

**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board
Leesville, Louisiana**

**Financial Statements
June 30, 2024**

**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board**

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**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board**

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Independent Auditor's Report

Board Members
Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board
Leesville, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund of the Vernon Parish School Board, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Sales Tax Custodial Fund of the Vernon Parish School Board basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Sales Tax Custodial Fund of the Vernon Parish School Board, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Sales Tax Custodial Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial fund of the Vernon Parish School Board and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the Vernon Parish School Board as of June 30, 2024 or the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for 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 for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Sales Tax Custodial Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the Management's Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head and the schedule of sales tax collections, distributions, and costs of collections, but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the basic financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 28, 2024 on our consideration of the Sales Tax Custodial Fund'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 solely 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 the effectiveness of the Sales Tax Custodial Fund's 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 Sales Tax Custodial Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Allen, Green & Williamson, LLP

ALLEN, GREEN & WILLIAMSON, LLP

Monroe, Louisiana
December 28, 2024

**Venron Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board**

**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Funds
June 30, 2024**

	Statement A
	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
ASSETS	
Receivables:	
Taxes for other governments, net of allowance	\$ 2,450,004
Cash restricted for taxes paid under protest	181,853
Total assets	<u>2,631,857</u>
LIABILITIES	
Due to local governments	2,450,004
Total liabilities	<u>2,450,004</u>
NET POSITION	
Restricted for:	
Individuals, organizations, and other governments	181,853
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 181,853</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Venron Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board**

**Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Funds
for the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

	Statement B
	Custodial Funds
	<hr/>
ADDITIONS	
Sales tax collections for other governments	\$ 24,046,116
Total additions	<hr/> 24,046,116 <hr/>
DEDUCTIONS	
Payments of sales tax to other governments	(24,046,116)
Total deductions	<hr/> (24,046,116) <hr/>
Net increase (decrease) in fiduciary net position	-
Net position-beginning	181,853
Net position-ending	<hr/> \$ 181,853 <hr/>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024**

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**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024**

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES The Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund has been formed under joint agreement of the Vernon Parish School Board, the Vernon Parish Police Jury, the City of Leesville, the Town of New Llano, the Town of Rosepine, the Town of Hornbeck, the Vernon Parish Sheriff, and the Office of Tourism for the collection of sales use taxes and other fees, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:2844. The Vernon Parish School Board charges the joint governments a collection fee of 1.5% of total collections to cover operating costs for the Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund.

A. REPORTING ENTITY For financial reporting purposes, in conformance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements, the Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund is a Custodial fund of the Vernon Parish School Board. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements present only the accounts of the tax custodial fund and are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the Vernon Parish School Board in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund is included as part of the basic financial statements of the Vernon Parish School Board.

B. FUND ACCOUNTS A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Fiduciary funds account for assets held by the government in a trustee capacity or a custodian on behalf of outside parties, including other governments. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, investment trust, or private-purpose trust funds. The custodial funds are as follows:

Sales tax fund – accounts for monies collected on behalf of other taxing authorities in the parish.

Protested sales tax fund – accounts for collection of sales tax receipts that are paid under protest and are set aside until the protest has been resolved.

C. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING The basis of accounting for a custodial fund is the accrual basis. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in pension and trust funds, investment trust funds, or private-purpose trust funds.

D. USE OF ESTIMATES The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of additions, deductions, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of additions and deductions during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2 - CASH The Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund receives money from various sales tax vendors. These collections are split and deposited directly into the bank accounts of the various taxing bodies. Further, the Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund has no bank or investment accounts in its name. The School Board is holding monies on behalf of the Custodial Fund for sales taxes paid under protest, which are restricted until the protest is resolved. See Note 6 for additional information.

**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024**

NOTE 3 - CHANGES IN DEPOSITS DUE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS A summary of changes in deposits due to local governments for the year ended June 30, 2024, is as follows:

BALANCE, Beginning	<u>\$ 2,646,521</u>
ADDITIONS:	
Sales tax collections	<u>24,046,116</u>
DEDUCTIONS:	
Collection fees	363,640
Taxes distributed to others:	
Vernon Parish Police Jury	12,475,356
Vernon Parish Sheriff Office	4,161,825
City of Leesville	5,896,658
Town of Rosepine	302,152
Town of New Llano	636,578
Town of Hornbeck	77,633
Office of Tourism	<u>328,791</u>
Total deductions	<u>24,242,633</u>
BALANCE, Ending	<u><u>\$ 2,450,004</u></u>

NOTE 4 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES The Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund is involved in lawsuits with one company in which the company is claiming they are not required to collect and remit sales tax. This company has been and is continuing to collect and remit the sales tax collections under protest until the lawsuit is settled. See Note 6 below. The outcomes and/or settlement of this lawsuit are uncertain as of the date of this report.

NOTE 5 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE Accounts receivable of \$2,450,004 represents sales tax collections in July 2024 for June sales and amounts owed on delinquent accounts of \$1,360,774. The Sales Tax Custodial Fund has \$1,360,774 of allowance for doubtful accounts included in the accounts receivable balance for delinquent accounts, in which these accounts are under payment plans or have been sent to the Office of Debt Recovery (ODR) and are not expected to be collected within one year.

NOTE 6 - TAXES PAID UNDER PROTEST There is currently \$181,853 in Taxes Paid Under Protest. Taxes paid under protest are being held by the Vernon Parish School Board in a separate account. The courts have ruled in favor of the Sales Tax Custodial Fund, however the outcome of this case remains uncertain. Legal counsel has advised that the Sales Tax Custodial Fund should continue to hold these funds until a settlement or resolution of this case has been reached.

**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2024**

NOTE 7 - SALES TAX DISTRIBUTIONS The following schedule shows the sales tax distributions on a cash basis to the local governmental sales taxing entities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024:

	<u>Gross Amounts</u>	<u>Less Collection Fees</u>	<u>Net Distributions</u>
Vernon Parish Police Jury (1.5%)			
Police Jury (1%) 2006	\$ 8,443,557	\$ 126,653	\$ 8,316,904
Police Jury (0.5%) 2006	4,221,779	63,327	4,158,452
	<u>12,665,336</u>	<u>189,980</u>	<u>12,475,356</u>
 Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office			
Law Enforcement District (0.5%) 2004	<u>4,225,203</u>	<u>63,378</u>	<u>4,161,825</u>
 City of Leesville (1.5%)			
City of Leesville (1%) 2004	3,990,970	59,865	3,931,105
City of Leesville (0.5%) 2004	<u>1,995,485</u>	<u>29,932</u>	<u>1,965,553</u>
	<u>5,986,455</u>	<u>89,797</u>	<u>5,896,658</u>
 Town of Rosepine (1.5%)			
Town of Rosepine (1%) 2011 Renewal	204,502	3,067	201,435
Town of Rosepine (.5%) 2011	<u>102,251</u>	<u>1,534</u>	<u>100,717</u>
	<u>306,753</u>	<u>4,601</u>	<u>302,152</u>
 Town of New Llano (1.5%)			
Town of New Llano (1%)	430,849	6,464	424,385
Town of New Llano (.5%) 2007	<u>215,424</u>	<u>3,231</u>	<u>212,193</u>
	<u>646,273</u>	<u>9,695</u>	<u>636,578</u>
 Town of Hornbeck (1%)	<u>78,815</u>	<u>1,182</u>	<u>77,633</u>
 Office of Tourism (3%)	<u>333,798</u>	<u>5,007</u>	<u>328,791</u>
Total	<u>\$ 24,242,633</u>	<u>\$ 363,640</u>	<u>\$ 23,878,993</u>

A total of \$15,526 was billed to these entities for audit fees paid to external auditors. Payments were made from each governmental entity directly to the external sales tax auditor. Governmental entities are billed a collection fee of 1.5%, which is collected by the Sales Tax Custodial Fund and remitted to the School Board.

**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board**

OTHER INFORMATION

**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board**

**Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

The Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund is a custodial fund of the Vernon Parish School Board. The schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to the agency head for the Vernon Parish School Board is included in the audit report for Vernon Parish School Board.

**Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund
of the Vernon Parish School Board**

**Schedule of Sales Tax Collections, Distributions, and Costs of Collections
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

The Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund is a custodial fund of the Vernon Parish School Board. The schedule of sales tax collections, distributions, and costs of collections for the Vernon Parish School Board is included in the audit report for Vernon Parish School Board.



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Ernest L. Allen, CPA
(Retired) 1963 - 2000

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*

Independent Auditor's Report

Board Members

Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund of the Vernon Parish School Board
Leesville, Louisiana

We 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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund of the Vernon Parish School Board, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Sales Tax Custodial Fund's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 28, 2024.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Vernon Parish Sales Tax Custodial Fund of the Vernon Parish School Board and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the Vernon Parish School Board as of June 30, 2024, or the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Sales Tax Custodial Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sales Tax Custodial Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sales Tax Custodial Fund'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.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first 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 our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Sales Tax Custodial Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we 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 financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our 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 our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Although the intended use of this report may be limited, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 this report is distributed by the Office of the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Allen, Green & Williamson, LLP

ALLEN, GREEN & WILLIAMSON, LLP

Monroe, Louisiana
December 28, 2024