

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ended June 30, 2020

Roslyn J. Johnson, LLC
Certified Public Accountant

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School** (a nonprofit corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2020, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

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.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my 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. Those standards require that I 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, I 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.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.

(d/b/a) Robert Russa Moton Charter School

Independent Auditor's Report

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School** as of June 30, 2020, and the changes in financial position, functional expenses, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Other Information

My audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to Chief Executive Officer is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In my opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued my report dated October 30, 2020, on my consideration of **Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School's** internal control over financial reporting and on my 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 my testing of internal control

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.

(d/b/a) Robert Russa Moton Charter School

Independent Auditor's Report

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

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 **Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School's** internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Roslyn J. Johnson, LLC

Certified Public Accountant

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

October 30, 2020

Statement A**ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana****Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2020****ASSETS**

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Cash in bank - unrestricted | \$ 4,236,887 |
| Cash in bank - restricted | 47,700 |
| Total cash in bank | <u>4,284,587</u> |
| Grants receivable (note 3) | 33,947 |
| Prepaid expenses | 70,366 |
| Deposits | 13,903 |
| Property and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation (note 4) | <u>2,857</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>\$ 4,405,660</u></u> |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Accounts payable | \$ 239,911 |
| Payroll and payroll taxes payable | 229,797 |
| Deferred revenue | 10,000 |
| Funds held on behalf of others (note 8) | 47,700 |
| Loans payable (note 9) | <u>866,957</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | <u>1,394,365</u> |

NET ASSETS

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Without donor restrictions: | |
| Undesignated | 3,001,295 |
| With donor restrictions: | |
| Instructional Quality Initiative (IQI) | 10,000 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | <u><u>3,011,295</u></u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | <u><u>\$ 4,405,660</u></u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2020

| | Without Donor Restrictions | With Donor Restrictions | Total |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT | | | |
| Grants: | | | |
| Federal | \$ - | \$ 638,470 | \$ 638,470 |
| State and Local Minimum Foundation Program | 3,893,824 | - | 3,893,824 |
| Other state programs and revenues | 94,512 | 35,544 | 130,056 |
| Interest income | 36,574 | - | 36,574 |
| Miscellaneous income | 9,381 | - | 9,381 |
| Total revenue and support before release | <u>4,034,291</u> | <u>674,014</u> | <u>4,708,305</u> |
| Net assets released from restrictions | <u>664,014</u> | <u>(664,014)</u> | <u>-</u> |
| TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT | <u>4,698,305</u> | <u>10,000</u> | <u>4,708,305</u> |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Instruction: | | | |
| Regular programs | 2,427,636 | - | 2,427,636 |
| Special education programs | 625,627 | - | 625,627 |
| Other instructional programs | 104,380 | - | 104,380 |
| Special programs | 737,168 | - | 737,168 |
| Total Instruction | <u>3,894,811</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>3,894,811</u> |
| Supporting Services: | | | |
| Pupil support services | 204,498 | - | 204,498 |
| Instructional staff services | 709,891 | - | 709,891 |
| General administration | 238,741 | - | 238,741 |
| School administration | 752,525 | - | 752,525 |
| Business services | 259,755 | - | 259,755 |
| Operation and maintenance of plant services | 791,128 | - | 791,128 |
| Student transportation services | 329,500 | - | 329,500 |
| Food services operations | 3,095 | 3,760 | 6,855 |
| Total Supporting Services | <u>3,289,133</u> | <u>3,760</u> | <u>3,292,893</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>7,183,944</u> | <u>3,760</u> | <u>7,187,704</u> |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | <u>(2,485,639)</u> | <u>6,240</u> | <u>(2,479,399)</u> |
| NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR | <u>5,486,934</u> | <u>3,760</u> | <u>5,490,694</u> |
| NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR | <u>\$ 3,001,295</u> | <u>\$ 10,000</u> | <u>\$ 3,011,295</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

Statement of Functional Expenses
Year Ended June 30, 2020

| | Instructional Programs | Support Services |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Program Services | Management and General |
| Salaries | \$ 2,536,878 | \$ 1,352,206 |
| Employee Benefits | 926,971 | 557,202 |
| Purchased Professional and Technical Services | 92,810 | 383,885 |
| Purchased Property Services | 14,847 | 156,013 |
| Other Purchased Services | 74,515 | 563,700 |
| Supplies | 240,419 | 177,318 |
| Property | 1,428 | - |
| Other Objects | 6,943 | 102,569 |
| | <u>6,943</u> | <u>102,569</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 3,894,811</u> | <u>\$ 3,292,893</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended June 30, 2020

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | |
| Change in net assets | \$ (2,479,399) |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to cash provided (used) by operating activities: | |
| Depreciation expense | 1,429 |
| (Increase) decrease in operating assets: | |
| Accounts receivable | 9,396 |
| Grants receivable | 260,561 |
| Travel advances | 31,220 |
| Prepaid expenses | (39,888) |
| Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities: | |
| Accounts, payroll, and other payables | 282,379 |
| Other liabilities | (6,879) |
| Fund held on behalf of others | (17,305) |
| Deferred revenue | <u>10,000</u> |
| Net cash used in operating activities | (1,948,486) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | |
| Borrowings of long-term debt | <u>866,957</u> |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash | (1,081,529) |
| CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR | <u>5,366,116</u> |
| CASH AT END OF YEAR | <u><u>\$ 4,284,587</u></u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)

Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended June 30, 2020

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Organization

Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School (the School) was organized as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Louisiana on February 20, 2006. **The School** entered into an Operating Agreement with Orleans Parish School Board effective June 1, 2006, whereby **the School** would operate a Type III charter school as defined in LSA R.S. 17:3973(3)(b). The charter was granted for a minimum of five (5) years, with the fifth year in operations concluding June 30, 2011. On December 13, 2016, the Orleans Parish School Board renewed **the School's** charter and entered into an Operating Agreement effective July 1, 2017 for four (4) years, expiring on June 30, 2021.

B. Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, they reflect revenues and related receivables when earned rather than when received and expenses and related payables when incurred rather than when paid.

C. Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements of the School have been prepared on the accrual basis in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The financial statements are presented in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 958 dated August 2016, and the provisions of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) "Audit and Accounting Guide for Not-for-Profit Organizations" (the Guide). (ASC) 958-205 was effective January 1, 2018.

Under the provisions of the Guide, net assets and revenues, and gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, the net assets of the School and changes therein are classified as follows:

Net Assets Without Donor Restriction – Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the School. The School's board may designate assets without restrictions for specific operational purposes from time to time.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.

(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Net Assets With Donor Restriction – Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the School or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

D. Public Support and Revenue

The School's primary source of funding is through the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) funded by the state of Louisiana and the Orleans Parish School Board. The School received \$1,468,588 from the State and \$2,425,236 from the Orleans Parish School Board per eligible student at the official pupil count date of October 1, 2019, payable in monthly installments. State and Federal grants are on a cost reimbursement basis.

E. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of reporting the statement of cash flows, the School considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The School had no cash equivalents at June 30, 2020.

F. Grants Receivable

The grants receivable is stated at the amount management expects to collect from outstanding balances. The financial statements do not include an estimate for allowance for doubtful accounts. Management believes that all receivables are collectible.

G. Property and Equipment

Capital assets, which include property and equipment, are reported at historical cost or estimated cost. Donations of property and equipment are recorded as contributions at their estimated fair value. The School's policy is to capitalize property and equipment that is equal to or greater than \$5,000 per unit cost in value. Repairs and maintenance and small equipment purchases are charged to expense when incurred.

Depreciation is provided utilizing the straight-line method over estimated useful lives of the asset. Useful lives vary from 3 to 7 years for property and equipment.

H. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

I. Deferred Revenue

The School received \$10,000 in grant funds from New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) to conduct its Instructional Quality Initiative (IQI) milestones established in accordance with the award agreement. The grant term is through March 2021.

J. Income Taxes

Income taxes are not provided for in the financial statements since **the School** is exempt from federal and state income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and similar state provisions.

K. Contributions

Contributions are generally recorded only upon receipt, unless evidence or an unconditional promise to give has been received. Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected in future years are recorded at the present value for the amounts expected to be collected. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until such time as the conditions are substantially met. All contributions are considered available without restrictions unless specifically restricted by the donor.

L. Recent Accounting Pronouncement

In November 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-18, *“Statement of Cash Flows”* (Topic 230). ASU No. 2016-18 requires that a statement of cash flows explain the change during the period in total cash, cash equivalents, and amounts generally described as restricted cash equivalents. Therefore, amounts generally described as restricted cash and restricted cash equivalents should be included with cash and cash equivalents when reconciling the beginning-of-period and end-of-period total amounts shown on the Statement of Cash Flows. The amendments in the ASU No. 2016-18 do not provide a definition of restricted cash or restricted cash equivalents. The ASU is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. The School has adopted the provisions of ASU No. 2016-2018 and has retrospectively applied the standard to the financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.

(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

M. Functional Expenses

The costs of providing the program services and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. The statement of functional expenses presents the natural classification detail of expenses by function. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited. Expenses are allocated on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied.

When possible, expenses are first allocated by direct identification and then by allocation if an expenditure benefits more than one program or function. The expenses that are allocated are allocated on the basis of estimates of time and effort. There were no such allocated expenses during the year ended June 30, 2020.

N. Compensated Absences

All full-time employees earn paid leave at various rates based on employment classification. The earned leave may be used in the event of their own illness, a family illness, bereavement, or for personal business. Employees do not have the right to carryover paid leave days at the end of the fiscal year. Employees are paid for any accrued unpaid leave at the end of the fiscal year, or upon an employee's separation from employment.

Note 2 – Concentration of Credit Risk

The School maintains cash balances in two financial institutions located in Louisiana which is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000. **The School** had \$4,043,643 in excess of the insured limits in one bank at June 30, 2020, however the bank had pledged investment securities to guarantee **the School's** deposits.

Note 3 – Grants Receivable

As of June 30, 2020, grants receivable consists of amounts due from the following sources:

Grant receivables:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Title I | \$ 17,570 |
| High Costs | 15,909 |
| Professional Improvement Program (PIP) | <u>468</u> |
| Total grant receivables | <u>\$ 33,947</u> |

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.

(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Note 4 – Capital Assets

The following is a summary of the changes in capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2020:

| | Furniture and Equipment |
|--|--|
| Cost at June 30, 2019 | \$ 10,000 |
| Additions | - |
| Deletions | - |
| Cost at June 30, 2020 | <u>10,000</u> |
| Accumulated depreciation, June 30, 2019 | 5,714 |
| Additions | 1,429 |
| Deductions | - |
| Accumulated depreciation, June 30, 2020 | <u>7,143</u> |
| Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, at June 30, 2020 | <u>\$ 2,857</u> |

Depreciation expense totaling \$1,429 for the year ended June 30, 2020.

Note 5 – Retirement Plan

Substantially all employees of **the School** are members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). This system is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees. Pertinent information relative to the plan is as follows:

Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL)

Plan Description. The TRSL consists of three membership plans: Regular Plan, Plan A, and Plan B. The TRSL provides retirement benefits as well as disability and survivor benefits. Ten years of service credit is required to become vested for retirement benefits and five years to become vested for disability and survivor benefits. Benefits are established and amended by state statute. The TRSL issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the TRSL. That report may be obtained by writing to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, Post Office Box 94123, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9123, or by calling (225) 925-6446.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.

(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Funding Policy. Plan members are required to contribute 8.0% of their annual covered salary. **The School** is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 26% of annual covered payroll for the year ended June 30, 2020. Member contributions and employer contributions for the TRSL are established by state law and rates are established by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee. **The School's** contributions to the TRSL for the years ended June 30, 2020, 2019 and 2018, was \$943,094, \$747,884 and \$327,746, respectively, which is equal to the required contributions for each year.

Note 6 – Risk Management and Uncertainties

The School is exposed to various risks of loss from torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; business interruption; errors and omissions; employee injuries and illnesses; natural disasters; and employee health and accident benefits. Commercial insurance coverage is purchased for claims arising from such matters. There were no settled claims that exceeded this commercial coverage for the year ended June 30, 2020.

The recent global outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has raised concerns regarding economies, and financial markets, including the geographical area in which **the School** operates. While **the School** has been immediately impacted by the adverse conditions in the financial markets, the long-term impact on **the School's** operation is uncertain at this time. **The School** is following the guidelines of the Louisiana Department of Health along with federal and state of Louisiana guidelines as they relate to COVID – 19.

Note 7 – School Facilities Operating Lease

Effective July 1, 2017 **the School** entered into an agreement with the Orleans Parish School Board, which allows **the School** to use the facilities and its contents located at 8550 Curran Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana, or any other locations as may be approved by **the School** and the OPSB. The agreement terminates on June 30, 2021.

The School is responsible for all necessary maintenance to ensure that the facilities comply with all state and local health and safety standards and other applicable laws, regulations, and rules. Improvements made to the facilities become property of OPSB.

Use of the property is not recorded as an in-kind contribution from the OPSB, nor as a related rent expense. The value of the use of the land and building is not readily determinable. The agreement is classified as an exchange transaction because both parties receive significant value from this arrangement. Accordingly, the present value of the benefit to be received in future years has not been recorded.

Note 8 – Funds Held on Behalf of Others

The School acts as a custodian for student activity accounts. Funds held on behalf of these groups amounted to \$47,700 at June 30, 2020, and is reported as both an asset (restricted cash)

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

and a liability (Funds held on behalf of others). Consequently, there is no effect on **the School's** net assets.

Note 9 – Loans Payable

On May 4, 2020, **the School** received a \$866,957 loan from Hancock Whitney Bank under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Interest on the loan is 1%. Management expects that this loan will be repaid by SBA within 12 months and that all expenditures paid from the loan proceeds will be approved as eligible for loan forgiveness under the requirements of the PPP. Any amounts not forgiven would be amortized over a period of two years.

Note 10 – Liquidity and Availability

The **School** maintains adequate operating reserves. The current financial assets totaling \$4,236,887 are available for general expenditures, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use.

Note 11 - Board of Directors' Compensation

The members of the Board of Directors serve in a voluntary capacity; therefore, no compensation was paid to any board member during the year ended June 30, 2020.

Note 12 – Subsequent Events

The School is required to evaluate events or transactions that may occur after the statement of financial position date for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. **The School** performed such an evaluation through October 30, 2020, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE**

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Chief Executive Officer
June 30, 2020

Tarynesa Williams, Principal

| Purpose | Amount |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Salary | \$ 133,000 |
| Health insurance | 5,039 |
| Benefits - Medicare | 1,929 |
| Benefits - Retirement | 34,580 |
| Travel reimbursement | 1,375 |
| | <u>\$ 175,923</u> |

See independent auditor's report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
REQUIRED BY
*GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON
AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

To the Board of Directors
Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

I have audited, in accordance with the 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, the financial statements of **Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School (the School)**, (a nonprofit corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2020, and the related statements of activities, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued my report thereon dated October 30, 2020.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements, I considered **the School's** internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of **the School's** internal control. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of **the School's** internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

My consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during my audit I did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that I consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.

(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an
Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance
With *Government Auditing Standards*

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether **the School's** financial statements are free from material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit, and accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of my testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of **the School's** internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering **the School's** internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Office of the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Roslyn J. Johnson, LLC

Certified Public Accountant

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
October 30, 2020

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended June 30, 2020

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statement

Type of auditor's report issued:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|-------|---|----|
| ● Material weakness(es) identified? | _____ | Yes | _____ | X | No |
| ● Significant deficiency (ies) identified? | _____ | Yes | _____ | X | No |
| ● Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? | _____ | Yes | _____ | X | No |

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

No findings or questioned costs for the year ended June 30, 2020.

Section III - Federal Awards Findings

No findings or questioned costs for the year ended June 30, 2020.

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND
RESPONSES**

ADVOCATES FOR INVOATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
Summary Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended June 30, 2020

Internal Control Matters

2019-001 Cash Disbursement Transactions

Condition:

During my audit of the School's cash disbursements, I examined twenty-six (26) transactions and noted deficiencies related to functions of cash disbursement. Six (6) of the twenty-six purchases tested were not properly initiated using the purchase order system, five (5) of the twenty-six purchases tested did not have a receiving report to verify purchases had been received, and ten (10) of the twenty-six purchases were not properly approved and authorized.

Cause:

Lack of the School's adherence to current written policies and procedures related to cash disbursement transactions.

Effect:

The lack of adequate internal controls over cash disbursement transactions increase the risk of improper payments and misappropriation of the School's assets.

Recommendation:

I recommend that the School reevaluate the current policies and procedures in place regarding cash disbursement and procurement procedures and ensure adherence.

Management's Corrective Action Plan:

1. A full-time School Finance Officer has been hired, effective December 19, 2019, to provide more effective oversight, record maintenance, and staff training for all purchases and business transactions.
2. Management of the school plans to review its existing policies and procedures relating to disbursement transactions.
3. The Board of Directors will make the appropriate changes to policies and procedures, job descriptions, and work assignments, to facilitate and improve internal controls over the cash disbursement function.
4. Recommendations have been received from the Human Relations Consultant after examinations of the personnel strengths and areas that require additional training, policies that need to be revised, and practices that allow poor recordkeeping.

Current Status:

The School has implemented new written policies and procedures to address inadequate internal controls over cash disbursement transactions. Changes in management personnel appears to provide effective oversight and ensure adherence. Accordingly, this will not be a finding in 2020.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
Summary Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Questioned Costs --
Financial Statement Audit
For the Year ended June 30, 2020

2019-002 Payroll Administration of Time and Attendance

Condition:

During my audit of the School's payroll time and attendance and leave administration for thirty (30) payroll transactions randomly selected, I noted the following deficiencies related to payroll functions. Six (6) employees did not have Time and Attendance reports to document the hours worked and nine (9) of the employee's Time and Attendance reports did not include the total required number of hours and/or leave taken by the employee for the pay period. In addition, the employees and their supervisors did not certify approval of the Time and Attendance reports and any leave accrued or taken by the employees was not reflected in the School's cumulative leave records.

Cause:

The School's has not enforced policies and procedures to ensure that payroll and leave systems are properly maintained at all time.

Effect:

Lack of internal controls relating to payroll could result in misappropriation of funds without timely detection.

Recommendation:

I recommend the School intensify all efforts to ensure policies and procedures are implemented properly as related to payroll, leave, and accrued leave benefits.

Management's Corrective Action Plan:

Based upon a recent audit of all Human Resource functions, including payroll operations, the follow recommendations were suggested and will be put in place beginning January 2020.

1. A full-time School Finance Officer has been hired, effective December 19, 2019, to provide more effective oversight, proper use, record maintenance, and detailed paper trails for all payroll transactions.
2. Responsibility for payroll processing will be transferred to an employee who has the knowledge and skills to do the job effectively.
3. The payroll processor will enter and track all leave electronically through the payroll system.
4. The payroll processor will configure payroll/HRIS system to show balances on each employee's check stubs.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC

(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)

Summary Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Questioned Costs –
Financial Statement Audit
For the Year ended June 30, 2020

5. The payroll processor will enter and process all pay changes, tax changes, and/or deductions timely.
6. The payroll processor, School Operations Officer and Principal will review all wage information several times to ensure accuracy
7. The payroll processor will use payroll software that integrates with an HRIS system
8. The payroll processor will submit payroll timely and pay employees according to the pay schedule.
9. The administration for the school will transition payroll to the business manager who has the skills and training to maintain Time and Attendance reports, employee leave taken, and signing Time and Attendance reports, among other Human Resource tasks.

Current Status:

The School has implemented new written policies and procedures to address inadequate internal controls over payroll and leave systems. Changes in management personnel appears to provide effective oversight and ensure adherence. Accordingly, this will not be a finding in 2020.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
Summary Schedule of Prior Year Findings and Questioned Costs –
Financial Statement Audit
For the Year ended June 30, 2020

2019-003 Credit Card Transactions

Condition:

During my audit of the School's monthly credit card statements for the six months, January 2019 through June 2019, I noted deficiencies related to credit card use. Thirty-eight (38) of card purchases were not supported by a purchase requisition and/or purchase order that documented the business/public purpose, and twenty-seven (27) of the card purchases were not supported by a proper invoice. In addition, the monthly statements of credit card purchases were not signed, initial, or dated indicating someone other than the authorized user approved the purchases.

Cause:

Lack of the School's adherence to policies and procedures related to credit card transactions.

Effect:

The lack of adequate internal controls over credit card purchases increase the risk of improper payments and misappropriation of the School's assets.

Recommendation:

I recommend that the School reevaluate the current policies and procedures in place regarding credit card usage and ensure adherence.

Management's Corrective Action Plan:

1. A full-time School Finance Officer has been hired, effective December 19, 2019, to provide more effective oversight, proper use, record maintenance, and detailed paper trails for all credit card transactions.
2. Management of the school will revise its policies and procedures to include credit card purchases as part of its overall procurement policies and procedures to ensure proper authorization, business purpose, adequate supporting documentation, etc.
3. In addition, the Board of Directors will immediately assign the School Finance Officer who has knowledge of the credit card usage to initial or sign the credit card statements acknowledging review and approval of purchases.
4. The Board will require monthly reports on the credit card usage as part of the monthly financial reports received from the School Finance Officer according to the 2018-19 current policy, until changes and additions are approved.

Current Status:

The School has implemented new written policies and procedures to address inadequate internal controls over credit card purchases. Changes in management personnel appears to provide effective oversight and ensure adherence. Accordingly, this will not be a finding in 2020.

STATE REPORTING SECTION

**Schedules Required By State Law
(R.S. 24:514 – Performance and Statistical Data)**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To the Board of Trustees of **Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. d/b/a/ Robert Russa Moton Charter School**, the Louisiana Department of Education, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

I have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the management of, **Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School (the School)**; the Louisiana Department of Education, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (the specified parties), on the performance and statistical data accompanying the annual financial statements of **the School** for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020; and to determine whether the specified schedules are free of obvious errors and omissions as provided by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 24:514 I. Management of **the School** is responsible for its performance and statistical data. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified parties. Consequently, I make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures enumerated below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

**General Fund Instructional and Support Expenditures
and Certain Local Revenue Sources (Schedule 1)**

1. I selected a sample of 25 transactions, reviewed supporting documentation, and observed that the sampled expenditures/revenues are classified correctly and are reported in the proper amounts among the following amounts reported on the schedule:

- Total General Fund Instructional Expenditures
- Total General Fund Equipment Expenditures
- Total Local Taxation Revenue
- Total Local Earnings on Investment in Real Property
- Total State Revenue in Lieu of Taxes
- Nonpublic Textbook Revenue
- Nonpublic Transportation Revenue

Comment: No differences noted.

Class Size Characteristics (Schedule 2)

2. I obtained a list of classes by school, school type, and class size as reported on the schedule. I then traced a sample of 25 classes to the October 1 roll books for those classes and observed that the class was properly classified on the schedule.

Comment: No differences noted.

Education Levels/Experience of Public School Staff (NO SCHEDULE)

3. I obtained a list of full-time teachers, principals, and assistant principals by classification, as well as their level of education and experience, and obtained management's representation that the data/listing was complete. I then traced data/listing to each individual's personnel file and the PEP data file, and observed that each individual's education level and experience was properly classified.

Comment: No differences noted.

Public School Staff Data: Average Salaries (NO SCHEDULE)

4. I obtained June 30th PEP data submitted to the Department of Education (or equivalent listing provided by management) of all classroom teachers, including base salary, extra compensation, and ROTC or rehired retiree status, as well as full-time equivalents, and obtained management's representation that the data/listing was complete. I then selected a sample of 25 individuals, traced to each individual's personnel file, and observed that each individual's salary, extra compensation, and full-time equivalents were properly included on the PEP data (or equivalent listing prepared by management).

Comment: No differences noted.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the United States Comptroller General. I was not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the performance and statistical data. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had I performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to my attention that would have been reported to you.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on the performance and statistical data accompanying the annual financial statements of the **Advocates for Innovative Schools, Inc. d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School**, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:514.I, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Roslyn J. Johnson, LLC

Certified Public Accountant

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
October 30, 2020

Roslyn J. Johnson, LLC
Certified Public Accountant

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

Schedules Required by State Law (R.S. 24:514 - Performance and Statistical Data)
As of and for the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Schedule 1 - General Fund Instructional and Support Expenditures and Certain Local Revenue Sources

This schedule includes general fund instructional and equipment expenditures. It also contains local taxation revenue, earnings on investments, revenue in lieu of taxes, and nonpublic textbook and transportation revenue. This data is used either in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula or is presented annually in the MFP 70% Expenditure Requirement Report.

Schedule 2 (Formerly Schedule 6) Class Size Characteristics

This schedule includes the percent and number of classes with student enrollment in the following ranges: 1-20, 21-26, 27-33, and 34+ students.

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

General Fund Instructional and Support Expenditures
and Certain Local Revenue Sources
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

General Fund Instructional and Equipment Expenditures

General Fund Instructional Expenditures:

Teacher and Student Interaction Activities:

| | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Classroom Teacher Salaries | \$ 1,496,643 | |
| Other Instructional Staff Activities | 584,617 | |
| Instructional Staff Employee Benefits | 819,136 | |
| Purchased Professional and Technical Services | 95,017 | |
| Instructional Materials and Supplies | 121,000 | |
| Instructional Equipment | <u>1,428</u> | |
| Total Teacher and Student Interaction Activities | | \$ 3,117,841 |

Other Instructional Activities 102,951

Pupil Support Activities 204,498
Less: Equipment for Pupil Support Activities -
Net Pupil Support Activities 204,498

Instructional Staff Services 709,891
Less: Equipment for Instructional Staff Services -
Net Instructional Staff Services 709,891

School Administration 752,525
Less: Equipment for School Administration -
Net School Administration 752,525

Total General Fund Instructional Expenditures \$ 4,887,706

Total General Fund Equipment Expenditures \$ -

Certain Local Revenue Sources

Local Taxation Revenue:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Constitutional Ad Valorem Taxes | \$ - |
| Renewable Ad Valorem Tax | - |
| Debt Service Ad Valorem Tax | - |
| Up to 1% of Collections by the Sheriff on Taxes Other than School Taxes | - |
| Sales and Use Taxes | <u>-</u> |
| Total Local Taxation Revenue | <u>\$ -</u> |

Local Earnings on Investment in Real Property:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Earnings from 16th Section Property | \$ - |
| Earnings from Other Real Property | <u>-</u> |
| Total Local Earnings on Investment in Real Property | <u>\$ -</u> |

State Revenue in Lieu of Taxes:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Revenue Sharing - Constitutional Tax | \$ - |
| Revenue Sharing - Other Taxes | - |
| Revenue Sharing - Excess Portion | - |
| Other Revenue in Lieu of Taxes | <u>-</u> |
| Total State Revenue in Lieu of Taxes | <u>\$ -</u> |

Nonpublic Textbook Revenue \$ -

Nonpublic Transportation Revenue \$ -

ADVOCATES FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS, INC.
(d/b/a Robert Russa Moton Charter School)
New Orleans, Louisiana

Class Size Characteristics
As of October 1, 2019

| School Type | Class Size Range | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| | 1 - 20 | | 21 - 26 | | 27 - 33 | | 34+ | |
| | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number |
| Elementary | 14.9% | 11 | 83.8% | 62 | 0.0% | 0 | 1.4% | 1 |
| Elementary Activity Classes | 70.0% | 7 | 20.0% | 2 | 10.0% | 1 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Middle/Jr. High | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Middle/Jr. High Activity Classes | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 |
| High | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 |
| High Activity Classes | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Combination | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Combination Activity Classes | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 |

Note: The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has set specific limits on the maximum size of classes at various grade levels. The maximum enrollment in grades K-3 is 26 students and maximum enrollment in grades 4-12 is 33 students. These limits do not apply to activity classes such as physical education, chorus, band, and other classes without maximum enrollment standards. Therefore, these classes are included only as separate line items.