, the SFRA provides State aid to school districts while also requiring certain levels of local funding. It is a weighted school funding formula which identifies a base cost associated with the education of an elementary pupil without any particular special needs. Once the per-pupil amount is identified, the amount is increased to reflect factors that increase the cost of education, such as (i) grade level, and whether the pupil is (ii) an at-risk pupil (eligible for free or reduced-price lunch), (iii) a Limited English Proficiency ("LEP") pupil, or (iv) a special education student of mild, moderate or severe classification.

The formula is further comprised of several funding mechanisms, the central component being the Adequacy Budget, a wealth equalized budget based on the school district's ability to provide funding through local resources (the "Adequacy Budget"). The Adequacy Report (the "Adequacy Report") establishes the base pupil cost necessary to provide the thorough and efficient education for an elementary school student. Such amount will be adjusted to reflect the differing cost of education a student at the middle and high school levels and various other factors as set forth in the SFRA. Based upon the school district's property and personal income wealth, a local share of such Adequacy Budget is determined. State aid will be provided for that portion of the Adequacy Budget which cannot be supported locally. The SFRA guarantees a minimum two percent (2%) increase in State aid for each school district.

The Department must provide an Adequacy Report every three (3) years addressing the weighted factors that comprise the Adequacy Budget and the various additional components of the SFRA: equalization aid, categorical aid, preschool aid, extraordinary aid, adjustment aid and education adequacy aid.

The constitutionality of the SFRA was challenged and was held to be constitutional by the Court on May 28, 2009.

### **Recent Developments in the Reduction of State Aid**

The State provides aid to school districts in accordance with amounts provided annually in the State budget. Such aid includes equalization aid, special education categorical aid, transportation aid,

preschool education aid, supplemental core curriculum standards aid, choice aid, education adequacy aid, security aid, adjustment aid and other aid as determined in the discretion of the Commissioner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A municipality may exceed its debt limit with the approval of the Local Finance Board, and as permitted by other statutory exceptions. If all or any part of a proposed debt authorization would exceed its debt limit, a municipality may apply to the Local Finance Board for an extension of credit. If the Local Finance Board determines that a proposed debt authorization would not materially impair the credit of the municipality or substantially reduce the ability of the municipality to meet its obligations or to provide essential public improvements and services, or makes certain other statutory determinations, approval is granted. In addition, debt in excess of the statutory limit may be issued by the municipality to fund certain notes, to provide for self-liquidating purposes, and, in each fiscal year, in an amount not exceeding 2/3 of the amount budgeted in such fiscal year for the retirement of outstanding obligations (exclusive of utility and assessment obligations).

A municipality may sell "bond anticipation notes" to temporarily finance a capital improvement or project in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, if the bond ordinance or subsequent resolution so provides. Bond anticipation notes for capital improvements may be issued in an aggregate amount not exceeding the amount specified in the bond ordinance, as it may be amended and supplemented,

creating such capital expenditure. A local unit's bond anticipation notes may be issued for periods not exceeding one (1) year. Generally, bond anticipation notes may not be outstanding for longer than ten (10) years. An additional period may be available following the tenth anniversary date equal to the period from the notes' maturity to the end of the tenth fiscal year in which the notes mature plus four (4) months in the next following fiscal year from the date of original issuance. Beginning in the third year, the amount of notes that may be issued is decreased by the minimum amount required for the first year's principal payment for a bond issue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Emergency appropriations (those made after the adoption of the budget and the determination of the tax rate) may be authorized by the governing body. However, with minor exceptions, such

appropriations must be included in full in the following year's budget. When such appropriations exceed three percent (3%) of the adopted operating budget, consent of the Director must be obtained.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **State Supervision**

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

### **Appropriations “Cap”**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Tax Appeals**

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

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

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

An independent examination of each local unit's accounts must be performed annually by a licensed registered municipal accountant. The audit, conforming to the Division's "Requirements of Audit," includes recommendations for improvement of the local unit's financial procedures. The audit report must be filed with the Director. A synopsis of the report, together with all recommendations made, must be published in a local newspaper within thirty (30) days of the local unit's receipt of the audit report.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The audited financial statements of the Board as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 together with the notes to the financial statements have been provided by Bedard, Kurowicki & Co., CPA's, PC, Flemington, New Jersey (the "Auditor"), and are presented in APPENDIX B to this Official Statement (the "Financial Statements"). See "APPENDIX B – Financial Statements of The Board of Education of the Township of East Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey."

## **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Bordentown, New Jersey, has served as Municipal Advisor to the Board with respect to the issuance of the Bonds (the "Municipal Advisor"). The Municipal Advisor is not obligated to undertake, and has not undertaken, either to make an independent verification of, or to assume responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the information contained in this Official Statement and the Appendices hereto. The Municipal Advisor is an independent firm and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, trading or distributing municipal securities or other public securities.

## **LITIGATION**

To the knowledge of the Board Attorney, Fogarty & Hara, Fair Lawn, New Jersey (the "Board Attorney"), without independent inquiry or investigation and based upon the representation of the Board's Business Administrator/Board Secretary, there is no litigation of any nature now pending or threatened against the Board, restraining or enjoining the issuance or the delivery of the Bonds, or the levy or the collection of any taxes to pay the principal of or the interest on the Bonds, or in any manner questioning the authority or the proceedings for the issuance of the Bonds or for the levy or the collection of taxes, or contesting the corporate existence or the boundaries of the Board or the School District or the title of any of the present officers. To the knowledge of the Board Attorney, without independent inquiry or investigation and based upon the representation of the Board's Business Administrator/Board Secretary, no litigation is presently pending or threatened that, in the opinion of the Board Attorney, would have a materially adverse impact on the financial condition of the Board if adversely decided. A certificate to such effect will be executed by the Board Attorney and delivered to the Underwriter (as hereinafter defined) of the Bonds at the closing.

## **TAX EXEMPTION**

### **Federal Income Tax Treatment**

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

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



under Section 57 of the Code for purposes of computing the Federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and corporations.

### **Premium Bonds**

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

### **Discount Bonds**

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

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

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

### **State Taxation**

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

### **Prospective Tax Law Changes**

Federal, state or local legislation, administrative pronouncements or court decisions may affect the Federal and State tax-exempt status of interest on the Bonds and the State tax-exempt status of interest on the Bonds, gain from the sale or other disposition of the Bonds, the market value of the Bonds or the marketability of the Bonds. The effect of any legislation, administrative pronouncements or court decisions

cannot be predicted. Prospective purchasers of the Bonds should consult their own tax advisors regarding such matters.

### **Other Tax Consequences**

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

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

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

### **BANK-QUALIFIED BONDS**

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

The Code denies the interest deduction for certain indebtedness incurred by banks, thrift institutions and other financial institutions to purchase or to carry tax-exempt obligations. The denial to such institutions of one hundred percent (100%) of the deduction for interest paid on funds allocable to tax-exempt obligations applies to those tax-exempt obligations acquired by such institutions after August 7, 1986. For certain issues, which are eligible to be designated and which are designated by the issuer as qualified under Section 265 of the Code, eighty percent (80%) of such interest may be deducted as a business expense by such institutions.

### **RISK TO HOLDERS OF BONDS**

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

### **Municipal Bankruptcy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Municipal Advisor has participated in the review of this Official Statement but has not participated in the preparation of this Official Statement except for the collection of financial, statistical or demographic information contained in APPENDIX A of this Official Statement.

The Auditor has participated in the preparation of the information contained in APPENDIX A hereto and also takes responsibility for the Financial Statements to the extent specified in the Independent Auditors' Report appearing in APPENDIX B hereto.

The Board Attorney has not participated in the preparation of the information contained in this Official Statement, nor has he verified the accuracy, completeness or fairness thereof, and, accordingly,

expresses no opinion or other assurance with respect thereto, but has reviewed the section under the caption entitled "LITIGATION" and expresses no opinion or assurance other than that which is specifically set forth therein with respect thereto.

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

## **RATINGS**

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

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

The inclusion of the Rating Agency's "Outlook", if any, has been provided herein for informational purposes only and is not part of the "Rating" described in the above paragraphs. The "Outlook" is only the Rating Agency's forward-looking view of the School District. The School District has no obligation to treat any change in the "Outlook" as a "Disclosure Event", as defined and described under the SEC Rule (as hereinafter defined) or under the provisions of the School District's Continuing Disclosure Agreement, or to notify Bondholders as to any changes to the "Outlook" after the date hereof.

## **UNDERWRITING**

The Bonds are being purchased from the Board by \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Underwriter"), at a price of \$\_\_\_\_\_. The purchase price of the Bonds reflects the par amount of Bonds equal to \$3,315,000.00, minus an Underwriter's discount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ less/plus a[n] [net] original issue discount/premium of \$\_\_\_\_\_. The Underwriter is obligated to purchase all of the Bonds if any Bonds are so purchased.

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

## **SECONDARY MARKET DISCLOSURE**

The Board has covenanted for the benefit of the holders and beneficial owners of the Bonds to provide certain financial information and operating data relating to the Board by no later than each January 31 after the end of each fiscal year, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 (the "Annual Report"), and to provide notices of the occurrence of certain enumerated events, if material. The Annual Report will be filed by the Board with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB") or any other entity designated by the MSRB. The notices of disclosure events will be filed by the Board with the MSRB through its Electronic Municipal Market Access ("EMMA") system and with any other entity designated by the MSRB, as applicable. The nature of the information to be contained in the Annual Report or the notices of material events is set forth in "APPENDIX D - Form of Continuing Disclosure Agreement." These

covenants have been made in order to assist the underwriter in complying with Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) (the "SEC Rule").

Within the five (5) years immediately preceding the date of this Official Statement, the Board previously failed to file, in accordance with the SEC Rule, in a timely manner, under previous filing requirements, event notices in connection with certain bond insurer rating changes and certain enhancement program rating changes. Such notices of events have since been filed with EMMA. The Board appointed Phoenix Advisors, LLC in June 2017 to serve as continuing disclosure agent.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Inquiries regarding this Official Statement, including information additional to that contained herein, may be directed to the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Judy Holladay, (908) 782-6464, ext. 215 or to Anthony J. Pannella, Esq., Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Bond Counsel to the Board, (732) 855-6460.

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

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

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

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

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

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
EAST AMWELL IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW  
JERSEY**

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**JUDY HOLLADAY,  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017**

## **APPENDIX A**

**Certain Economic and Demographic Information Relating to the  
Township of East Amwell  
in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey**

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## **INFORMATION REGARDING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>**

### **Type**

The public school system in the Township of East Amwell, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey (the "Township"), is operated by The Board of Education of the Township of East Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed thereby). The School District is a Type II school district that is coterminous with the borders of the Township.

The School District provides a full range of educational services for students in grades Kindergarten through eight (8), including regular and special education programs for students of the Township. The School District operates one (1) elementary school: The East Amwell Township School, which is located on a 32-acre site with outdoor playground equipment and ball fields. The school was constructed in 1938, with additions in 1950, 1963, 1978, 1988, and 1998. With the K-8 organizational structure, the present facility has a functional capacity of 558 students. Two soccer fields on the school property are shared with the Township Recreation Committee.

Students in grades 9 through 12 attend high school at Hunterdon Central High School, part of the Hunterdon Central Regional High School District. The regional district serves students from the Township, Delaware Township, Flemington Borough, Raritan Township, and Readington Township.

The Board is composed of nine (9) members elected by the legally qualified voters in the School District to terms of three (3) years on a staggered basis. The President and Vice President are chosen for one (1) year terms from among the members of the Board. The Board appoints a Superintendent and Board Secretary/Business Administrator who are responsible for budgeting, planning and the operational functions of the School District. The administrative structure of the Board gives final responsibility for both the educational process and the business operation to the Superintendent.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Source: The Board, unless otherwise indicated.

## **Description of Facilities**

The Board presently operates the following school facilities:

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Construction Date</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Student Enrollment (As of 6/30/16)</b>
East Amwell Township School	1939	Pre K-8	371

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

## **Staff**

The Superintendent is the chief executive officer of the Board and is in charge of carrying out Board policies. The Board Secretary/Business Administrator is the chief financial officer of the Board and must submit monthly financial reports to the Board and annual reports to the New Jersey Department of Education.

The following table presents the number of full and part-time teaching professionals and support staff of the School District as of June 30, 2016, for each of the past five (5) years.

	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>
Teaching Professionals	52	54	52	53	54
Support Staff	19	18	18	18	19
Total Full & Part Time Employees	<u>71</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>72</u>

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

## **Pupil Enrollments**

The following table presents the historical average daily pupil enrollments for the past five (5) school years.

<b>Pupil Enrollments</b>	
<b><u>School Year</u></b>	<b><u>Enrollment</u></b>
2015-2016	371
2014-2015	393
2013-2014	418
2012-2013	433
2011-2012	450

Source: School District and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

## **Labor Relations**

The East Amwell Township Education Association (EAEA) and the principal and Supervisors Association (PSA) represent organized staff.

EAEA membership includes Instructional, Custodial, Food Service and non-confidential Secretarial/Clerical. The EAEA contract expired on June 30, 2017 and negotiations are currently underway.

PSA membership includes the Principal, Curriculum Coordinator and Supervisor of Building/Grounds.

<b><u>Labor Contract</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Contract</u></b>
<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Expiration</u></b>
Education Association	6/30/2017
Administrators	6/30/2018

Source: School District

## **Pensions**

Those employees of the School District who are eligible for pension coverage are enrolled in one of the two State-administered multi-employer pension systems (the "Pension System"). The Pension System was established by an act of the State Legislature. The Board of Trustees for the Pension System is responsible for the organization and administration of the Pension System. The two State-administered pension funds are: (1) the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund ("TPAF") and (2) the Public Employee's Retirement System ("PERS"). The Division of Pensions and Benefits, within the State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury (the "Division"), charges the participating school districts annually for their respective contributions. The School District raises its contributions through taxation and the State contributes the employer's share of the annual Social Security and Pension contribution for employees enrolled in the TPAF. The Pension System is a cost sharing multiple employer contributory defined benefit plan. The Pension System's designated purpose is to provide retirement and medical benefits for qualified retirees and other benefits to its members. Membership in the Pension System is mandatory for substantially all full-time employees of the State or any county, municipality, school district or public agency provided the employee is not required to be a member of another State administered retirement system or other state or local jurisdiction.

## **Fiscal 2017-18 Budget**

Prior to the passage of P.L. 2011, c. 202 the Board was required to submit its budget for voter approval on an annual basis. Under the Election Law (P.L. 2011, c. 202, effective January 17, 2012) if a school district has opted to move its annual election to November, it is no longer required to submit the budget to voters for approval if the budget is at or below the two-percent (2%) property tax levy cap as provided for under New Cap Law (P.L. 2010, c. 44). If a school district proposes to spend above the two-percent (2%) property tax levy cap, it is then required to

submit its budget to voters at the annual school election in November. The Board has chosen under the Election Law to move its annual school election to November.

The General Fund budget is the sum of all state aid (exclusive of pension aid and social security aid) and the local tax levy (exclusive of debt service). The Board's General Fund Budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is \$8,089,744. The major sources of revenue are \$6,863,399 from the local tax levy and \$902,926 from state aid.

Source: Annual User-Friendly Budget of the School District

### **Budget History**

As noted, prior to the Board's budget for its 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Board was required to submit its budget for voter approval. A summary of the last five (5) budget years of the Board is presented below:

<b><u>Budget Year</u></b>	<b><u>Amount Raised in Taxes</u></b>	<b><u>Budget Amount</u></b>
2017-2018	\$6,863,399	\$8,089,744
2016-2017	6,865,199	8,045,296
2015-2016	6,748,018	7,982,393
2014-2015	6,649,944	8,649,116
2013-2014	6,551,669	8,290,106

Source: Annual User-Friendly Budget of the School District and NJ State Department of Education Website – School Election Results

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## **Financial Operations**

The following table summarizes information on the changes in general fund revenues and expenditures for the school years ending June 30, 2012 through June 30, 2016 for the general fund. This summary should be used in conjunction with the tables in the sourced documents from which it is derived (see Appendix B). Beginning with the 1993-94 fiscal year, school districts in the State of New Jersey have begun to prepare their financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States.

### **GENERAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30:**

	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Local Sources:					
Local Tax Levy	\$6,748,018	\$6,649,944	\$6,551,669	\$6,454,847	\$6,397,271
Other Local Revenue	<u>380,216</u>	<u>365,819</u>	<u>330,486</u>	<u>316,393</u>	<u>264,370</u>
Total revenues-local sources	7,128,234	7,015,763	6,882,155	6,771,240	6,661,641
State Sources	1,861,693	1,647,030	1,401,575	1,419,554	1,307,468
Federal Sources	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>28,362</u>
Total Revenues	\$8,989,927	\$8,662,793	\$8,283,730	\$8,190,794	\$7,997,471
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
General Fund:					
Instruction	\$3,254,176	\$3,389,313	\$3,247,877	\$3,385,119	\$3,447,946
Undistributed Expenditures	5,051,316	4,589,447	4,337,869	4,424,304	4,147,721
Capital Outlay	<u>245,499</u>	<u>11,390</u>	<u>175,185</u>	<u>64,564</u>	<u>38,981</u>
Total Expenditures	\$8,550,991	\$7,990,150	\$7,760,931	\$7,873,987	\$7,634,648
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues					
Over/(Under) Expenditures	438,936	672,643	522,799	316,807	362,823
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Proceeds of Capital Lease	0	0	0	60,970	0
Transfers in	238,171	0	0	111,547	0
Transfers out	<u>(25,700)</u>	<u>(691,543)</u>	<u>(650,000)</u>	<u>(30,700)</u>	<u>(55,368)</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	212,471	(691,543)	(650,000)	141,817	(55,368)
Net Change in Fund Balance	651,407	(18,900)	(127,201)	458,624	307,455
Fund Balance, July 1	<u>1,413,837</u>	<u>1,432,737</u>	<u>1,559,938</u>	<u>1,101,314</u>	<u>793,859</u>
Fund Balance, June 30	<u>\$2,065,244</u>	<u>\$1,413,837</u>	<u>\$1,432,737</u>	<u>\$1,559,938</u>	<u>\$1,101,314</u>

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District. Statement of Revenues, Expenditures Governmental Funds and Changes In Fund Balances on a GAAP basis

### **Capital Leases**

As of June 30, 2016, the Board has no capital leases outstanding.

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

### **Operating Leases**

As of June 30, 2016, the Board has no operating leases outstanding.

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

### **Short Term Debt**

As of June 30, 2016, the Board has no short term debt outstanding.

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

### **Long Term Debt**

The following table outlines the outstanding long term debt of the Board as of June 30, 2016.

<b><u>Fiscal Year Ending</u></b>	<b><u>Principal</u></b>	<b><u>Interest</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
2017	\$205,000	\$18,950	\$223,950
2018	<u>215,000</u>	<u>10,750</u>	<u>225,750</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b><u>\$420,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$29,700</u></b>	<b><u>\$449,700</u></b>

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

## **Debt Limit of the Board**

The debt limitation of the Board is established by statute (N.J.S.A. 18A:24-19). The Board is permitted to incur debt up to 3% of the average equalized valuation for the past three years (See “SUMMARY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SCHOOL DEBT-Exceptions to Debt Limitation” herein). The following is a summation of the Board’s debt limitation as of June 30, 2016:

Average Equalized Real Property Valuation (2014, 2015, and 2016)	\$726,622,834
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### **School District Debt Analysis**

Permitted Debt Limitation (3% of AEVP)	\$21,798,685
Less: Bonds and Notes Authorized and Outstanding	<u>420,000</u>
Remaining Limitation of Indebtedness	\$21,378,685
Percentage of Net School Debt to Average Equalized Valuation	0.06%

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District

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## **INFORMATION REGARDING THE TOWNSHIP<sup>2</sup>**

### **Introduction**

The following material presents certain economic and demographic information of the Township of East Amwell (the “Township”), in the County of Hunterdon (the “County”), State of New Jersey (the “State”).

The Township is in the southeastern corner of the County and borders Somerset and Mercer Counties. The Township consists of approximately 28 square miles and boasts some of the most pristine and beautiful countryside in New Jersey. The Township is within commuting distance of major urban centers, such as New York and Philadelphia.

### **Local Government**

The Township has the “township committee” form of government comprised of five (5) elected representatives. The Township Committee elects a mayor each year from its own membership. There are 10 full-time and 20 part-time employees serving the Township.

### **Public Safety**

The Township has state police coverage. There is a shared service agreement with West Amwell Township to provide traffic enforcement. The Township also has a joint municipal court with Delaware Township and shared courts with Stockton Borough and Franklin Township. The Court is located in the Township’s municipal building.

The Township is served by the Amwell Valley Volunteer Fire Company and Amwell Valley Ringoes Rescue Squad.

### **Recreation**

The Township Recreation Committee offers various events to the community. The Township runs a 4-week summer playground for Township children at the local elementary school. Clawson Park (A Green Acres Park) offers tennis courts, walking trails, and pavilion and picnic tables for community.

### **Farmland and Open Space**

The Amwell Valley Agricultural District in the Township includes farms, two vineyards, a golf course and a horseback riding trail association. The Sourland Mountains make up the southern border of the Township.

The Township consists of 18,287 acres. There are 296 farms under Farmland Assessment for a total of 11,384 acres or 62% of all acreage. About 7,400 acres of land or about 65% of all

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<sup>2</sup> Source: The Township, unless otherwise indicated.



acreage under Farmland Assessment is rented to farmers. Many of the tenants are residents of the Township or live in the County. The availability of land for rent helps maintain the rural and agricultural nature of the Township.

### **Affordable Housing**

The Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), a State Agency oversees the State requirement under the Fair Housing Act for every municipality in New Jersey to provide “affordable housing” as determined by rules promulgated by COAH. If a municipality does not provide such housing or take other alternative action as approved by COAH, a developer may be permitted to override that municipality’s zoning regulations to increase housing density (“the builder’s remedy”) and build, among other things, affordable housing. The Township has always met its COAH requirements in a timely fashion.

### **Retirement Systems**

All full-time permanent or qualified Township employees who began employment after 1944 must enroll in one of two retirement systems depending upon their employment status. These systems were established by acts of the State Legislature. Benefits, contributions, means of funding and the manner of administration are set by State law. The Division of Pensions, within the New Jersey Department of Treasury (the “Division”), is the administrator of the funds with the benefit and contribution levels set by the State. The Township is enrolled in the Public Employees' Retirement System (“PERS”) and the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (“PFRS”).

### **Pension Information**<sup>3</sup>

Employees who are eligible to participate in a pension plan are enrolled in PERS or PFRS, administered by the Division. The Division annually charges municipalities and other participating governmental units for their respective contributions to the plans based upon actuarial calculations. The employees contribute a portion of the cost. The Township’s share of pension costs in 2016, which is based upon the annual billings received from the State, amounted to \$59,958.00 for PERS.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: State of New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits

## **Employment and Unemployment Comparisons**

For the following years, the New Jersey Department of Labor reported the following annual average employment information for the Township, the County, and the State:

	<b><u>Total Labor Force</u></b>	<b><u>Employed Labor Force</u></b>	<b><u>Total Unemployed</u></b>	<b><u>Unemployment Rate</u></b>
<b><u>Township</u></b>				
2016	2,188	2,116	72	3.3%
2015	2,236	2,148	88	3.9%
2014	2,224	2,120	104	4.7%
2013	2,241	2,113	128	5.7%
2012	2,280	2,138	142	6.2%
<b><u>County</u></b>				
2016	65,144	62,693	2,451	3.8%
2015	66,112	63,405	2,707	4.1%
2014	65,766	62,577	3,189	4.8%
2013	66,156	62,307	3,849	5.8%
2012	67,570	62,970	4,600	6.8%
<b><u>State</u></b>				
2016	4,524,262	4,299,923	224,315	5.0%
2015	4,545,083	4,291,650	253,417	5.6%
2014	4,518,715	4,218,423	300,277	6.6%
2013	4,537,800	4,166,000	371,800	8.2%
2012	4,595,500	4,159,300	436,200	9.5%

Source: New Jersey Department of Labor, Office of Research and Planning, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, Bureau of Labor Force Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

## **Income (as of 2010)**

	<b><u>Township</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>State</u></b>
Median Household Income	\$105,846	\$100,980	\$71,180
Median Family Income	124,659	121,166	86,779
Per Capita Income	46,986	48,489	35,768

Source: US Bureau of the Census 2010

## **Population**

The following tables summarize population increases and the decreases for the Township, the County, and the State.

	<b><u>Township</u></b>		<b><u>County</u></b>		<b><u>State</u></b>	
<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Population</u></b>	<b><u>% Change</u></b>	<b><u>Population</u></b>	<b><u>% Change</u></b>	<b><u>Population</u></b>	<b><u>% Change</u></b>
2010	4,013	-9.92%	128,349	5.21%	8,791,894	4.49%
2000	4,455	2.84	121,989	13.19	8,414,350	8.85
1990	4,332	24.91	107,776	23.37	7,730,188	4.96
1980	3,468	35.05	87,361	25.31	7,365,001	2.75
1970	2,568	29.63	69,718	28.85	7,168,164	18.15

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

## **Largest Taxpayers**

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

<b><u>Taxpayers</u></b>	<b><u>2016 Assessed Valuation</u></b>	<b><u>% of Total Assessed Valuation</u></b>
Texas Eastern Transmission Corp	\$37,706,600	5.64%
The Ridge at Back Brook Road	10,500,000	1.57%
Algonquin Pipe Line Co	6,536,100	0.98%
Bousum/Neely Partnership	3,527,000	0.53%
Hunterdon Storage Inc	1,781,000	0.27%
Southwick Farm LLC	1,720,900	0.26%
Back Brook Farm LLC	1,708,300	0.26%
Ringoes TLC LLC	1,513,000	0.23%
Jordan, Sidney & T/Z Ifida Realty	1,511,900	0.23%
Individual Property Owner #1	<u>1,483,900</u>	<u>0.22%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$67,988,700</u></b>	<b><u>10.17%</u></b>

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the School District and Municipal Tax Assessor

### **Comparison of Tax Levies and Collections**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Tax Levy</u></b>	<b><u>Current Year Collection</u></b>	<b><u>Current Year % of Collection</u></b>
2016	\$15,864,191	\$15,568,148	98.13%
2015	15,377,111	15,108,451	98.25%
2014	15,341,328	15,037,558	98.02%
2013	15,182,177	14,849,770	97.81%
2012	15,139,056	14,824,470	97.92%

Source: Annual Audit Reports of the Township

### **Delinquent Taxes and Tax Title Liens**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Amount of Tax Title Liens</u></b>	<b><u>Amount of Delinquent Tax</u></b>	<b><u>Total Delinquent</u></b>	<b><u>% of Tax Levy</u></b>
2016	\$69,547	\$262,205	\$331,752	2.09%
2015	64,040	234,659	298,698	1.94%
2014	49,013	274,589	323,602	2.11%
2013	19,259	371,563	390,823	2.57%
2012	4,979	282,756	287,735	1.90%

Source: Annual Audit Reports of the Township

### **Property Acquired by Tax Lien Liquidation**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
2016	\$22,300
2015	22,300
2014	22,300
2013	22,300
2012	22,300

Source: Annual Audit Reports of the Township

### **Tax Rates per \$100 of Net Valuations Taxable and Allocations**

The table below lists the tax rates for Township residents for the past five (5) years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Municipal</u>	<u>Local School</u>	<u>Regional School</u>	<u>Fire District</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Total Taxes</u>
2016	\$0.240	\$1.060	\$0.620	\$0.040	\$0.410	\$2.370
2015	0.224	1.043	0.595	0.034	0.404	2.300
2014	0.224	1.024	0.599	0.033	0.403	2.283
2013	0.224	1.008	0.584	0.033	0.408	2.257
2012	0.189	0.845	0.498	0.028	0.353	1.913

Source: Abstract of Ratables and State of New Jersey – Property Taxes

### **Valuation of Property**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Aggregate Assessed Valuation of Real Property</u>	<u>Aggregate True Value of Real Property</u>	<u>Ratio of Assessed to True Value</u>	<u>Assessed Value of Personal Property</u>	<u>Equalized Valuation</u>
2016	\$667,426,675	\$717,123,321	93.07%	\$913,321	\$718,036,642
2015	667,133,900	729,825,949	91.41	916,552	730,742,501
2014	669,927,100	728,260,789	91.99	876,506	729,137,295
2013	670,134,700	725,803,856	92.33	1,757,313	727,561,169
2012	787,613,961	753,265,074	104.56	1,837,274	755,102,348

Source: Abstract of Ratables and State of New Jersey – Table of Equalized Valuations

### **Classification of Ratables**

The table below lists the comparative assessed valuation for each classification of real property within the Township for the past five (5) years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Vacant Land</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Farm</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>	<u>Apartments</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016	\$8,636,700	\$451,287,800	\$120,144,475	\$85,095,500	\$0	\$2,262,200	\$667,426,675
2015	8,399,600	450,127,700	121,292,800	85,051,600	0	2,262,200	667,133,900
2014	8,780,700	448,217,200	123,382,300	87,284,700	0	2,262,200	669,927,100
2013	9,304,400	447,094,600	123,947,900	87,525,600	0	2,262,200	670,134,700
2012	12,970,200	533,983,300	143,524,800	94,992,961	0	2,142,700	787,613,961

Source: Abstract of Ratables and State of New Jersey – Property Value Classification

## **Financial Operations**

The following table summarizes the Township's Current Fund budget for the past five (5) fiscal years ending December 31. The following summary should be used in conjunction with the tables in the sourced documents from which it is derived.

### **Summary of Current Fund Budget**

<b><u>Anticipated Revenues</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
Fund Balance	\$111,490	\$129,000	\$170,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,016,521	940,593	906,909	948,842	927,294
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	255,000	310,000	295,000	242,000	242,000
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	<u>1,242,413</u>	<u>1,237,913</u>	<u>1,232,858</u>	<u>1,305,203</u>	<u>1,439,706</u>
Total Revenue:	<u>\$2,625,425</u>	<u>\$2,617,506</u>	<u>\$2,604,766</u>	<u>\$2,671,045</u>	<u>\$2,784,000</u>
<b><u>Appropriations</u></b>					
General Appropriations	\$1,493,418	\$1,461,009	\$1,487,907	\$1,499,487	\$1,662,215
Operations	61,464	60,502	57,398	90,190	88,606
Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures	134,243	123,697	125,125	133,738	10,000
Capital Improvement Fund	23,300	25,000	35,000	20,000	100,000
Municipal Debt Service	596,497	613,456	588,638	612,166	599,565
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	<u>316,503</u>	<u>333,841</u>	<u>310,699</u>	<u>315,464</u>	<u>323,614</u>
Total Appropriations:	<u>\$2,625,425</u>	<u>\$2,617,506</u>	<u>\$2,604,766</u>	<u>\$2,671,045</u>	<u>\$2,784,000</u>

Source: Annual Adopted Budgets of the Township

## **Fund Balance**

### **Current Fund**

The following table lists the Township's fund balance and the amount utilized in the succeeding year's budget for the Current Fund for the past five (5) fiscal years ending December 31.

<b><u>Fund Balance - Current Fund</u></b>		
<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Balance 12/31</u></b>	<b><u>Utilized in Budget of Succeeding Year</u></b>
2016	\$631,501	\$175,000
2015	479,659	175,000
2014	491,271	170,000
2013	295,970	129,000
2012	281,693	111,490

Source: Annual Audit Reports of the Township

## **Township Indebtedness as of December 31, 2016**

### **General Purpose Debt**

Serial Bonds	\$2,255,000
Bond Anticipation Notes	1,385,000
Bonds and Notes Authorized but Not Issued	265,000
Other Bonds, Notes and Loans	<u>241,529</u>
Total:	\$4,146,529

### **Local School District Debt**

Serial Bonds	\$420,000
Temporary Notes Issued	0
Bonds and Notes Authorized but Not Issued	<u>0</u>
Total:	\$420,000

### **Regional School District Debt**

Serial Bonds	\$788,716
Temporary Notes Issued	0
Bonds and Notes Authorized but Not Issued	<u>0</u>
Total:	\$788,716

### **Self-Liquidating Debt**

Serial Bonds	\$0
Bond Anticipation Notes	0
Bonds and Notes Authorized but Not Issued	0
Other Bonds, Notes and Loans	<u>0</u>
Total:	\$0

### **TOTAL GROSS DEBT \$5,355,245**

Less: Statutory Deductions	
General Purpose Debt	\$0
Local School District Debt	420,000
Regional School District Debt	788,716
Self-Liquidating Debt	<u>0</u>
Total:	\$1,208,716

### **TOTAL NET DEBT \$4,146,529**

Source: Annual Debt Statement of the Township

**Overlapping Debt (as of December 31, 2016)<sup>4</sup>**

<b><u>Name of Related Entity</u></b>	<b><u>Related Entity Debt Outstanding</u></b>	<b><u>Township Percentage</u></b>	<b><u>Township Share</u></b>
Local School District	\$420,000	100.00%	\$420,000
Regional School District	10,025,000	7.87%	788,716
County	75,793,752	3.36%	<u>2,547,137</u>
Net Indirect Debt			\$3,755,853
Net Direct Debt			<u>4,146,529</u>
Total Net Direct and Indirect Debt			<u><b>\$7,902,382</b></u>

**Debt Limit**

Average Equalized Valuation Basis (2014, 2015, 2016)	\$725,070,020
Permitted Debt Limitation (3 1/2%)	25,377,451
Less: Net Debt	<u>4,146,529</u>
Remaining Borrowing Power	<u><b>\$21,230,922</b></u>
Percentage of Net Debt to Average Equalized Valuation	0.572%
 Gross Debt Per Capita based on 2010 population of 3,957	 \$1,580
Net Debt Per Capita based on 2010 population of 3,957	\$1,188

Source: Annual Debt Statement of the Township

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<sup>4</sup> Township percentage of County debt is based on the Township's share of total equalized valuation in the County.



**APPENDIX B**

**Financial Statements of The Board of Education of the  
Township of East Amwell  
in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey**

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Bedard, Kurowicki & Co.

Certified Public Accountants, PC

[www.bkc-cpa.com](http://www.bkc-cpa.com)

## **Independent Auditors' Report**

Honorable President and  
Members of the Board of Education  
East Amwell Township School District  
County of Hunterdon, New Jersey

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Governmental Activities, the Business-type Activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the East Amwell Township School District, (the District) in the County of Hunterdon, the State of New Jersey, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016, and the related Notes to the Financial Statements, which collectively comprise the 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.

### **Auditors' 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 and audit requirements as prescribed by the Office of School Finance, Department of Education, State of New Jersey. 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 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 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 governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the East Amwell Township School District, as of June 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Other Matters**

#### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information, Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability, and Schedule of the District's Pension Contributions, as listed in the Table of Contents 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 District's basic financial statements. The introductory section, combining and individual non-major fund financial statements and statistical section are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards and Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance required by New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08, Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid are also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual non-major fund financial statements, Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, and Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance are the responsibility of management and were 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 combining and individual non-major fund financial statements, Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, and Schedule of Expenditures of State Financial Assistance are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory and statistical sections have not been subject to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

#### **Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated November 10, 2016 on our consideration of the 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 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 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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Bedard, Kurowicki & Co.*  
**BEDARD, KUROWICKI & CO., CPA'S, PC**

  
William M. Colantano, Jr.  
Public School Accountant  
No. CS 0128

November 10, 2016  
Flemington, New Jersey

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016  
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The discussion and analysis of East Amwell Township School District's financial performance provides an overall review of the School District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School District's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the notes to the basic financial statements and financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School District's financial performance.

**Financial Highlights**

Key financial highlights for 2016 are as follows:

- In total, net position increased \$500,190, which represents a 15.83 percent increase from 2015.
- General revenues accounted for \$10,284,344 in revenue or 94.08 percent of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services, operating grants and contributions, and capital grants and contributions accounted for or \$647,625 or 5.92 percent to total revenues of \$10,931,969. Due to the sharing of services of the Child Study Team, the Superintendent, and the Business Administrator with the Milford Board of Education, the District experienced a savings of approximately \$70,540. Additionally, unanticipated tuition students were received. The District has continued to enjoy the benefits received from local grants, including Exxon Mobile, who provided funds toward the furthering of science, technology and math programs.
- Total assets of governmental activities increased by \$245,691 as cash and cash equivalents decreased by \$180,477, receivables and other assets decreased by \$337,453 and capital assets increased by \$763,621.
- The School District had \$10,264,086 in expenses; only \$647,625 of these expenses was offset by program specific charges for services, grants or contributions. General revenues (primarily property taxes) of \$10,284,344 were adequate to provide for these programs.
- Among major funds, the General Fund had \$8,989,927 in revenues and \$8,550,991 in expenditures and other financing sources \$212,471. The General Fund's balance increased \$651,407 from 2015.

**Using this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)**

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand East Amwell Township School District as an entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The *Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities* provide information about the activities of the whole school district, presenting both an aggregate view of the school district's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the school district's most significant funds with all other non-major funds presented in total in one column. In the case of East Amwell Township school district, the General Fund is by far the most significant fund.

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
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**Reporting the School District as a Whole**

While this document contains several funds used by the School District to provide programs and activities, the view of the school district as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during the fiscal year?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities answer this question. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting considers 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 changes in position. This 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 result of many factors, some financial, and some not. Non-financial factors include the school district's property tax base, current laws in New Jersey restricting revenue growth, facility condition, required educational programs and other factors.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, the school district reports governmental activities and business-type activities.

- Governmental activities are the activities where most of the school district's programs and services are reported including, but not limited to, instruction, support services, operation and maintenance of plant facilities, pupil transportation and extracurricular activities.
- Business-type activity is a service that is provided on a charge for goods or services basis to recover the expenses of the goods or services provided. The Food Service enterprise fund is reported as a business activity.

**Reporting the School District's Most Significant Funds**

**Fund Financial Statements**

Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the school district's major funds. The school district uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the school district's most significant funds. The school district's major governmental funds are the General Fund, Special Revenue Fund, Capital Projects Fund and Debt Service Fund.

**Governmental Funds**

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 the future years. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can 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 you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs. The relationship

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EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
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(or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements.

**Enterprise Fund**

The enterprise fund uses the same basis of accounting as business-type activities; therefore, these statements are essentially the same. The cafeteria service is currently managed by a food service company.

**The School District as a Whole**

The Statement of Net Position provides the perspective of the school district as a whole.

Table 1 provides a summary of the school district's net position for 2016 compared to 2015.

	<b>Table 1</b>		<b>Net Position</b>	
	6/30/16	6/30/15	Variance	
			Dollars	%
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current & Other Assets	\$ 2,140,665	\$ 2,657,542	\$ (516,877)	-19.45%
Capital Assets	4,309,222	3,547,065	762,157	21.49%
Total Assets	6,449,887	6,204,607	245,280	3.95%
Deferred Outflows on Deferred Pension Activity	521,930	132,342	389,588	294.38%
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Long-Term Liabilities	3,097,943	2,769,642	328,301	11.85%
Other Liabilities	75,163	178,128	(102,965)	-57.80%
Total Liabilities	3,173,106	2,947,770	225,336	7.64%
Deferred Inflows on Deferred Pension Activity	138,954	229,612	(90,658)	-39.48%
<b>NET POSITION</b>				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	3,889,222	2,937,065	952,157	32.42%
Restricted	1,221,498	2,036,753	(815,255)	-40.03%
Unrestricted	(1,450,963)	(1,814,251)	363,288	-20.02%
Total Net Position	\$ 3,659,757	\$ 3,159,567	\$ 500,190	15.83%

\* = Undefined

Total assets increased \$245,280. Cash and cash equivalents decreased by \$182,194, receivables and other assets decreased by \$334,683 and capital assets increased by \$762,157. Unrestricted net assets, the part of net assets that can be used to finance day-to-day activities without constraints established by grants or legal requirements, of the school district increased by \$363,288 due to additional revenues received and budgetary savings.



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The negative balance in unrestricted net assets is not a negative reflection on the District's financial condition, but is the result of reporting required by GASB Statement No. 68 Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions which allocates the proportionate share of the State's net pension liability for PERS to each contributing entity throughout the State.

Table 2 provides a summary of the District's changes in net position in fiscal year 2016 with comparisons to fiscal year 2015.

**Table 2**  
**Changes in Net Position**

	Fiscal Year Ending		Variance	
	6/30/16	6/30/15	Dollars	%
<b>Revenues</b>				
Program Revenues:				
Charges for Services	\$ 412,218	\$ 408,260	\$ 3,958	0.97%
Operating Grants	235,407	204,260	31,147	15.25%
Capital Grants	-	411,300	411,300	-100.00%
General Revenues:				
Property Taxes	6,965,968	6,865,894	100,074	1.46%
Unrestricted Grants	3,291,667	2,713,850	577,817	21.29%
Other	26,709	25,949	760	2.93%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>10,931,969</u>	<u>10,629,513</u>	<u>302,456</u>	<u>2.85%</u>
<b>Program Expenses</b>				
Instruction:				
Regular	4,037,150	4,392,107	(354,957)	8.08%
Special	1,400,991	1,239,724	161,267	13.01%
Other	85,519	91,954	(6,435)	-7.00%
Support Services:				
Tuition	71,253	75,555	(4,302)	-5.69%
Student & Instructional Staff	1,716,823	1,524,577	192,246	12.61%
General & Business Administration	826,490	641,568	184,922	28.82%
School Administration	303,504	247,784	55,720	22.49%
Maintenance	1,252,073	737,910	514,163	69.68%
Transportation	444,932	408,896	36,036	8.81%
Food Service	104,583	109,014	(4,431)	-4.06%
Interest on Long-Term Debt	20,768	29,226	(8,458)	-28.94%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>10,264,086</u>	<u>9,498,315</u>	<u>765,771</u>	<u>8.06%</u>
<b>Increase (Decrease) before special items</b>	<u>667,883</u>	<u>1,131,198</u>	<u>(463,315)</u>	
Special Item:				
State Capital Project Grant De-obligated	(158,222)	-	(158,222)	*
Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Assets	(9,471)	-	(9,471)	*
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Position</b>	<u>\$ 500,190</u>	<u>\$ 1,131,198</u>	<u>\$ (631,008)</u>	<u>-55.78%</u>

\* = Undefined

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EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
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**Governmental Activities**

The unique nature of property taxes in New Jersey creates the need to routinely seek voter approval for the school district operations. Property taxes made up 63.72 percent of revenues for governmental activities for the East Amwell School district for fiscal year 2016.

Instruction comprises 53.82 percent of district expenses. Support services expenses comprise 46.18 percent of the expenses. The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services. Table 3 shows the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of these services supported by tax revenue and unrestricted state entitlements.

**Table 3**  
**Cost of Governmental Services**

	Total Cost of Services		Net Cost of Services	
	6/30/16	6/30/15	6/30/16	6/30/15
Instruction	\$5,523,660	\$ 5,723,785	\$ 5,098,725	\$ 5,070,817
Support Services:				
Tuition	71,253	75,555	71,253	75,555
Student & Instructional Staff	1,716,823	1,524,577	1,655,414	1,381,559
General & Business Administration	826,490	641,568	812,680	544,625
School Administration	303,504	247,784	264,686	233,923
Plant Operations & Maintenance	1,252,073	737,910	1,246,072	732,044
Pupil Transportation	444,932	408,896	444,932	408,896
Food Service	104,583	109,014	1,931	(2,150)
Interest on Long-Term Debt	20,768	29,226	20,768	29,226
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 10,264,086</u>	<u>\$ 9,498,315</u>	<u>\$ 9,687,001</u>	<u>\$ 8,474,495</u>

Instruction expenses include activities directly dealing with the teaching of pupils and the interaction between teacher and student.

Pupils and instructional staff include the activities involved with assisting staff with the content and process of teaching to students.

General administration, school administration and business include expenses associated with administrative and financial supervision of the district.

Operation and maintenance of facilities activities involve keeping the school grounds, buildings and equipment in an effective working condition.

Pupil transportation includes activities involved with the conveyance of students to and from school, as well as, to and from school activities, as provided by state law.

Extracurricular activities include expenses related to student activities provided by the school district which are designed to provide opportunities for students to participate in school events, public events, or a combination of these for the purposes of motivation, enjoyment and skill improvement.

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Interest and fiscal charges involve the transactions associated with the payment of interest and other related charges to debt of the school district.

The dependence upon tax revenues is apparent. For all activities local tax revenue support is 94.08 percent. The community, as a whole, is the primary support for the East Amwell Township School District.

**The School District's Funds**

Information about the school district's major funds starts in the section entitled fund financial statements. These funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. All governmental funds had total revenues of \$9,241,095 and expenditures of \$9,658,691. The net negative change in fund balance for the year was most significant in the Capital Projects Fund, a decrease of \$1,069,003.

**General Fund Budgeting Highlights**

The School district's budget is prepared according to New Jersey law, and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund.

During the course of the fiscal 2016 year, the school district amended its General Fund budget as needed. The school district uses program based budgeting and the budgeting systems are designed to tightly control total program budgets but provide flexibility for program management.

For the General Fund, budget basis revenues were \$184,185 over original budgeted estimates of \$7,830,314. The difference can be attributed to excess tuition revenue for special needs students brought into the district, additional Pre-K parent paid tuition, unanticipated extraordinary and other state aid, and other miscellaneous unanticipated revenues. Due to a combination of funds from projects that were under budget and prudent spending during the year along with the unanticipated revenues, the District was able to increase the capital reserve account, and at June 30, 2016 the balance was \$896,198. The maintenance reserve account was increased by \$75,000 making the June 30, 2016 balance \$250,000. Improvements for the District during the 2015-16 school year included:

- Facilities – The secure lobby addition was completed, providing more controlled entrance and exit to the building, as well as, improved administrative office space. The sub-flooring in the kitchen in the 1938 wing was repaired and the old vinyl flooring replaced with a new non-skid surface. With the help of grant funds, the installation of energy efficient windows in one section of the building and the replacement of one of the roofs were completed. In addition, the entire school is converting to energy efficient LED lighting, which is eligible for a rebate from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. The cost of the conversion should be recouped within the next 2.5 years through savings in energy costs. Through state contract, the District was able to replace the old pick-up truck with a new Ford 250 model.
- Instructional – All programs, including an expanded Pre-K program, a self-contained special education class for autistic students, art, music and extra-curricular clubs and sports, have been maintained. The wireless system was completely upgraded and improved to accommodate the twists, turns and thick walls of the school building. A new projection system was installed in the gym for assemblies and will be ready for the new school year. Every student now has access to a

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EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
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personal device in the classroom including either an iPad or a Chromebook. The American Boy Choir non-public school opened its doors in September within the East Amwell District. While funding for the school is provided by the State, the funds are managed by the public school district. We look forward to the possibility of joint activities between our music programs.

**Capital Assets**

At the end of the fiscal year 2016 the school district had \$4,309,222 invested in land, buildings, furniture and equipment, and vehicles.

Table 4 provides a summary of the School District's capital assets net of depreciation at 6/30/16 with comparisons to 6/30/15.

**Table 4**  
**Capital Assets at Year-end (Net of Depreciation)**

	6/30/16	6/30/15	Variance	
			Dollars	%
Land	\$ 462,026	\$ 462,026		
Construction in Progress	9,459	677,299	\$ (667,840)	-98.60%
Land Improvements	46,578	52,584	(6,006)	-11.42%
Buildings & Improvements	3,590,170	2,211,130	1,379,040	62.37%
Furniture & Equipment	200,989	144,026	56,963	39.55%
Total	<u>\$ 4,309,222</u>	<u>\$ 3,547,065</u>	<u>\$ 762,157</u>	21.49%

Overall capital assets increased \$762,157 from fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2016. Increases in capital assets were offset by depreciation expenses for the year.

**Debt Administration**

At June 30, 2016, the school district had \$3,097,943 in long-term liabilities. Of this amount \$374,265 is for compensated absences, \$12,720 is for unamortized bond premiums, \$2,290,958 is for PERS net pension liability, and the balance \$420,000 is for bonds for school construction.

At June 30, 2016, the school district's overall legal debt margin was \$21,798,685 and the unvoted debt margin was \$21,378,685.

**Table 5**  
**Long-Term Liabilities at Year-end**

	6/30/16	6/30/15	Variance	
			Dollars	%
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 420,000	\$ 610,000	(190,000)	-31.15%
Compensated Absences	374,265	389,269	(15,004)	-3.85%
Unamortized Bond Premiums	12,720	16,960	(4,240)	-25.00%
PERS Net Pension Liability	2,290,958	1,753,413	537,545	30.66%
	<u>\$ 3,097,943</u>	<u>\$ 2,769,642</u>	<u>\$ 328,301</u>	11.85%

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
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**For the Future**

The East Amwell Township School District is in very good financial condition. East Amwell Township is primarily a residential community, with very few ratables. The financial burden, therefore, is focused on homeowners. While the District chose to move their Board election to November, tax levy increases have been held below the 2% allowable cap.

Concerns include not only the increased reliance on local property taxes and increasing costs for special education students, but also the safety and security of our students. Over the past few years, reserves have accumulated and we will be able to address some of our facility needs with these funds.

The East Amwell Township School District has committed itself to financial excellence for many years. The school district plans to continue its sound fiscal management to meet the challenge of the future.

**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 Judy Holladay, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary at East Amwell Township Board of Education, 43 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551 or email at [jholladay@eastamwell.org](mailto:jholladay@eastamwell.org).

## **DISTRICT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the District. These statements include the financial activities of the overall District, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. These statements distinguish between the governmental and business-type activities of the District.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2016**

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 520,216	\$ 4,228	\$ 524,444
Investments	254,032	-	254,032
Due from other funds	600	-	600
Receivables, net	132,269	5,860	138,129
Inventory	-	1,962	1,962
Restricted assets	1,221,498	-	1,221,498
Capital assets, net (Note 4)			
Land	462,026	-	462,026
Capital assets not being depreciated	9,459	-	9,459
Other capital assets, net of depreciation	3,823,619	14,118	3,837,737
Total assets	<u>6,423,719</u>	<u>26,168</u>	<u>6,449,887</u>
 Deferred outflows of resources			
Deferred amount on pension activity	<u>521,930</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>521,930</u>
 <b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable	38,290	-	38,290
Payables to other governments	1,359	-	1,359
Accrued interest	8,685	-	8,685
Unearned revenue	23,722	3,107	26,829
Long-term liabilities (Note 5)			
Due within one year	209,240	-	209,240
Due beyond one year	2,888,703	-	2,888,703
Total liabilities	<u>3,169,999</u>	<u>3,107</u>	<u>3,173,106</u>
 Deferred inflows of resources			
Deferred amount on pension liability	<u>138,954</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>138,954</u>
 <b>Net position</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	3,875,104	14,118	3,889,222
Restricted for			
Capital reserve	896,198	-	896,198
Emergency reserve	75,300	-	75,300
Maintenance reserve	250,000	-	250,000
Unrestricted	<u>(1,459,906)</u>	<u>8,943</u>	<u>(1,450,963)</u>
 Total net position	<u>\$ 3,636,696</u>	<u>\$ 23,061</u>	<u>\$ 3,659,757</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2016**

Functions/Programs	Direct Expenses	Indirect Expenses Allocation	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue & Changes in Net Position		
			Charges for Services	Operating Grants & Contribution	Capital Grants & Contribution	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>Governmental activities</b>								
Instruction								
Regular	\$ 2,533,310	\$ 1,503,840	\$ 276,992	\$ 44,130	\$ -	\$ (3,716,028)	\$ -	\$ (3,716,028)
Special education	678,263	611,467	-	70,540	-	(1,219,190)	-	(1,219,190)
Other special education	107,736	3,525	-	30,669	-	(80,592)	-	(80,592)
Other instruction	82,810	2,709	-	2,604	-	(82,915)	-	(82,915)
Support services								
Tuition	71,253	-	-	-	-	(71,253)	-	(71,253)
Students & instruction related services	1,017,874	698,949	17,912	43,497	-	(1,655,414)	-	(1,655,414)
General & business administration services	455,910	370,580	13,810	-	-	(812,680)	-	(812,680)
School administration services	154,866	148,638	38,818	-	-	(264,686)	-	(264,686)
Plant operations & maintenance	757,340	494,733	6,001	-	-	(1,246,072)	-	(1,246,072)
Pupil transportation	430,786	14,146	-	-	-	(444,932)	-	(444,932)
Interest on long-term debt	20,768	-	-	-	-	(20,768)	-	(20,768)
Total governmental activities	<u>6,310,916</u>	<u>3,848,587</u>	<u>353,533</u>	<u>191,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,614,530)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,614,530)</u>
Business-type activities								
Food Service	104,583	-	58,685	43,967	-	-	(1,931)	(1,931)
Total business-type activities	<u>104,583</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,685</u>	<u>43,967</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,931)</u>	<u>(1,931)</u>
<b>Total primary government</b>	<u>\$ 6,415,499</u>	<u>\$ 3,848,587</u>	<u>\$ 412,218</u>	<u>\$ 235,407</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(9,614,530)</u>	<u>(1,931)</u>	<u>(9,616,461)</u>
General revenues, special items & transfers								
Property taxes levied for general purposes						6,748,018	-	6,748,018
Property taxes levied for debt service						217,950	-	217,950
Federal & state aid not restricted						3,291,667	-	3,291,667
Investment earnings						7,675	26	7,701
Capital grants de-obligated						(158,222)	-	(158,222)
Miscellaneous income						19,008	-	19,008
Special Item - Gain/(Loss) on disposal of assets						(9,471)	-	(9,471)
Total general revenues, special items & transfers						<u>10,116,625</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>10,116,651</u>
Change in net position						502,095	(1,905)	500,190
Net position-beginning						3,134,601	24,966	3,159,567
Net position-ending						<u>\$ 3,636,696</u>	<u>\$ 23,061</u>	<u>\$ 3,659,757</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



## **FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The individual fund statements and schedules present more detailed information for the individual fund in a format that segregates information by fund type.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**June 30, 2016**

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Project Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 520,216	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 520,216
Investments	254,032				254,032
Due from other funds	68,835	-	-	-	68,835
Receivables from other governments					
State	13,219	-	-	-	13,219
Federal	-	83,434	-	-	83,434
Other local governments	28,527				28,527
Other accounts receivable	4,928	2,161	-	-	7,089
Restricted cash & cash equivalents	<u>1,221,498</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,221,498</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,111,255</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 85,595</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,196,850</u></u>
<b>Liabilities and fund balances</b>					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Due to other funds	\$ -	\$ 68,235	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,235
Accounts payable	38,261	29	-	-	38,290
Payables to governments					
State	-	1,359	-	-	1,359
Unearned revenue	<u>7,750</u>	<u>15,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,722</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u><u>46,011</u></u>	<u><u>85,595</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>131,606</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Balance Sheet (continued)**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**June 30, 2016**

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Project Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Liabilities and fund balances					
Fund balances					
Restricted fund balance					
Excess surplus - designated for subsequent year's expenditures	\$ 103,303	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	103,303
Excess surplus - current year	112,100	-	-	-	112,100
Committed fund balance					
Capital reserve	896,198	-	-	-	896,198
Emergency reserve	75,300	-	-	-	75,300
Maintenance reserve	250,000	-	-	-	250,000
Assigned fund balance					
Encumbrances	450,225	-	-	-	450,225
Designated for subsequent year's expenditures	2,088	-	-	-	2,088
Unassigned fund balance	176,030	-	-	-	176,030
Total fund balances	<u>2,065,244</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,065,244</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 2,111,255</u>	<u>\$ 85,595</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the  
Statement of Net Position (A-1) are different because:

Capital assets used in government activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds. The cost of the assets is \$7,572,413 and the accumulated depreciation is \$3,277,309	4,295,104
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds	382,976
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable and compensated absences are not due & payable in the current period & therefore are not reported as liabilities in the funds	(3,097,943)
Interest on long-term debt is not accrued in governmental funds, but rather is recognized as an expenditure when due	<u>(8,685)</u>
Total net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 3,636,696</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues					
Local sources					
Local tax levy	\$ 6,748,018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 217,950	\$ 6,965,968
Tuition charges					-
Individuals	129,082	-	-	-	129,082
Other sources	147,910	-	-	-	147,910
Interest on investments	7,675	-	-	-	7,675
Rents and royalties	6,001	-	-	-	6,001
Miscellaneous	89,548	-	-	-	89,548
	<u>7,128,234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>217,950</u>	<u>7,346,184</u>
State sources	1,861,693	8,286	(158,222)	-	1,711,757
Federal sources	-	183,154	-	-	183,154
Total revenues	<u>8,989,927</u>	<u>191,440</u>	<u>(158,222)</u>	<u>217,950</u>	<u>9,241,095</u>
Expenditures					
Current					
Instructional					
Regular instruction	2,489,180	44,130	-	-	2,533,310
Special education instruction	607,723	70,540	-	-	678,263
Other special instruction	77,067	30,669	-	-	107,736
Other instruction	80,206	2,604	-	-	82,810
Support service & undistributed costs					
Tuition	71,253	-	-	-	71,253
Student & instruction related services	974,377	43,497	-	-	1,017,874
General & business administrative services	455,910	-	-	-	455,910
School administrative services	154,866	-	-	-	154,866
Plant operations & maintenance	757,340	-	-	-	757,340
Pupil transportation	430,786	-	-	-	430,786
Unallocated benefits	2,206,784	-	-	-	2,206,784

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances (continued)**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
Expenditures (cont'd)					
Capital outlay	\$ 244,316	\$ -	\$ 698,310	\$ -	\$ 942,626
Debt service					
Principal	-	-	-	190,000	190,000
Interest & other charges	1,183	-	-	27,950	29,133
Total expenditures	<u>8,550,991</u>	<u>191,440</u>	<u>698,310</u>	<u>217,950</u>	<u>9,658,691</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>438,936</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(856,532)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(417,596)</u>
Other financing sources (uses)					
Transfers in	238,171	-	25,700	-	263,871
Transfers out	<u>(25,700)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(238,171)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(263,871)</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>212,471</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(212,471)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balance	651,407	-	(1,069,003)	-	(417,596)
Fund balances, July 1	<u>1,413,837</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,069,003</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,482,840</u>
Fund balances, June 30	<u>\$ 2,065,244</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,065,244</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in**  
**Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

Total net changes in fund balances - Governmental fund (from B-2)	\$	(417,596)
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities (A-2) are different because:

Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expenses. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeds depreciation in the period

Capital outlays	\$	942,626	
Net cost basis of assets disposed		(9,471)	
Depreciation expense		(169,534)	763,621

Repayment of debt principal and capital leases are expenditures in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Assets and are not reported in the Statement of Activities

Debt principal payments		190,000
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Governmental funds report the effect of premiums when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred & amortized in the Statement of Activities

Amortization of bond premium		4,240
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Governmental funds report district pension contributions as expenditures. However in the Statement of Activities, the cost of pension benefits earned net of employee contributions is reported as pension expense.

(57,299)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in**  
**Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities (continued)**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

In the Statement of Activities, interest on  
long-term debt is accrued regardless of when due.

In the governmental funds interest is reported  
when due. The accrued interest is a reconciling  
item.

\$ 4,125

In the Statement of Activities, compensated absences &  
early retirement benefits are measured by the  
amounts earned during the year. In the  
governmental funds, however, expenditures for  
these items are reported in the amount of  
financial resources used (paid). When the earned  
amount exceeds the paid amount, the difference is  
a reduction in the reconciliation; when the paid  
amount exceeds the earned amount, the difference  
is an addition to the reconciliation.

15,004

Change in net position of governmental activities

\$ 502,095

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Fund Net Position**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**June 30, 2016**

	<u>Food Service Fund</u>
Assets	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,228
Receivables from other governments	
State	180
Federal	5,680
Inventory	<u>1,962</u>
Total current assets	<u>12,050</u>
Noncurrent assets	
Capital assets	34,294
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>20,176</u>
Total noncurrent assets	<u>14,118</u>
Total assets	<u>26,168</u>
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	
Unearned revenues - Commodities	1,120
Unearned revenues - Prepaid sales	<u>1,987</u>
Total liabilities	<u>3,107</u>
Net position	
Net investment in capital assets	14,118
Unrestricted	<u>8,943</u>
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 23,061</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	<u>Food Service Fund</u>
Operating revenues	
Charges for services	
Daily sales - Reimbursable programs	\$ 41,329
Daily sales - Non-reimbursable programs	17,356
Total operating revenues	<u>58,685</u>
Operating expenses	
Cost of sales - Reimbursable programs	28,561
Cost of sales - Non-reimbursable programs	11,994
Salaries	35,610
Support services - Employee benefits	5,414
Purchased professional/technical services	1,867
Purchased property services	3,356
Other purchased services	
Insurance	3,370
Management fee	7,621
Supplies and materials	4,695
Depreciation	1,464
Miscellaneous expenditures	631
Total operating expenses	<u>104,583</u>
Operating income (loss)	<u>(45,898)</u>
Non-operating revenues (expenses)	
State sources	
State School Lunch Program	1,096
Federal sources	
National School Lunch Program	
Cash assistance	32,641
Non cash assistance (commodities)	10,230
Interest earned on investments	26
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	<u>43,993</u>
Change in net position	(1,905)
Net position, beginning	<u>24,966</u>
Net position, ending	<u><u>\$ 23,061</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	Food Service Fund
Cash flows from operating activities	
Receipts from customers (net)	\$ 60,671
Payments to Food Service Management Co.	(89,159)
Payments to vendors (net)	(3,625)
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	<u>(32,113)</u>
Cash flows from non-capital financing activities	
State sources	1,007
Federal sources	29,363
Net cash provided by (used for) noncapital financing activities	<u>30,370</u>
Cash flows from investing activities	
Interest on investments	<u>26</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,717)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning	<u>5,945</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, ending	<u><u>\$ 4,228</u></u>
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities	
Operating income (loss)	\$ (45,898)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities	
Depreciation	1,464
Federal Food Donation Program	10,230
(Increase) decrease in inventory	597
Increase (decrease) in unearned revenue	<u>1,494</u>
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	<u><u>\$ (32,113)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position**  
**June 30, 2016**

	Unemployment Compensation Fund	Student Activity Agency Fund	Payroll Agency Fund
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 126,818	\$ 20,890	\$ 45,657
Due from other funds	7,147	-	-
Total assets	<u>\$ 133,965</u>	<u>\$ 20,890</u>	<u>\$ 45,657</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Due to other funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,748
Due to student groups	-	20,890	-
Payroll deductions and withholdings	-	-	37,909
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 20,890</u>	<u>\$ 45,657</u>
<b>Net position</b>			
Held in Trust for unemployment claims & other purposes	<u>\$ 133,965</u>		

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	Unemployment Compensation Fund
Additions	
Contributions	
Employee contributions	\$ 7,459
Investment earnings - interest	252
Total additions	<u>7,711</u>
Deductions	
Unemployment claims	<u>-</u>
Change in net position	7,711
Net position, beginning of the year	<u>126,254</u>
Net position, end of the year	<u><u>\$ 133,965</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements of the Board of Education (Board) of the East Amwell Township School District (District) have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to local governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant accounting policies of the District are described below.

The basic financial statements include:

Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) providing an analysis of the District's overall financial position and results of operations.

Basic financial statements prepared using full-accrual accounting for all of the District's activities.

A. Reporting entity

The District is a Type II district located in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey. As a Type II district, the School District functions independently through a Board of Education. The Board is comprised of nine members elected to three-year-terms. The purpose of the District is to educate students in Grades K-8. The District had an approximate enrollment at June 30, 2016 of 371 students.

The primary criterion for including activities within the District's reporting entity as set forth in Section 2100 of the GASB Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, is whether:

1. The organization is legally separate (can sue or be sued in their own name).
2. The District holds the corporate powers of the organization.
3. The District appoints a voting majority of the organization's Board.
4. The District is able to impose its will on the organization.
5. The organization has the potential to impose a financial benefit/burden on the District.
6. There is a fiscal dependency by the organization on the District.

Based on the aforementioned criteria, the District has no component units.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

B. Government-wide and fund financial statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Changes in Net Position) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the District. For the most part, the effect of Interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given program are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific program. Program revenues include 1) charges to students or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function.

Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

Separate financial statements are provided for Governmental Funds, Proprietary Funds, and Fiduciary Funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. The District has elected to treat all of its Governmental Funds as major funds and they are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and financial statement presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the Proprietary Fund and Fiduciary Fund financial statements. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental Fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences, early retirement, arbitrage rebates, and post-employment healthcare benefits, are recorded only when payment is due.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)  
C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and financial statement presentation (continued)

Property taxes, tuition and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. As under New Jersey State statute, a municipality is required to remit to its School District the entire property tax balance, in the amount voted upon or certified prior to the end of the school year. The District records the entire approved tax levy as revenue (accrued) at the start of the fiscal year, since the revenue is both measurable and available. The District is entitled to receive moneys under the established payment schedule and the unpaid amount is considered to be accounts receivable. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when the District receives cash.

Amounts reported as program revenues include 1) charges to students for tuition, fees, rental, material, supplies, or services, provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all property taxes, and unrestricted state aids.

Proprietary Funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a Proprietary Fund's principal ongoing operations.

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

The District reports the following major Governmental Funds:

*General Fund* - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District and is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. Included are certain expenditures for vehicles and movable instructional or non-instructional equipment, which are classified in the Capital Outlay sub-fund.

As required by the New Jersey State Department of Education, the District includes budgeted Capital Outlay in this fund. Generally accepted accounting principles as they pertain to governmental entities state that General Fund resources may be used to directly finance Capital Outlays for long-lived improvements as long as the resources in such cases are derived exclusively from unrestricted revenues.

Resources for budgeted Capital Outlay purposes are normally derived from State of New Jersey aid, district taxes and appropriated fund balance. Expenditures are those that result in the acquisition of or additions to fixed assets for land, existing buildings, improvements of grounds, construction of buildings, additions to or remodeling of buildings and the purchase of built-in equipment. These resources can be transferred from and to current expense by Board resolution



**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)  
C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and financial statement presentation (continued)

*Special Revenue Fund* - The District accounts for the proceeds of specific revenue sources from State and Federal Government (other than major capital projects, debt service or the Enterprise Funds) and local appropriations that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes in the Special Revenue Fund.

*Capital Projects Fund* - The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for all financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities (other than those financed by Proprietary Funds). The financial resources are derived from temporary notes or serial bonds that are specifically authorized by the voters as a separate question on the ballot either during the annual election or at a special election.

*Debt Service Fund* - The Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued to finance major property acquisition, construction and improvement programs.

Additionally, the District reports the following fund types:

Proprietary fund types

*Proprietary Fund* - The focus of Proprietary Fund measurement is upon determination of net income, financial position and cash flows. The generally accepted accounting principles applicable are those similar to businesses in the private sector. The following is a description of the Proprietary Funds of the District:

*Enterprise Fund* - The Enterprise Fund is utilized to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The stated intent is that the cost (i.e. expenses including depreciation and indirect costs) of providing goods or services to the students on a continuing basis are financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or, where the District has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability or other purposes.

The District's Enterprise Fund is comprised of the Food Service Fund.

All Proprietary Funds are accounted for on a current financial resources measurement focus. This means that all assets and liabilities, whether current or noncurrent, associated with their activity are included on their balance sheets. Their reported fund equity (total net position) segregated into contributed capital and unreserved retained earnings, if applicable. Proprietary Fund type operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in total net position.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

C. Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and financial statement presentation (continued)

Depreciation of all exhaustive fixed assets used by Proprietary Funds is charged as an expense against their operations. Accumulated depreciation is reported on Proprietary Fund Balance Sheets. Depreciation has been provided over the estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Equipment	12 Years
Light trucks & vehicles	4 Years
Heavy trucks & vehicles	6 Years

Fiduciary Fund Types

*Trust and Agency Funds* - The Trust and Agency Funds are used to account for assets held by the District in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments and/or other funds. Agency Funds are custodial in nature and do not involve measurement of results of operations. The following is a description of the Trust and Agency Funds of the District.

*Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund* - This fund is used to account for the portion of employee deductions for unemployment compensation required to be deposited and accumulated for future unemployment claims under the "Benefit Reimbursement Method."

*Student Activities Agency Fund* - This fund is used to account for funds derived from athletic events or other activities of pupil organizations and accumulated for payment of student group activities.

*Payroll Agency Fund* - This fund accounts for the withholding and remittance of employee salary deductions.

D. Budgets/budgetary control

Annual appropriated budgets are prepared in the spring of each year for the General, Special Revenue, and Debt Service Funds. The budgets are submitted to the county office and, if necessary, are voted upon at the annual school election in November. Budgets are prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting. The legal level of budgetary control is established at line-item accounts within each fund. Line-item accounts are defined as the lowest (most specific) level of detail as established pursuant to the minimum Chart of Accounts referenced in NJAC 6:20-2A.2(m)1. All budget amendments must be approved by School Board resolution. Budget amendments during the year ended June 30, 2016 were insignificant.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

D. Budgets/budgetary control (continued)

Formal budgetary integration into the accounting system is employed as a management control device during the year. For Governmental Funds there are no substantial differences between the budgetary basis of accounting and generally accepted accounting principles with the exception of the legally mandated revenue recognition of the last state aid payment for budgetary purposes only and the Special Revenue Fund as noted below. Encumbrance accounting is also employed as an extension of formal budgetary integration in the Governmental Fund types. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end.

The accounting records of the Special Revenue Fund are maintained on the grant accounting budgetary basis. The grant accounting budgetary basis differs from GAAP in that the grant accounting budgetary basis recognizes encumbrances as expenditures and also recognizes the related revenues, whereas the GAAP basis does not. Sufficient supplemental records are maintained to allow for the presentation of GAAP basis financial reports.

E. Encumbrances

Under encumbrance accounting purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of resources are recorded to reserve a portion of the applicable appropriation. Open encumbrances in Governmental Funds other than the Special Revenue Fund are reported as reservations of fund balances at fiscal year-end as they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities but rather commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods and services.

Open encumbrances in the Special Revenue Fund for which the District has received advances are reflected in the balance sheet as unearned revenues at fiscal year-end.

The encumbered appropriation authority carries over into the next fiscal year. An entry will be made at the beginning of the next fiscal year to increase the appropriation reflected in the certified budget by the outstanding encumbrance amount as of the current fiscal year-end.

F. Tuition receivable

Tuition charges were established by the Board of Education based on estimated costs. The charges are subject to adjustment when the final costs have been determined.

G. Tuition payable

Tuition charges for the fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2014-2015 were based on rates established by the receiving district. These rates are subject to change when the actual costs have been determined.

H. Short-term Interfund receivable/payables

Short-term Interfund receivables/payables represent amounts that are owed, other than charges for goods or services rendered to/from a particular fund in the District and that are due within one year.

# EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

I. Inventories and prepaid items

Inventories and prepaid items, which benefit future periods, other than those recorded in the Enterprise Fund are recorded as expenditures during the year of purchase.

Enterprise Fund inventories are valued at cost, which approximates market, using the first-in-first-out (FIFO) method. The commodities inventory value at balance sheet date is reported as unearned revenue as title does not pass to the School District until the commodities are used. Prepaid items in the Enterprise Fund represent payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2016.

J. Capital assets

Capital assets, which include land, land improvements, buildings and improvements, vehicles and furniture and equipment, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. The District defines capital assets as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$2,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of donation.

The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

All reported capital assets, except for land and construction in progress, of the District are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated lives:

Assets	Years
Buildings	50
Building improvements & portable classroom	50
Land improvements	20
Furniture	20
Maintenance equipment	15
Musical instruments	10
Athletic equipment	10
Audio visual equipment	10
Vehicles	4 - 8
Office equipment	5 - 10
Computer equipment	5 - 10

K. Compensated absences

The District accounts for compensated absences (e.g., unused vacation and sick leave) as directed by Governmental Accounting Standards Board statement number 16 (GASB 16), "Accounting for Compensated Absences." A liability for compensated absences attributable to services already rendered and not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the employer and employee is accrued as employees earn the rights to the benefits.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

K. Compensated absences (continued)

District employees are granted varying amounts of vacation and sick leave in accordance with the District's personnel policy. The District's policy permits employees to accumulate unused sick leave and carry forward the full amount to subsequent years. Upon retirement employees shall be paid by the District for the unused sick leave in accordance with the Districts' agreements with the various employee unions.

The liability for compensated absences was accrued using the vesting method, whereby the liability is calculated by vesting balances as of the balance sheet date for which a payment is probable. Salary related payments for the employer's share of Social Security and Medicare taxes are included.

For the government-wide statements, the current portion is the amount estimated to be used in the following year. In accordance with GAAP, in the fund financial statements, all of the compensated absences are considered long-term and therefore are not a fund liability. This represents a reconciling item between the fund and government-wide presentations.

L. Unearned revenue

Unearned revenue in the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund represents cash, which has been received but not yet earned. See Note 1 (E) regarding the Special Revenue Fund.

Unearned revenue in the Enterprise Fund includes United States government commodity inventories at year-end. The aid revenue associated with this commodity inventory is deferred until it is used in the operations of the Food Service Fund. Prepaid lunch debit card revenue balances at year-end are also included in unearned revenue.

M. Long-term obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and in internal service fund types in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable Statement of Net Position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method which approximates the effective interest method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Bond issuance costs are reported as deferred charges and amortized over the term of the related debt.

In the fund financial statements, Governmental Fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuance are reported as other financing uses.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

N. Fund balances - Governmental Funds

In the fund financial statements, Governmental Funds report the following classifications of fund balance:

- Non-Spendable - includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not spendable in form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Restricted - includes amounts restricted by external sources (creditors, laws of other governments, etc.) or by constitutional provision or enabling legislation.
- Committed - includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes. Committed fund balance is reported pursuant to resolutions passed by the Board of Education, the District's highest level of decision making authority. Commitments may be modified or rescinded only through resolutions approved by the Board of Education.
- Assigned - includes amounts that the District intends to use for a specific purpose, but do not meet the definition of restricted or committed fund balance. Under the District's policy, amounts may be assigned by the Business Administrator.
- Unassigned - includes amounts that have not been assigned to other funds or restricted, committed or assigned to a specific purpose within the General Fund. The District reports all amounts that meet the unrestricted General Fund Balance Policy described below as unassigned:

When expenditure is incurred for purposes which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the District considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balance are available, the District considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed.

O. Comparative data/reclassifications

Comparative total data for the prior year have been presented in selected sections of the accompanying financial statements in order to provide an understanding of the changes in the District's financial position and operations. Also, certain immaterial amounts presented in the prior year data have been reclassified in order to be consistent with the current year's presentation.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

P. Allocation of indirect expenses

Certain expenses, which have not been charged to a specific function in the District's fund financial statements, have been allocated to the functions for the government-wide statements. Employee benefits, on-behalf TPAF pension contributions, reimbursed TPAF social security contributions and compensated absences accruals have been allocated based on salaries by function. Depreciation expense which was not specifically identified by function has been allocated based on the current year expenses by function.

Note 2 - Tax assessments and property taxes

Property valuations (assessments) are determined on true values as arrived at by a cost approach, market data approach and capitalization of net income where appropriate. Current assessments are the results of new assessments on a like basis with established comparable properties for newly assessed or purchased properties. This method assures equitable treatment to like property owners.

Upon the filing of certified adopted budgets by the municipality, the municipality's local school districts, and the county, the tax rate is struck by the County Board of Taxation based on the certified amounts in each of the taxing districts for collection to fund the budgets. The statutory provision for the assessment of property, levying of taxes and the collection thereof are set forth in NJSA 54:4 et seq. Special taxing districts are permitted in New Jersey for various special services rendered to the properties located within the special districts.

Tax bills are mailed annually in June. The taxes are due August 1 and November 1 respectively, and are adjusted to reflect the current fiscal year's total tax liability. The preliminary taxes due February 1 and May 1 of the succeeding fiscal year are based upon one-half of the current year's total tax.

Tax installments not paid on or before the due date are subject to interest penalties of eight percent per annum on the first \$1,500 of the delinquency and eighteen percent per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500. Pursuant to Chapter 75, PL 1991, the governing body may also fix a penalty to be charged to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000 who fails to pay that delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year. The penalty so fixed shall not exceed six percent of the amount of the delinquency. These interest and penalties are the highest permitted under the New Jersey statutes. Delinquent taxes are annually included in a tax sale in accordance with New Jersey statutes.

School taxes are guaranteed as to amount of collection by the municipality, the collection agency, and are transmitted to the School District in accordance with the Schedule of Tax Installments as certified by the School District's Board of Education on an annual basis.

# EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Notes to the Financial Statements

**Note 3 - Deposits and cash equivalents and investments**

Cash and cash equivalents include petty cash, change funds, cash in banks and all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase and are stated at cost plus accrued interest. U.S. Treasury and agency obligations and certificates of deposit with maturities of one year or less when purchased are stated at amortized cost. All other investments are stated at fair value.

New Jersey School Districts are limited as to the types of investments and types of financial institutions they may invest in. New Jersey statute 18A:20-37 provides a list of permissible investments that may be purchased by New Jersey School Districts.

Additionally, the District has adopted a cash management plan that requires it to deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act ("GUDPA"). GUDPA was enacted in 1970 to protect Governmental Units from a loss of funds on deposit with a failed banking institution in New Jersey.

NJSA 17:9-41 e.t. seq. establishes the requirements for the security of deposits of governmental units. The statute requires that no Governmental Unit shall deposit public funds in a public depository unless such funds are secured in accordance with the Act. Public depositories include Savings and Loan institutions, banks (both state and national banks) and saving banks the deposits of which are federally insured. All public depositories must pledge collateral, having a market value at least equal to five percent of the average daily balance of collected public funds, to secure the deposits of Governmental Units. If a public depository fails, the collateral it has pledged, plus the collateral of all other public depositories, is available to pay the full amount of their deposits to the Governmental Units.

Deposits at June 30, 2016 appear in the financial statements as summarized below:

Cash		\$ 1,939,307
		254,032
		<u>\$ 2,193,339</u>
	<u>Ref.</u>	
Cash		
Governmental Funds, Balance Sheet	B-1	\$ 1,741,714
Enterprise Funds, Statement of Net Position	B-4	4,228
Fiduciary Funds, Statement of Net Position	B-7	193,365
Investments:		
Governmental Funds, Balance Sheet	B-2	254,032
Total cash		<u>\$ 2,193,339</u>

Deposits - The District's carrying amount of bank deposits at June 30, 2016 is \$2,193,339 and the bank balance is \$2,449,711. Of the bank balance, \$250,000 is covered by Federal Depository Insurance and \$2,199,711 is insured by GUDPA.



**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 3 - Deposits and cash equivalents and investments (continued)

GASB Statement No. 40 "Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures" requires state and local governments to communicate key information about deposit and investment risks. Required disclosures are as follows:

1. Custodial credit risk disclosures are required for:
  - Deposits that are uninsured and either (a) uncollateralized or (b) collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or its trust department or agent but not in the government's name
  - Investment securities that are uninsured, are not registered in the name of the government, and are held by either (a) the counterparty or (b) the counterparty's trust department or agent but not in the government's name
2. Credit quality ratings for investments in debt securities, external investment pools, money market funds, bond mutual funds, and other pooled investments of fixed-income securities. As the District has no such investments, this disclosure is not applicable.
3. Disclosure of investments by amount and issuer for any issuer that represents five percent or more of total investments. This requirement does not apply to investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government and investments in mutual funds or pools. This disclosure is reported below under Concentration of Credit Risk.
4. Interest rate risk disclosures are required for all debt investments and non-money market like pools. As the District has no such investments, this disclosure is not applicable.
5. Investments that are exposed to foreign currency risk should be disclosed. As the District has no such investments this disclosure is not applicable.

Concentration of credit risk

The State of New Jersey does not place any limit on the amount that the District may invest with any one issuer. As of June 30, 2016, the District has investments consisting of a certificate of deposit of Hopewell Valley Bank.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 4 - Capital assets  
Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Governmental activities				
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 462,026	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 462,026
Construction in progress	677,299	722,417	1,390,257	9,459
Total	<u>1,139,325</u>	<u>722,417</u>	<u>1,390,257</u>	<u>471,485</u>
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Land improvements	141,560	-	19,513	122,047
Building & improvements	4,946,241	1,516,395	32,011	6,430,625
Furniture & equipment	866,711	94,070	412,525	548,256
Total	<u>5,954,512</u>	<u>1,610,465</u>	<u>464,049</u>	<u>7,100,928</u>
Accumulated depreciation				
Land improvements	88,976	6,006	19,513	75,469
Building & improvements	2,735,111	137,355	32,011	2,840,455
Furniture & equipment	738,267	26,173	403,055	361,385
Total	<u>3,562,354</u>	<u>169,534</u>	<u>454,579</u>	<u>3,277,309</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	<u>2,392,158</u>	<u>1,440,931</u>	<u>9,470</u>	<u>3,823,619</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 3,531,483</u>	<u>\$ 2,163,348</u>	<u>\$ 1,399,727</u>	<u>\$ 4,295,104</u>
Business type activities				
Furniture & equipment	\$ 34,294	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,294
Less: accumulated depreciation	18,712	1,464	-	20,176
Business type activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 15,582</u>	<u>\$ (1,464)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 14,118</u>

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 4 - Capital assets (continued)  
 Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions in the current year as follows:

Instruction	
Regular	\$ 82,887
Special education	22,192
Other special instruction	3,525
Other instruction	2,709
Support services	
Student & instruction	33,303
General & business administration	14,917
School administration	5,067
Plant maintenance	4,934
Total depreciation expense, governmental activities	<u>\$ 169,534</u>

Note 5 - Long-term debt  
 Long-term liability activity for the year ended June 30, 2016 is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Governmental activities					
General obligation bonds payable	\$ 610,000	\$ -	\$ 190,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 205,000
Compensated absences payable	389,269	47,289	62,293	374,265	-
Unamortized bond premiums	16,960	-	4,240	12,720	4,240
PERS net pension liability	<u>1,753,413</u>	<u>537,545</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,290,958</u>	<u>-</u>
Total governmental activities long- term liabilities	<u>\$ 2,769,642</u>	<u>\$ 584,834</u>	<u>\$ 256,533</u>	<u>\$ 3,097,943</u>	<u>\$ 209,240</u>

Payments on the general obligation bonds are made in the Debt Service Fund from property taxes and state aid. The other long-term debts are paid in the current expenditures budget of the District's General Fund.

The annual requirements to amortize all general obligation bonds outstanding as of June 30, 2016 including interest payments are listed as follows:

<u>Year ending June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017	\$ 205,000	\$ 18,950	\$ 223,950
2018	215,000	10,750	225,750
Total	<u>\$ 420,000</u>	<u>\$ 29,700</u>	<u>\$ 449,700</u>

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 5 - Long-term debt (continued)

*General Obligation Bonds* - General obligation school building bonds payable at June 30, 2016, with their outstanding balances are comprised of the following individual issues:

\$1,885,000 - 2007 refunding general obligation bonds, due in annual installments of \$150,000 to \$215,000, beginning January 15, 2008, through Jan 15, 2018, interest at 3.625% to 5.000%. \$ 420,000

The general obligation bonded debt of the District is limited by state law to 3% of the average equalized assessed values of the total taxable property in the District for the past three years. The legal debt limit at June 30, 2016 is \$21,798,685. General obligation debt at June 30, 2016 is \$420,000, resulting in a legal debt margin of \$21,378,685.

Note 6 - Pension plans

Description of systems

Substantially all of the Board's employees participate in one of the following contributory defined benefit public employee retirement systems which have been established by State statute: the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF), Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP). The PERS and TPAF systems are sponsored and administered by the State of New Jersey. The DCRP system is administered by Prudential Financial for the Division of Pensions and Benefits. The Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund retirement system is considered a cost-sharing multiple-employer plan with a special funding situation, as under current statute, all employer contributions are made by the State of New Jersey on behalf of the Board and the system's other related non-contributing employers. The Public Employees Retirement System and Defined Contribution Retirement Program are considered cost sharing multiple-employer plans.

A. Public employees' retirement systems (PERS)

Plan description

The State of New Jersey, Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits (the Division). For additional information about PERS, please refer to Division's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which can be found at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annrprts.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annrprts.shtml).

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

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6 - Pension plans  
A. Public employees' retirement systems (PERS) (continued)  
Plan description (continued)  
The following represents the membership tiers for PERS:

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

Service retirement benefits of 1/55th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to Tiers 1 and 2 members upon reaching age 60 and to Tier 3 members upon reaching age 62. Service retirement benefits of 1/60th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to Tier 4 members upon reaching age 62 and Tier 5 members upon reaching age 65. Early retirement benefits are available to Tiers 1 and 2 members before reaching age 60, Tiers 3 and 4 before age 62 with 25 or more years of service credit and Tier 5 with 30 or more years of service credit before age 65. Benefits are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month that a member retires prior to the age at which a member can receive full early retirement benefits in accordance with their respective Tier. Tier 1 members can receive an unreduced benefit from age 55 to age 60 if they have at least 25 years of service. Deferred retirement is available to members who have at least 10 years of service credit and have not reached the service retirement age for the respective Tier.

Allocation methodology and reconciliation to financial statements

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

To facilitate the separate (sub) actuarial valuations, the Division maintains separate accounts to identify additions, deductions, and fiduciary net position applicable to each group. The allocation percentages presented for each group in the Schedule of Employer Allocations are applied to amounts presented in the Schedules of Pension Amounts by Employer. The allocation percentages for each group as of June 30, 2015 and 2014 are based on the ratio of each employer's contributions to total employer contributions of the group for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6 - Pension plans

A. Public employees' retirement systems (PERS) (continued)

Allocation methodology and reconciliation to financial statements (continued)

GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, requires participating employers in PERS to recognize their proportionate share of the collective net pension liability, collective deferred outflows of resources, collective deferred inflows of resources and collective pension expense excluding that attributable to employer-paid member contributions. The employer allocation percentages presented in the Division's Schedule of Employer Allocations and applied to amounts presented in the Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer are based on the ratio of the contributions as an individual employer to total contributions to the PERS during the years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014. Employer allocation percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes, therefore amounts presented in the Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer may result in immaterial differences.

Contributions

The contribution policy for PERS is set by NJSA 15A and requires contributions by active members and contributing employers. State legislation has modified the amount that is contributed by the State. The State's pension contribution is based on an actuarially determined amount which includes the employer portion of the normal cost and an amortization of the unfunded accrued liability. Funding for noncontributory group insurance benefits is based on actual claims paid. For Fiscal years 2015 and 2014, the State's pension contribution was less than the actuarial determined amount.

The local employers' contribution amounts are based on an actuarially determined rate which includes the normal cost and unfunded accrued liability. Chapter 19, PL 2009 provided an option for local employers of PERS to contribute 50% of the normal and accrued liability contribution amounts certified for payments due in State fiscal year 2009. Such employers will be credited with the full payment and any such amounts will not be included in their unfunded liability. The actuaries will determine the unfunded liability of those retirement systems, by employer, for the reduced normal and accrued liability contributions provided under this law. This unfunded liability will be paid by the employer in level annual payments over a period of 15 years beginning with the payments due in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 and will be adjusted by the rate of return on the actuarial value of assets.

Collective net pension liability and actuarial information

Components of net pension liability

The components of the District's allocable share of the net pension liability for PERS as of June 30, 2015 and 2014 are as follows:

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6 -

Pension plans

A. Public employees' retirement systems (PERS) (continued)

Components of net pension liability (continued)

	2015	2014
Total pension liability	\$ 4,399,602	\$ 3,659,104
Plan fiduciary net position	2,108,644	1,905,691
Net pension liability	<u>\$ 2,290,958</u>	<u>\$ 1,753,413</u>

Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	47.93%	52.08%
--	--------	--------

Plan description

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2015 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2014, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2015. The total pension liability for the June 30, 2014 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2014. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement:

Inflation rate	3.04%
Salary increases (based on age)	
2012 - 2021	2.15% - 4.40%
Thereafter	3.15% - 5.40%
Investment rate of return	7.90%

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Male and Female Mortality Tables (setback 1 year for females) with adjustments for mortality improvements from the base year of 2012 based on Projection Scale AA.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2014 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011. It is likely that future experience will not exactly conform to these assumptions. To the extent that actual experience deviates from these assumptions, the emerging liabilities may be higher or lower than anticipated. The more the experience deviates, the larger the impact on future financial statements.

Long-term expected rate of return

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the Board of Trustees, and the Actuaries. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in PERS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2015 are summarized in the following table:

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6 - Pension plans  
A. Public employees' retirement systems (PERS) (continued)  
Long-term expected rate of return (continued)

Asset Class	Target Allocations	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return
Cash	5.00%	1.04%
U.S. Treasuries	1.75%	1.64%
Investment Grad Credit	10.00%	1.79%
Mortgages	2.10%	1.62%
High Yield Bonds	2.00%	4.03%
Inflation-Indexed Bonds	1.50%	3.25%
Broad U.S. Equities	27.25%	8.52%
Developed Foreign Equities	12.00%	6.88%
Emerging Market Equities	6.40%	10.00%
Private Equity	9.25%	12.41%
Hedge Funds/Absolute Return	12.00%	4.72%
Commodities	1.00%	5.32%
Global Debt ex U.S.	3.50%	-0.40%
REIT	4.25%	5.12%

Discount rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 4.90% as of June 30, 2015. This single blended discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.9%, and a municipal bond rate of 3.80% as of June 30, 2015, based on the Bond Buyer Go 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made based on the average of the last five years of contributions made in relation to the last five years of recommended contributions. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current plan members through 2033. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to projected benefit payments through 2033, and the municipal bond rate was applied to projected benefit payments after that date in determining the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the collective net pension liability to changes in the discount rate

The following presents the collective net pension liability of the District as of June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above as well as what the collective net pension liability would be if it was calculated using a discount rate that is 1% point lower or 1% point higher than the current rate:



**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6 - Pension plans  
A. Public employees' retirement systems (PERS) (continued)  
Sensitivity of the collective net pension liability to changes in the discount rate (continued)

	<u>2015</u>
At current discount rate (4.90%)	2,290,958
At a 1% lower rate (3.90%)	2,847,381
At a 1% higher rate (5.90%)	1,824,458
	<u>2014</u>
At current discount rate (5.39%)	1,753,413
At a 1% lower rate (4.39%)	2,205,854
At a 1% higher rate (6.39%)	1,373,479

Collective deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources

At June 30, 2016, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PERS from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 54,654	\$ -
Changes of assumptions	246,031	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	36,834
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	133,504	102,120
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	87,741	-
Total	<u>\$ 521,930</u>	<u>\$ 138,954</u>

The amount reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date (i.e. for the school year ending June 30, 2016, the plan measurement date is June 30, 2015) of \$24,043 will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2016.

The following presents a summary of changes in the collective deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources (excluding employer specific amounts) for the year ended June 30, 2015:

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6 - Pension plans  
A. Public employees' retirement systems (PERS) (continued)  
Collective deferred inflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources (continued)

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Deferred outflows of resources				
Changes of assumptions	\$ 60,085	\$ 304,960	\$ 64,360	\$ 300,685
Deferred inflows of resources				
Difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	113,871	(60,710)	16,327	<u>36,834</u>
Net of deferred outflows/(inflows)				<u>\$ 263,851</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions (excluding employer specific amounts, deferrals from District contributions subsequent to the measurement date, and deferrals from change on proportion) will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ending June 30.

2016	\$ 48,034
2017	48,034
2018	48,034
2019	76,503
2020	43,246
Total	<u>\$ 263,851</u>

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Note 6 - Pension plan (continued)**

**A. Public employees' retirement systems (PERS) (continued)**

**Pension expense**

For the year ended June 30, 2016, the District recognized net pension expense of \$44,133 which represents the District's proportionate share of allocable plan pension expense of \$41,182 plus the net amortization of deferred amounts from changes in proportion of \$4,543 and less other adjustments to the net pension liability of \$1,592. The components of allocable pension expense, which exclude amounts attributable to employer paid member contributions and pension expense related to specific liabilities of individual employers, for the District for the year ending June 30, 2015 are as follows:

Service cost	\$ 90,017
Interest on total pension liability	214,526
Member contributions	(49,794)
Administrative expense	1,673
Expected investment return net of investment expense	(153,279)
Pension expense related to specific liabilities of individual employers	(890)
Recognition of deferred inflows/outflows of resources	
Amortization of assumption changes or inputs	52,781
Amortization of expected versus actual experience	11,579
Amortization of projected versus actual investment earnings on pension plan investments	(16,326)
Pension expense	<u>\$ 150,287</u>

**B. Teacher's pension and annuity fund (TPAF)**

**Plan description**

The State of New Jersey, Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) is a cost sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan with a special-funding situation, by which the State of New Jersey (the State) is responsible to fund 100% of the employer contributions, excluding any local employer early retirement incentive (ERI) contributions. TPAF is administered by the State of New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits (the Division). For additional information about TPAF, please refer to Division's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which can be found at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annrprts.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annrprts.shtml).

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

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6 - Pension plan (continued)  
B. Teacher's pension and annuity fund (TPAF) (continued)  
Plan description (continued)

The following represents the membership tiers for TPAF:

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

Service retirement benefits of 1/55th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to Tiers 1 and 2 members upon reaching age 60 and to Tier 3 members upon reaching age 62. Service retirement benefits of 1/60th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to tier 4 members upon reaching age 62 and Tier 5 members upon reaching age 65. Early retirement benefits are available to Tiers 1 and 2 members before reaching age 60, Tiers 3 and 4 before age 62 with 25 or more years of service credit and Tier 5 with 30 or more years of service credit before age 65. Benefits are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month that a member retires prior to the age at which a member can receive full early retirement benefits in accordance with their respective Tier. Tier 1 members can receive an unreduced benefit from age 55 to age 60 if they have at least 25 years of service. Deferred retirement is available to members who have at least 10 years of service credit and have not reached the service retirement age for the respective Tier.

Special funding situation

The employer contributions for local participating employers are legally required to be funded by the State in accordance with NJSA 18:66-33. Therefore, these local participating employers are considered to be in a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68 and the State is treated as a non-employer contributing entity. Since the local participating employers do not contribute directly to the plan (except for employer specific financed amounts), there is no net pension liability or deferred outflows or inflows to report in the financial statements of the local participating employers. However, the notes to the financial statements of the local participating employers must disclose the portion of the non-employer contributing entities' total proportionate share of the net pension liability that is associated with the local participating employer.

For purposes of reporting required by GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, the District's proportionate share of allocable net pension liability, employer pension expense and related revenue, non-employer contributions and their allocable proportionate percentage for fiscal years ending June 30, 2015 and 2014 is as follows:

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 6 - Pension plan (continued)  
B. Teacher's pension and annuity fund (TPAF) (continued)  
Special funding situation (continued)

	2015	2014
Net pension liability	\$ 23,419,537	\$ 19,825,900
Employer pension expense and related revenue	1,429,974	1,068,820
Non-employer contribution	199,137	157,574
Allocable proportionate percentage	0.0370537251%	0.0370946815%

C. Defined contribution retirement program

The Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP) was established under the provisions Ch. 92, PL 2007 and expanded under the provisions of Ch. 89, PL 2008 and Ch. 1, PL 2010 to provide eligible members with a tax sheltered, defined contribution retirement benefit, along with life insurance and disability coverage. Employees eligible to enroll in the program include the following: First, employees enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) or Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) on or after July 1, 2007 who earn salary in excess of maximum compensation limits. Also, employees otherwise eligible to enroll in the TPAF and PERS who do not earn the minimum salary (\$8,300 in 2016) but who earn salary of at least \$5,000 annually are eligible to participate. The program administrator, Prudential Financial, makes information regarding the program available on its New Jersey Defined Contribution Program Web Site: [www.prudential.com/njdcprp](http://www.prudential.com/njdcprp).

The State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits, issues publicly available financial reports that include the financial statement and required supplementary information for TPAF and PERS. The financial reports may be obtained by writing to the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits, P.O. Box 295, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0295.

Contribution requirements

The contribution policy is set by state statutes and contributions are required by active members and contributing employers. Plan member and employer contributions may be amended by State of New Jersey legislation. Significant legislation which became effective October 1, 2011, will gradually increase the employee contribution rate for PERS and TPAF members. Effective October 1, 2011, the rate increased from 5.50% to 6.50% of annual contractual compensation for employees enrolled in the TPAF and PERS pension plans. The rate will increase each year on the first of July over a seven year phase-in period until the withholding rate reaches 7.50% effective July 1, 2018. Contribution rates for DCRP provide for employee contributions of 5.50% of annual contractual compensation as defined. Employers are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate in TPAF, PERS and DCRP. The actuarially determined contribution includes funding for cost-of-living adjustments, non-contributory death benefits and post-retirement medical premiums. Under current statute, the Board is a noncontributing employer of the TPAF.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Note 6 - Pension plan (continued)**

**B. Teacher's pension and annuity fund (TPAF) (continued)**

**Three-year trend information for TPAF (paid on behalf of the District):**

<u>Year Funding</u>	<u>TPAF Benefit Cost</u>	<u>Percentage of APC Contributed</u>
06/30/16	\$ 621,654	100%
06/30/15	518,344	100%
06/30/14	414,227	100%

**Three-year trend information for PERS:**

<u>Year Funding</u>	<u>Annual Pension Cost</u>	<u>Percentage of APC Contributed</u>
06/30/16	\$ 87,741	100%
06/30/15	77,205	100%
06/30/14	76,404	100%

During the year ended June 30, 2016, the State of New Jersey contributed \$337,887 to the TPAF for post-retirement medical benefits, \$13,465 for non-contributory insurance premiums and \$270,302 for normal costs and accrued liability costs on behalf of the Board. Also, in accordance with NJSA 18A:66-66 the State of New Jersey reimbursed the Board \$356,446 during the year ended June 30, 2016 for the employer's share of social security contributions for TPAF members calculated on their base salaries. These amounts have been included in the financial statements and the combining and individual fund and account group statements and schedules as revenues and expenditures in accordance with GASB 68.

**Note 7 - Post-retirement benefits**

Chapter 384 of PL 1987 and Ch. 6 of PL 1990 required TPAF and PERS, respectively, to fund post-retirement medical benefits for those State employees who retire after accumulating 25 years of credited service or on a disability retirement. PL 2007, Ch. 103 amended the law to eliminate the funding of post-retirement medical benefits through the TPAF and PERS. It created separate funds outside the pension plans for the funding and payment of post-retirement medical benefits for retired state employees and retired educational employees. As of June 30, 2015, there were 107,314 retirees eligible for post-retirement medical benefits, and the State contributed \$1.25 billion on their behalf. The cost of these benefits is funded through contributions by the State in accordance with Ch. 62, PL 1994. Funding of post-retirement medical premiums changed from a prefunding basis to a pay-as-you-go basis beginning the fiscal year 1994.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 7 - Post-retirement benefits (continued)

The State is also responsible for the cost attributable to Ch. 126, PL 1992, which provides free health benefits to members of PERS and the Alternate Benefit Program who retired from a Board of Education or County College with 25 years of service. In fiscal year 2015, the State paid \$214.1 million toward Ch. 126 benefits for 19,056 eligible retired members.

GASB Statement 45 requires certain disclosures relating to governmental entities obligations for other post-employment benefits (OPEB), which are post-employment benefits other than pensions. The District's only material OPEB obligation is for healthcare provided to eligible retirees through the NJ State Health Benefits Program.

*Plan Description* - The School District contributes to the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment healthcare plan administered by the State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits. SHBP was established in 1961 under NJSA 52:14-17.25 et seq., to provide health benefits to State employees, retirees, and their dependents. Rules governing the operation and administration of the program are found in Title 17, Chapter 9 of the New Jersey Administrative Code. SHBP provides medical, prescription drugs, mental health/substance abuse, and Medicare Part B reimbursement to retirees and their covered dependents.

The SHBP was extended to employees, retirees, and dependents of participating local public employers in 1964. The School District adopted a resolution to participate in the SHBP. The State Health Benefits Commission is the executive body established by the statute to be responsible for the operation of the SHBP. The State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the SHBP. That report may be obtained by writing to: State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits, P.O. Box 295, Trenton, NJ 08625-0295 by visiting their website at ([www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions](http://www.nj.gov/treasury/pensions)).

*Funding Policy* - Participating employers are contractually required to contribute based on the amount of premiums attributable to their retirees. Post-retirement medical benefits under the plan have been funded on a pay-as-you-go basis since 1994. Prior to 1994, medical benefits were funded on an actuarial basis. Information regarding the State's annual contributions, annual OPEB cost and net OPEB obligations is available through the State as noted in the previous paragraph.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Note 8 - Deferred compensation**

The Board offers its employees a choice of the following deferred compensation plans created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 403 (b). The plans, which are administered by the entities listed below, permit participants to defer a portion of their salary until future years. Amounts deferred under the plans are not available to employees until termination, retirement, death or unforeseeable emergency. The plan administrators are as follows:

Valic  
The Equitable  
Metropolitan Life  
Great American Life  
Lincoln Investment Planning

**Note 9 - Interfund receivable and payables**

The composition of Interfund balances as of June 30, 2016 is as follows:

	<u>Receivable</u>	<u>Payable</u>
General Fund	\$ 68,835	\$ -
Payroll Agency	-	7,748
Special Revenue Fund	-	68,235
Unemployment	7,148	-
	<u>\$ 75,983</u>	<u>\$ 75,983</u>

The balance due from the Payroll Agency Fund to the General Fund of \$600 represents a loan for the flexible spending account. The balance due from the Payroll Agency Fund to the Unemployment Compensation Fund of \$7,148 represents employee withholdings for the unemployment trust not yet transferred at year end. The balance due from the General Fund to the Special Revenue Fund of \$68,235 represents a loan for cash flow issues relating to the delayed receipt of grant revenues.

**Note 10 - Inventory**

Inventory in the Food Service Fund as of June 30, 2016 consisted of the following:

Food	\$ 1,744
Supplies	218
Total	<u>\$ 1,962</u>

The value of Federal donated commodities as reflected on Schedule A (required by the Single Audit Law of 1996) is the difference between market value and cost of the commodities at the date of purchase and has been included as an item of non-operating revenue in the financial statements.



**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Note 11 - Contingent liabilities**

The District is involved in various legal proceedings that are incidental to its operations. These legal proceedings are not likely to have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the School District.

**Note 12 - Risk management**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

*Property and Liability Insurance* - The District maintains commercial insurance coverage for property, liability, and student accident and surety bonds. There was no significant reduction in insurance coverage from coverage of the prior year. The District did not have any insurance settlements which exceeded insurance coverage for the past three years. A complete Schedule of Insurance Coverage can be found in the Statistical Section of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

*New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance* - The District has elected to fund its NJ Unemployment Compensation Insurance under the "Benefit Reimbursement Method." Under this plan, the District is required to reimburse the NJ Unemployment Trust Fund for benefits paid to its former employees and charged to its account with the State. The District is billed quarterly for amounts due to the State. The following is a summary of District contributions, and interest earnings, employee contributions, reimbursements to the State for benefits paid and the ending balance of the District's Unemployment Trust Fund for the current and previous two years:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Board Contrib.</u>	<u>Interest Earnings</u>	<u>Employee Contrib.</u>	<u>Amount Reimbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
2015-2016	\$ -	\$ 252	\$ 7,459	\$ -	\$ 133,965
2014-2015	-	237	8,026	-	126,254
2013-2014	-	241	9,344	15,418	117,991

**Note 13 - Legal reserve accounts**

A Capital Reserve Account was established by the District for the accumulation of funds for use as Capital Outlay expenditures in subsequent fiscal years. The Capital Reserve Account is maintained in the General Fund and its activity is included in the General Fund annual budget.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Note 13 - Legal reserve accounts (continued)**

Funds placed in the Capital Reserve Account are restricted to capital projects in the Districts approved Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) and updated annually in the Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR). Upon submission of the LRFP to the Department of Education, a District may increase the balance in the Capital Reserve by appropriating funds in the annual General Fund budget certified for taxes. A District may also appropriate additional amounts when the express approval of the voters has been obtained either by a separate proposal at budget time or by a special question at one of the four special elections authorized pursuant to NJSA 19:60-2. Pursuant to NJAC 6A:26-9.1(d)1, the balance in the account cannot at any time exceed the local support costs of uncompleted capital projects in its approved LRFP.

Beginning in fiscal year 2008, Districts are allowed as per NJSA 18A:7F-41(a) & 41(b) to deposit to the legal reserves by Board resolution during the month of June for any unanticipated revenue and/or unexpended line-item appropriation amounts. Pursuant to this state statute, the District deposited \$320,000 to their Capital Reserve Account and \$30,000 to their Maintenance Reserve Account by Board resolution in June 2016 as summarized in the following schedule. The following Schedule is a Summarization of the Legal Reserve Accounts for the current year:

Reserve Type	Beginning Balance	District Contrib.	Interest Earnings	Return Unused Withdrawal	Withdrawal	Ending Balance
Capital	\$ 717,450	\$ 395,000	\$ 250	\$ 273,498	\$ 490,000	\$ 896,198
Emergency	75,300	-	-	-	-	75,300
Maintenance	175,000	75,000	-	-	-	250,000
Total	<u>\$ 967,750</u>	<u>\$ 470,000</u>	<u>\$ 250</u>	<u>\$ 273,498</u>	<u>\$ 490,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,221,498</u>

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Note 14 - Fund balances - Budgetary basis**

As described in Note 1 N-Fund Equity (Fund Balance) may be restricted, committed or assigned. An analysis of the General Fund balance on June 30, 2016 and 2015 is as follows:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>Restricted</b>		
Excess surplus - Represents amount in excess of allowable percentage of expenditures. In accordance with state statute, the excess surplus is designated for utilization in succeeding year's budgets.	\$ 112,100	\$ 103,303
Excess surplus-designated for subsequent year's expenditures - represents amount appropriated in the succeeding year's budget to reduce tax requirements.	103,303	121,281
<b>Committed</b>		
Capital reserve account - Represents funds restricted to capital projects in the Districts long range facilities plan.	896,198	717,450
Maintenance reserve account - Represents funds accumulated for the required maintenance of a facility in accordance with the EFCFA. (NJSA18A:76-9).	250,000	175,000
Emergency reserve account - represents funds restricted to finance unanticipated General Fund expenditures required for a thorough and efficient education.	75,300	75,300
<b>Assigned</b>		
Designated surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures - Represents amount appropriated in the succeeding year's budget to reduce tax requirements.	2,088	-
Year-end encumbrance - Represents fund balance committed for purchase orders that have been issued but goods or services were not received as of June 30,	450,225	30,798
<b>Unassigned</b>		
Undesignated - Represents fund balance which has not been restricted or designated.	<u>263,219</u>	<u>275,222</u>
<b>Total fund balance</b>	<u>\$ 2,152,433</u>	<u>\$ 1,498,354</u>

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

Note 15 - Calculation of excess surplus

In accordance with NJSA 18A:7F-7, as amended by PL 2004, Ch. 73 (S1701), the designation for Reserved Fund Balance - Excess Surplus is a required calculation pursuant to the New Jersey Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 (CEIFA). New Jersey School Districts are required to reserve General Fund balance at the fiscal year end of June 30, if they did not appropriate a required minimum amount as budgeted fund balance in their subsequent years' budget. The excess fund balance at June 30, 2016 is \$112,100.

Note 16 - Subsequent events

The District has evaluated subsequent events through November 10, 2016, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued and no additional items were noted for disclosure.

Note 17 - Recent accounting pronouncements not yet effective

The following is a list of recent accounting pronouncements which are not yet effective as of the year end date of this report:

In August 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 77 "*Tax Abatement Disclosures*". This statement, which is effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, is not expected to have a material impact on the District's financial reporting.

In December 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 78 "*Pension's Provided through Certain Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plans*". This statement, which is effective for reporting periods beginning December 15, 2015, is not expected to have a material impact on the District's financial reporting.

In December 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 79 "*Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*". This statement, which is effective for reporting periods beginning December 15, 2015, is not expected to have a material impact on the District's financial reporting.

In January 2016, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 80 "*Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14*". This statement, which is effective for reporting periods beginning June 15, 2016, is not expected to have a material impact on the District's financial reporting.

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**Note 17 - Recent accounting pronouncements not yet effective (continued)**

In March 2016, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 82 "*Pension Issues - an amendment of GASB Statements No. 67 and No. 73*". This statement is effective for reporting periods beginning June 15, 2016, except for the requirements of paragraph 7 in a circumstance in which an employer's pension liability is measured as of a date other than the employer's most recent fiscal year-end. In that circumstance, the requirements of paragraph 7 are effective for that employer in the first reporting period in which the measurement date of the pension liability is on or after June 15, 2017. This statement is not expected to have a material impact on the District's financial reporting.

In August 2015, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 77 "Tax Abatement Disclosures". This statement, which is effective for fiscal periods beginning December 15, 2015, is not expected to have an effect on the District's financial reporting.

**Note 18 - Deficit balance in unrestricted net position**

The District is reporting a deficit balance in unrestricted net position for governmental activities as of June 30, 2016 of \$(1,459,906) on schedule A-1 "Statement of Net Position". The deficit balance is not a negative reflection on the District's financial condition, but is the result of reporting required by GASB Statement No. 68 Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions which allocates the proportionate share of the State's net pension liability for PERS to each contributing entity throughout the State.

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## **APPENDIX C**

### **Form of Bond Counsel's Approving Legal Opinion**

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Woodbridge, NJ 07095-0958  
732.636.8000

August \_\_, 2017

The Board of Education of the  
Township of East Amwell  
Ringo, New Jersey

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have served as bond counsel in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance of \$3,315,000 aggregate principal amount of School Bonds, Series 2017 (the "Bonds") of The Board of Education of the Township of East Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board).

The Bonds are issued pursuant to: (i) Title 18A, Chapter 24 of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended and supplemented (the "Education Law"); (ii) a proposal adopted by the Board on September 20, 2016 (the "Proposal") and approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the legal voters present and voting at the special School District election held on January 24, 2017 and (iii) a resolution adopted by the Board on June 20, 2017 (the "Resolution").

The Bonds are issued in fully registered book-entry only form, without coupons, initially registered in the name of and held by Cede & Co., as nominee for The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), an automated depository for securities and clearing house for securities transactions. Purchases of the Bonds will be made in book-entry only form in principal amounts of \$1,000 each or any integral multiple thereof with a minimum purchase of \$5,000 required, through book entries made on the books and records of DTC and its participants. So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner of the Bonds, payments of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made by the Board directly to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC. Disbursement of such payments to DTC participants is the responsibility of DTC and disbursement of such payments to the beneficial owners of the Bonds is the responsibility of DTC participants.

The Bonds are dated their date of delivery and shall bear interest from such date, which interest shall be payable commencing July 15, 2018 and semi-annually thereafter on the fifteenth day of January and July in each year until maturity or prior redemption, and shall mature on January 15 of the years and in the principal amounts as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2019	\$110,000	%	2029	\$165,000	%
2020	130,000		2030	170,000	
2021	135,000		2031	175,000	
2022	140,000		2032	180,000	
2023	140,000		2033	185,000	
2024	145,000		2034	190,000	
2025	145,000		2035	200,000	
2026	150,000		2036	205,000	
2027	155,000		2037	215,000	
2028	160,000		2038	220,000	

The Bonds of this issue are subject to optional redemption prior to their stated maturities.

We have examined such matters of law, certified copies of the proceedings, including the bond referendum proceedings, and other documents and proofs relative to the issuance and sale of the Bonds as we have deemed necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the opinion rendered below. In such examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals and the conformity to the original documents of all documents submitted to us as copies. As to any facts material to our opinion we have, when relevant facts were not independently established, relied upon the aforesaid instruments, certificates and documents.

We are of the opinion that: (i) such proceedings and proofs show lawful authority for the sale and issuance of the Bonds pursuant to the Education Law, the Proposal and the Resolution; (ii) the Bonds are valid and legally binding obligations of the Board; and (iii) all the taxable real property within the School District is subject to the levy of *ad valorem* taxes, without limitation as to rate or amount, for the payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds.

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), sets forth certain requirements which must be met subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the Bonds for the interest thereon to be and remain excludable from gross income for Federal income tax purposes. Noncompliance with such requirements could cause interest on the Bonds to be included in gross income for Federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of the issuance of the Bonds. The Board has covenanted to maintain the exclusion of the interest on the Bonds from gross income for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103(a) of the Code.

In our opinion, under existing law, and assuming continuing compliance by the Board with the aforementioned covenant, under existing statutes, regulations, rulings and court decisions, interest on the Bonds is not includable for Federal income tax purposes in the

gross income of the owners of the Bonds pursuant to Section 103 of the Code. The Bonds are not "specified private activity bonds" within the meaning of Section 57 of the Code and, therefore, the interest on the Bonds will not be treated as a preference item for purposes of computing the Federal alternative minimum tax imposed by Section 55 of the Code. However, the interest on the Bonds owned by corporations will be included in such corporations' "adjusted current earnings" (as defined in Section 56(g) of the Code) in calculating such corporations' alternative minimum taxable income for purposes of determining the Federal alternative minimum tax.

We are further of the opinion that the Bonds constitute "qualified tax-exempt obligations" within the meaning of section 265(b)(3)(B) of the Code and, therefore, will be treated as if they were acquired on August 7, 1986 for purposes of the limitations on deductibility by financial institutions of interest expense allocable to tax-exempt interest.

We are also of the opinion that, under existing laws of the State of New Jersey, interest on the Bonds and any gain on the sale thereof is not includable in gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act, 1976 N.J. Laws c. 47, as amended and supplemented.

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

[We are also of the opinion that the difference between the stated principal amount of the Bonds maturing on January 15 in the years 20\_\_ through 20\_\_ (the "[Discount] Bonds") and their initial offering price to the public (excluding bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters or wholesalers), at which price a substantial amount of the [Discount] Bonds was sold, constitutes original issue discount which is excluded from gross income for Federal income tax purposes to the same extent as interest on the [Discount] Bonds. Further, such original issue discount accrues actuarially on a constant interest rate basis over the term of each [Discount] Bond and the basis of each [Discount] Bond acquired at such initial offering price by an initial purchaser thereof will be increased by the amount of such accrued original issue discount.]

Except as stated in the preceding \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) paragraphs, we express no opinion as to any Federal, state or local tax consequences of the ownership or disposition of the Bonds. Furthermore, we express no opinion as to any Federal, state or local tax law consequences with respect to the Bonds, or the interest thereon, if any action is taken with respect to the Bonds or the proceeds thereof upon the advice or approval of other bond counsel.

This opinion is qualified to the extent that the enforceability of the rights or remedies with respect to the Bonds may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, debt adjustment, moratorium, reorganization or other similar laws affecting creditors' rights or remedies heretofore or hereafter enacted to the extent constitutionally applicable and their enforcement may also be subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in appropriate cases.

We have examined one of the executed Bonds and, in our opinion, its form and execution are regular and proper.

Very truly yours,

WILENTZ, GOLDMAN & SPITZER, P.A.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Form of Continuing Disclosure Agreement**

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## CONTINUING DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE

This Continuing Disclosure Certificate dated as of August \_\_, 2017 (the "Disclosure Certificate") is executed and delivered by The Board of Education of the Township of East Amwell in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey (the "Board" when referring to the governing body and the "School District" when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) in connection with the issuance of its \$3,315,000 aggregate principal amount of School Bonds, Series 2017 dated their date of delivery (the "Bonds"). The Bonds are being by virtue of a proposal adopted by the Board on September 20, 2016 and approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the legal voters present and voting at the special School District election held on January 24, 2017 and pursuant to a resolution entitled, "RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS OF \$3,315,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2017 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THEIR SALE AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH", duly adopted by the Board on June 20, 2017 (the "Bond Resolution"). The Board covenants and agrees as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Purpose of the Disclosure Certificate. This Disclosure Certificate is being executed and delivered by the Board for the benefit of the Bondholders and Beneficial Owners of the Bonds and in order to assist the Participating Underwriter(s) in complying with the Rule (as defined below). The Board acknowledges it is an "Obligated Person" under the Rule (as defined below).

**SECTION 2.** Definitions. In addition to the definitions set forth in the Bond Resolution which apply to any capitalized term used in this Disclosure Certificate unless otherwise defined in this Section, the following capitalized terms shall have the following meanings:

*"Annual Report"* shall mean any Annual Report provided by the Board pursuant to, and as described in, Sections 3 and 4 of this Disclosure Certificate.

*"Beneficial Owner"* shall mean any person which (a) has the power, directly or indirectly, to vote or consent with respect to, or to dispose of ownership of any Bonds, as applicable (including persons holding Bonds, as applicable through nominees, depositories or other intermediaries), or (b) is treated as the owner of any Bonds, as applicable, for Federal income tax purposes.

*"Continuing Disclosure Information"* shall mean, collectively, (i) each Annual Report, (ii) any notice required to be filed by the Board with the EMMA (as defined herein) pursuant to Section 3 of this Disclosure Agreement, and (iii) any notice of a Listed Event required to be filed by the Authority with EMMA pursuant to Section 5 of this Disclosure Agreement.

*“Disclosure Representative”* shall mean the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the Board or his/her designee, or such other person as the Board shall designate in writing from time to time for the purposes of this Disclosure Certificate.

*“Dissemination Agent”* shall mean, initially, the Board or any Dissemination Agent subsequently designated in writing by the Board which has filed with the Board a written acceptance of such designation.

*“EMMA”* shall mean the Electronic Municipal Market Access system, a website created by the MSRB (as defined herein) and approved by the SEC (as defined herein) to provide a central location where investors can obtain municipal bond information including disclosure documents. The Board or the Dissemination Agent shall submit disclosure documents to EMMA as a PDF file to [www.emma.msrb.org](http://www.emma.msrb.org).

*“Listed Events”* shall mean any of the events listed in Section 5(a) of this Disclosure Certificate.

*“MSRB”* shall mean the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

*“Rule”* shall mean Rule 15c2-12(b)(5) adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as the same may be amended from time to time.

*“SEC”* shall mean the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

*“SEC Release No. 34-59062”* shall mean Release No. 34-59062 of the SEC dated December 5, 2008.

*“State”* shall mean the State of New Jersey.

*“Underwriters”* shall mean any of the original underwriters of the Bonds required to comply with the Rule in connection with the purchase of the Bonds.

**SECTION 3. Provision of Annual Reports.** (a) The Board shall provide or cause to be provided to the Dissemination Agent not later than December 31 of each year, commencing December 31, 2017 (for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017), an Annual Report which is consistent with the requirements of Section 4 of this Disclosure Certificate. Each Annual Report may be submitted as a single document or as separate documents comprising a package, and may cross-reference other information as provided in Section 4 of this Disclosure Certificate; provided that the audited financial statements of the Board may be submitted separately from the balance of the Annual Report; and provided, further, that if the audited financial statements of the Board are not available by December 31, the Board shall include unaudited financial statements with its Annual Report and when such audited financial statements become available to the Board, the same shall be submitted to the Dissemination Agent no later than thirty (30) days after the receipt of the same by the Board.



(b) Not later than January 31 of each year (commencing January 31, 2018) the Dissemination Agent shall provide to EMMA a copy of the Annual Report received by the Dissemination Agent pursuant to subsection (a) hereof.

(c) If the Board does not provide or is unable to provide an Annual Report by the applicable date required in subsection (a) above, such that the Dissemination Agent cannot file the Annual Report with EMMA in accordance with subsection (b) above, the Dissemination Agent shall send a notice of such event to EMMA in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, with copies to the Board (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board).

(d) Each year the Dissemination Agent shall file a report with the Board (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board), certifying that the Annual Report has been provided to EMMA pursuant to this Disclosure Certificate, stating the date it was provided.

(e) If the fiscal year of the Board changes, the Board shall give written notice of such change to the Dissemination Agent and the Dissemination Agent shall, within five (5) business days after the receipt thereof from the Board, forward a notice of such change to EMMA in the manner provided in Section 5(e) hereof.

**SECTION 4. Content of Annual Reports.** The Board's Annual Report shall contain or incorporate by reference the following:

- (1) The audited financial statements of the Board.

The audited financial statements are to be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

- (2) The general financial information and operating data of the Board consistent with the information set forth in the Official Statement dated July \_\_, 2017, prepared in connection with the sale of the Bonds (the "Official Statement") in Appendix A.

Any or all of the items listed above may be incorporated by reference from other documents, including official statements of debt issues with respect to which the Board is an "Obligated Person" (as defined by the Rule), which have been filed with EMMA or the Securities and Exchange Commission. If the document incorporated by reference is a final official statement, it must be available from the MSRB. The Board shall clearly identify each such other document so incorporated by reference.

**SECTION 5. Reporting of Significant Events.** (a) This Section 5 shall govern the giving of notices of the occurrence of any of the following events with respect to the Bonds:

- (1) Principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (2) Nonpayment related defaults, if material;

- (3) Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (4) Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
- (5) Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- (6) Adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the Bonds, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Bonds;
- (7) Modifications to rights of Bondholders, if material;
- (8) Bond calls, if material, and tender offers;
- (9) Defeasances of the Bonds;
- (10) Release, substitution or sale of property securing repayment of the Bonds, if material
- (11) Ratings changes rating to the Bonds.
- (12) Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the Board;
- (13) The consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the Board or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Board, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material; and
- (14) Appointment of a successor or additional trustee for the Bonds or the change of name of a trustee for the Bonds, if material.

The Board shall, in a timely manner not in excess of ten (10) business days after the occurrence of any Listed Event, file a notice of the occurrence of such Listed Event with the MSRB in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of this Disclosure Certificate. In determining the materiality of any of the Listed Events specified in this subsection (a) of this section 5, the Board may, but shall not be required to, rely conclusively on an opinion of counsel.

(b) Whenever the Board has or obtains knowledge of the occurrence of any of the Listed Events, the Board shall, as soon as possible, determine if such event would constitute information material to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds.

(c) If the Board determines that the occurrence of a Listed Event would be material to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, the Board shall promptly notify the Dissemination Agent in writing (if the Board is not the Dissemination Agent) and the Board shall instruct the Dissemination Agent to report such Listed Event and the Dissemination Agent shall report the occurrence of such Listed Event pursuant to subsection (e) hereof.

(d) If the Board determines that the occurrence of a Listed Event would not be material to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, the Board shall promptly notify the Dissemination Agent in writing (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board) and the Dissemination Agent (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board) shall be instructed by the Board not to report the occurrence.

(e) If the Dissemination Agent has been instructed in writing by the Board to report the occurrence of a Listed Event, the Dissemination Agent shall file a notice of such occurrence with EMMA, with a copy to the Board (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board). Notwithstanding the foregoing, notice of Listed Events described in subsections (a)(4) and (5) hereof need not be given under this subsection any earlier than the notice (if any) of the underlying event is given to the Beneficial Owner of the affected Bonds pursuant to the Bond Resolution.

**SECTION 6. Termination of Reporting Obligation.** The Board's obligations under this Disclosure Certificate shall terminate upon the defeasance, prior redemption or payment in full of all of the Bonds or when the Board is no longer an "Obligated Person" (as defined in the Rule). The Board shall file a notice of the termination of its reporting obligations pursuant to the provisions hereof with the Dissemination Agent, which notice shall be filed with EMMA in accordance with the provisions of Section 5(e) hereof.

**SECTION 7. Compliance with the Rule.** The Board had previously failed to comply with its previous undertakings, to provide secondary market disclosure pursuant to the Rule. As of the date hereof, however, the Board is in compliance.

**SECTION 8. Dissemination Agent; Compensation.** The Board may, from time to time, appoint or engage a Dissemination Agent to assist it in carrying out its obligations under this Disclosure Certificate, and may discharge any such Dissemination Agent, with or without appointing a successor Dissemination Agent. The initial Dissemination Agent shall be the Board. The Board shall compensate the Dissemination Agent (which shall be appointed) for the performance of its obligations hereunder in accordance with an agreed upon fee structure.

**SECTION 9. Amendment; Waiver.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Disclosure Certificate, the Board may amend this Disclosure Certificate and any provision of this Disclosure Certificate may be waived, if such amendment or waiver

(supported by an opinion of counsel expert in Federal securities laws acceptable to the Board to the effect that such amendment or waiver would not, in and of itself, cause the undertakings herein to violate the Rule if such amendment or waiver had been effective on the date hereof) is (a) made in connection with a change in circumstances that arises from a change in legal requirements, change in law, or change in the identity, nature, or status of the obligated person, or type of business conducted; (b) the undertaking, as amended or waived, would have complied with the requirements of the Rule at the time of the primary offering of the Bonds, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of the Rule, as well as any change in circumstances; and (c) the amendment or waiver does not materially impair the interests of holders, as determined either by parties unaffiliated with the Board or "Obligated Person," or by approving vote of the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, as applicable pursuant to the terms of the Bond Resolution at the time of the amendment. The Board shall give notice of such amendment or waiver to this Disclosure Certificate to the Dissemination Agent, which notice shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 hereof. Notwithstanding the above, the addition of or change in the Dissemination Agent shall not be construed to be an amendment under the provisions hereof.

In the event of any amendment or waiver of a provision of this Disclosure Certificate, the Board shall describe such amendment in the next Annual Report, and shall include, as applicable, a narrative explanation of the reason for the amendment or waiver and its impact on the type (or in the case of a change of accounting principles, on the presentation) of financial information or operating data being presented by the Board. In addition, if the amendment relates to the accounting principles to be followed in preparing financial statements (i) notice of such change shall be given in the same manner as a Listed Event under Section 5 hereof, and (ii) the Annual Report for the year in which the change is made should present a comparison (in narrative form and also, if feasible, in quantitative form) between the financial statements as prepared on the basis of the new accounting principles and those prepared on the basis of the former accounting principles.

**SECTION 10. Additional Information.** Nothing in this Disclosure Certificate shall be deemed to prevent the Board from disseminating any other information, using the means of dissemination set forth in this Disclosure Certificate or any other means of communication, or including any other information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event, in addition to that which is required by this Disclosure Certificate. If the Board chooses to include any information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event, in addition to that which is specifically required by this Disclosure Certificate, the Board shall have no obligation under this Disclosure Certificate to update such information or include it in any future Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event.

**SECTION 11. Default.** In the event of a failure of the Board to comply with any provision of this Disclosure Certificate, the Holders of at least 25% aggregate principal amount of Outstanding Bonds or any Beneficial Owner of the Bonds may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance by court order, to cause the Board to comply with its obligations

under this Disclosure Certificate. A default under this Disclosure Certificate shall not be deemed an Event of Default on the Bonds and the sole remedy under this Disclosure Certificate in the event of any failure of the Board to comply with this Disclosure Certificate shall be an action to compel performance.

**SECTION 12. Duties, Immunities and Liabilities of the Dissemination Agent.**

The Dissemination Agent shall have only such duties as are specifically set forth in this Disclosure Certificate, and, to the extent permitted by law, the Board agrees to indemnify and hold the Dissemination Agent (if the Dissemination Agent is not the Board) and its respective officers, directors, employees and agents, harmless against any loss, expense and liabilities which it may incur arising out of or in the exercise or performance of its powers and duties hereunder, including the costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees) of defending against any claim of liability, but excluding liabilities due to the Dissemination Agent's gross negligence or willful misconduct. To the extent permitted by law, the Board further releases the Dissemination Agent from any liability for the disclosure of any information required by the Rule and this Disclosure Certificate. The obligations of the Board under this Section shall survive resignation or removal of the Dissemination Agent and payment of the Bonds.

**SECTION 13. Beneficiaries.** This Disclosure Certificate shall inure solely to the benefit of the Board, the Dissemination Agent, the Underwriters, and the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds, including Bondholders, and shall create no rights in any other person or entity.

**SECTION 14. Notices.** All notices and submissions required hereunder shall be given to the following, or their successors, by facsimile transmission (with written confirmation of receipt), followed by hard copy sent by certified or registered mail, personal delivery or recognized overnight delivery:

(a) If to the Board of Education:

The Board of Education of the  
Township of East Amwell  
43 Wertsville Road  
Ringo, New Jersey 08551  
Attention: Business Administrator/Board Secretary

(b) Copies of all notices to the Dissemination Agent from time to time with respect to the Bonds, initially:

The Board of Education of the  
Township of East Amwell  
43 Wertsville Road  
Ringo, New Jersey 08551  
Attention: Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Each party shall give notice from time to time to the other parties, in the manner specified herein, of any change of the identity or address of anyone listed herein.

**SECTION 15.** Counterparts. This Disclosure Certificate may be executed in any number of counterparts which shall be executed by authorized signatories of the Board and the Dissemination Agent, as applicable, and all of which together shall be regarded for all purposes as one original and shall constitute and be but one and the same.

**SECTION 16.** Severability. If any one or more of the covenants or agreements in this Disclosure Certificate to be performed on the part of the Board and the Dissemination Agent should be contrary to law, then such covenant or covenants, agreement or agreements, shall be deemed severable from the remaining covenants and agreements and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this Disclosure Certificate.

**SECTION 17.** Governing Law. This Disclosure Certificate shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the Laws of the United States of America and the State of New Jersey as applicable.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF EAST AMWELL**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
JUDY HOLLADAY,  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary

**EXHIBIT A**

**NOTICE TO EMMA OF FAILURE  
TO FILE ANNUAL REPORT**

Name of Issuer:           The Board of Education of the  
                                  Township of East Amwell  
                                  in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey

Name of Issue:           \$3,315,000 School Bonds, Series 2017  
                                  Dated: August \_\_, 2017  
                                  (CUSIP Number: 2705B\_\_)

Date of Issuance:       August \_\_, 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above designated Board has not provided an Annual Report with respect to the above-named Bonds as required by the Bond Resolution and a Continuing Disclosure Certificate for the Bonds dated as of August \_\_, 2017 executed by the Board.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DISSEMINATION AGENT**  
(on behalf of the Board)

cc: The Board

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