



Local Government Services  
88 East Broad Street, Fourth Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3506  
(614) 466-4717 or (800) 345-2519  
ContactLGS@ohioauditor.gov

April 9, 2024

J. Scott Gooding, Interim Treasurer/CFO  
Big Walnut Local School District  
110 Tippet Court  
Sunbury, Ohio 43074

Dear Mr. Gooding:

This letter is to confirm our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement with the Big Walnut Local School District and the nature and limitations of the services we will provide.

We will provide the following services:

Using our conversion software, the Local Government Services Section of the Office of the Auditor of State (LGS) will prepare, from information provided by the School District, the annual financial statements for the Big Walnut Local School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

The objective of our engagement is to prepare financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America based on information provided by the School District. LGS will conduct this engagement in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services (SSARS) promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA and comply with the AICPA's Code of Professional Conduct, including the ethical principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence, and due care.

LGS is not required to, and will not, verify the accuracy or completeness of the information the School District provides to LGS for the engagement or otherwise gather evidence for the purpose

of expressing an opinion or a conclusion. Accordingly, we will not express an opinion or conclusion or provide any assurance on the financial statements.

Our engagement cannot be relied upon to identify any financial statement misstatements, including those caused by fraud or error, or to identify any wrongdoing within the School District or noncompliance with laws and regulations.

Our engagement to be performed is conducted on the basis that management acknowledges and understands that our role is to prepare financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Management has the following overall responsibilities that are fundamental to our undertaking the engagement to prepare the School District's financial statements in accordance with SSARs: 1) the selection of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as the financial reporting framework to be applied in the preparation of the financial statements; 2) the prevention and detection of fraud; 3) to ensure that the School District complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities; 4) the accuracy and completeness of the records, documents, explanations, and other information including significant judgments the School District provides to LGS for the engagement to prepare financial statements; and 5) to provide us with documentation and other information that is relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements, additional information that may be requested for the purpose of the preparation of the financial statements, and unrestricted access to persons within the Big Walnut Local School District of whom we determine necessary to communicate.

The financial statements will not be accompanied by a report. However, you agree that the financial statements will clearly indicate that no assurance is provided on them.

The Big Walnut Local School District remains responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. It is therefore the responsibility of the School District to be in a position in fact and appearance to make informed judgments while reviewing, evaluating, and approving the services provided under this engagement. It is also the School District's responsibility to design, implement, and maintain internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.

To demonstrate that the School District is fulfilling these responsibilities, the following safeguards will be observed. The School District will designate a management level individual to be the primary contact accountable for overseeing this engagement and who will take responsibility for the appropriateness of the results of this engagement. If the School District has determined that someone other than the individual with whom we worked last year will fulfill this role, the School District must submit documentation to support the new designee's knowledge and capability to perform this function. We will meet with this individual

periodically to update our progress and to allow the individual to monitor engagement performance to ensure it meets management's objectives. This individual will perform all management functions and make all management decisions related to this engagement and will accept full responsibility for such decisions. Accordingly, this individual will review and approve all proposed adjustments before they are entered into the conversion software. Finally, this individual will evaluate the adequacy of the services performed under this engagement by the Local Government Services Section of the Office of the Auditor of State.

It is understood and agreed that the performance of this engagement by LGS will not lessen the scope and extent of the audit work to be performed by the Financial Audit Group of the Office of the Auditor of State.

Management is responsible for making all financial records and related information available to LGS. The hours of service offered in this letter are based upon the following information being provided by the School District:

1. Information required to confirm appropriate fund classification and major fund status;
2. Information regarding estimated revenues and appropriations for use in the preparation of budgetary statements, including original budget amounts for all funds required to be presented in the basic financial statements, and documentation to ensure that financial records are in agreement with amended certificates requested and appropriations passed by the Board of Education during the fiscal year;
3. A current, complete, and appropriately classified record of all cash receipts and disbursements made during the fiscal year, along with bank reconciliations of all School District funds and bank accounts as of fiscal year end;
4. Documentation for receivables including taxes, intergovernmental, and accounts receivable, inventory, and prepaid items as of fiscal year end;
5. The balances for all governmental capital assets by program and type and proprietary capital assets by fund and type as of the beginning and end of the fiscal year, including appropriate information regarding accumulated depreciation, as well as current year additions (including accounts charged for related expenditures) and deletions (including any related proceeds and accumulated depreciation on the deleted asset). In addition, information is required that presents depreciation expense by fund and type for

proprietary capital assets and by program and type for general capital assets for the fiscal year;

6. Information regarding accrued salaries, compensated absences (both current and long-term), accounts payable, workers' compensation, retirement, and other current and long-term liabilities as of fiscal year end;
7. Information regarding short-term debt (notes) including a schedule of changes in short-term debt that details balances at the beginning and end of the fiscal year, increases and decreases, and the purpose for which the short-term debt was issued;
8. Information regarding long-term debt balances as of the beginning and end of the fiscal year and information regarding additions and payments that occurred during the fiscal year. Information that details issuance costs, premiums, and discounts for additions should be identified separately;
9. Copies of amortization schedules that distinguish between principal and interest for each outstanding debt issue;
10. Information to support necessary modified accrual and accrual adjustments at fiscal year-end;
11. Information regarding transfers by fund including the amount and purpose for each transfer;
12. Required supplementary information;
13. The transmittal letter and statistical section; and
14. Management's Discussion and Analysis.

It is important that you provide financial records that balance and documentation that is adequate to support the necessary journal entries. If we discover inadequacies in the records or documentation you provide, we will return the information to you for correction.

All documents provided to LGS in connection with our services including financial records and reports, payroll records, employee rosters, health and medical records, tax records, etc. must be redacted of any personal information before submission. Personal information is defined as social security numbers, dates of birth, drivers' license numbers, or financial institution account

numbers associated with an individual. The School District shall redact all personal information from electronic records before they are transmitted to LGS. This information should be fully blacked out in all paper documents prior to sending them to LGS. If personal information cannot be redacted from any records or documents, the School District must identify these records to LGS prior to their submission.

If redacting this personal information impairs the ability of LGS to provide the contracted services, the School District and the Auditor of State's Office will consider these exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, if redacting this information creates hardship on the School District in terms of resources, recordkeeping, or other issues, the School District and LGS may collaborate on alternative methods of providing the School District's data to LGS without compromising the personal information on individuals served or employed by the School District.

As part of the annual financial report, you will be required to prepare a Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). LGS assistance with respect to the MD&A will be limited to reviewing the MD&A to determine that all required topics have been addressed and to ensure that the amounts presented in the MD&A match the amounts presented in the financial statements.

During the course of this preparation, from financial records and supporting documentation you provide, LGS will propose journal entries for the preparation of the basic financial statements, review records and other information to determine whether data is being gathered at the required level to permit the preparation of the financial statements, enter usable information from the prior year trial balances to the trial balances that will be used for the year being reported, and input approved journal entries into the trial balances. LGS will also discuss with you the requirements for budgetary presentations and assist in the identification of original budgetary information.

LGS assistance with respect to capital assets will be limited to explaining the information necessary for report preparation. If additional assistance in the review of policies or significant guidance related to the calculation of capital assets is required, this engagement will need to be amended.

All work papers prepared by the Office of the Auditor of State will remain the property of the Auditor of State. Accordingly, we are responsible for their care and custody. At the conclusion of the project, we will provide copies of any of the work papers you would like to have for your records. However, the work papers should not be regarded as a part of, or a substitute for, your accounting records.

J. Scott Gooding, Interim Treasurer/CFO  
Big Walnut Local School District  
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It is estimated that 290 hours will be needed to complete this engagement for fiscal year 2024. Our fees for these services will be billed monthly to the School District at a rate of \$85 per hour and the total cost is not anticipated to exceed \$24,650 for fiscal year 2024. If additional time or services should be necessary, we will notify the School District regarding any amendment to this contract that may be required.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.13, the School District may charge all of these fees to the General Fund or may allocate the cost among the General Fund and other eligible funds. While eligible funds may include federal grant funds, additional restrictions under the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200.425 should be considered. For more information, refer to the annual Hourly Audit Rates and Allocation of Audit Costs technical bulletin available at [www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov).

Upon a 30-day written notice, either party may terminate this agreement for any reason. Such notice shall be sent by U.S. mail or by personal delivery to the Auditor of State, Local Government Services Section, 88 East Broad Street, Fourth Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3506. In the event of such termination, the Auditor of State shall be compensated at the contractually agreed upon rate for any and all work done to the date of such notice.

The Auditor of State's billing statements are available through the office's eServices portal located at <https://eservices.ohioauditor.gov>. The School District should complete the registration process to establish an eServices account. A confirmed account will have the ability to access and/or update information regarding your customer account including School District contact information, billings and payments, and an electronic check option for online payments. Authorized users are encouraged to keep eServices contact information updated.

Auditor of State billing statements are prepared monthly and are sent to clients who have an outstanding balance through a paperless electronic billing system. The School District will receive an email notification at the beginning of the month that a statement is available for review. The School District should access your billing statement upon receipt through eServices and payment is due by the date identified on the statement.

A failure to pay the Auditor of State in full within forty-five days of the payment due date may result in additional action as authorized under Ohio Revised Code Sections 131.02 (A) and/or 117.13(D).

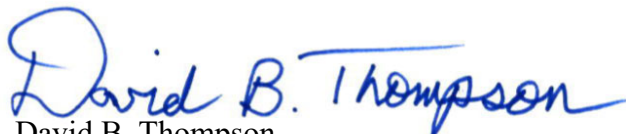
If you are in agreement with the terms of this contract, please sign and certify this engagement letter in the appropriate spaces and return it to me no later than May 24, 2024. If we do not hear from you by May 24, 2024, we will assume the School District does not wish to contract for the services of the Local Government Services Section of the Office of the Auditor of State. Should

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you have any questions concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Cindy McCafferty, Chief Project Manager, at 1-800-345-2519.

Sincerely,

KEITH FABER  
Auditor of State



David B. Thompson  
Chief of Local Government Services

We desire the Auditor of State's Office to perform the services described above and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this letter.

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Board of Education

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

It is hereby certified that the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ required to pay this contract has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of the \_\_\_\_\_ Fund, free from any obligation or certification now outstanding.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Scott Gooding, Interim Treasurer/CFO

cc: Cindy McCafferty, Chief Project Manager  
Stacie Scholl, Chief Auditor