

Prepared by Dr. Jeffrey Alstadt

Approval of Authorization to Seek Proposals for an Independent Forensic Audit

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request formal Board authorization for the Superintendent to initiate a competitive process to identify and secure an independent, external auditing firm specializing in forensic financial reviews. This authorization will enable the administration to bring a formal firm recommendation and contract for approval to the regular July Board of Education meeting.

Background and Information

In alignment with our ongoing efforts to strengthen internal controls, transition business office responsibilities, and ensure strict compliance with fiscal protocols, the administrative team has been conducting an internal review of the district's operational and financial systems.

During the course of this routine operational transition and reconciliation process, initial findings have surfaced regarding past administrative practices and internal control structures that require deeper, specialized examination. To ensure absolute transparency, maintain public trust, and fulfill our fiduciary duties to the taxpayers of Streator Elementary School District 44, it is necessary to transition this review from an internal inquiry to an objective, third-party analysis.

Securing an independent external auditor to conduct a focused forensic audit represents the most responsible path forward. This proactive measure will provide a highly rigorous, structured framework to comprehensively evaluate our historical financial data, verify procedural integrity, and establish clear baselines for future operational continuity.

Key Provisions

The following terms establish the guidelines for this authorization while ensuring adherence to legal frameworks.

- While the administration is committed to complete transparency regarding the district's fiscal health, this process will strictly adhere to all applicable state and federal privacy laws, statutory confidentiality requirements, and board policies..
- Specific details regarding ongoing internal reviews will remain strictly confidential during the procurement and investigative phases to maintain regulatory privacy compliance.
- This administrative action authorizes the Superintendent to immediately issue requests for qualifications and proposals to certified independent forensic accounting firms.
- District administrative staff will aggregate and evaluate all submitted proposals based on institutional qualifications, regional market competitiveness, and scope of expertise over the coming weeks.
- The formal process will culminate in a final firm recommendation and contractual agreement presented at the July 2026 regular board meeting.

Administrative Recommendation

The administration recommends that the Board of Education formally approve the authorization for the Superintendent to solicit proposals for an independent forensic audit, with a final firm recommendation to be presented at the July Board of Education meeting.