

OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED JUNE 19, 2018

In the opinion of Parker McCay P.A., Mount Laurel, New Jersey, Bond Counsel, assuming continuing compliance by the School District (as hereinafter defined) with certain tax covenants described herein, under existing law, interest on the Bonds (as hereinafter defined) is not included for federal income tax purposes in the gross income of the owners thereof pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as previously amended, and as further amended pursuant to Public Law 115-97 ("Tax Cuts and Jobs Act"), signed into law on December 22, 2017 (as amended, the "Code"), and is not a specific item of tax preference under Section 57 of the Code for purposes of calculating the alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and, for tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018, corporations pursuant to Section 55 of the Code. In the case of certain corporations that own the Bonds with tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018, the interest thereon is not excludable in computing the alternative minimum tax as a result of the inclusion of interest on the Bonds in "adjusted current earnings". For tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2018, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has repealed the alternative minimum tax for corporations. In addition, interest on the Bonds may be subject to the branch profits tax imposed on certain foreign corporations and to the tax on "excess net passive income" imposed on S corporations. Interest on the Bonds and any gain from the sale thereof is not includable in the gross income of owners thereof under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act, as presently executed and construed. See "TAX MATTERS" herein.

**\$2,560,000**

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD,  
IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY  
SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2018  
(Bank Qualified) (Callable)**

**Dated: Date of Delivery**

**Due: July 15, as shown below**

The \$2,560,000 School Bonds, Series 2018 ("Bonds"), of The Board of Education of the City of Linwood, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey ("Board" when referring to the governing body, and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the Board), shall be issued in fully registered book-entry-only form without coupons. Principal of and interest on the Bonds will be paid to DTC (as hereinafter defined) by the School District. Interest on the Bonds is payable semiannually on January 15 and July 15, commencing January 15, 2019, in each year until maturity or earlier redemption. The Bonds are subject to redemption prior to their stated maturity dates as set forth herein. See "THE BONDS – Redemption Provisions" herein.

Upon initial issuance, the Bonds will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), which will act as securities depository for the Bonds. So long as Cede & Co. is the registered owner of the Bonds, payments of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made directly to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., which will remit such payments to the DTC Participants (as herein defined) which will, in turn, remit such payments to the Beneficial Owners (as herein defined) of the Bonds. Purchasers will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Bonds purchased. For so long as any purchaser is a Beneficial Owner of a Bond, such purchaser must maintain an account with a broker or dealer who is, or acts through, a DTC participant to receive payment of the principal of and interest on such Bond.

The Bonds are issued pursuant to: (i) Chapter 24 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended and supplemented; and (ii) a resolution duly adopted by the Board on May 23, 2018. The Bonds are being issued to provide funds which will be used to: (i) permanently finance the costs of various capital improvements for the School District by the repayment at maturity of certain Bond Anticipation Notes heretofore issued by the City of Linwood, New Jersey, on behalf of the School District; (ii) permanently finance the costs of various capital improvements for the School District, for which obligations have been authorized, but not yet issued; and (iii) pay certain costs and expenses incidental to the issuance and delivery of the Bonds.

The Bonds are general obligations of the School District and the full faith and credit of the School District are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds. Payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, if not paid from other sources, are payable from *ad valorem* taxes to be levied upon all taxable real property within the School District without limitation as to rate or amount. The Bonds are also entitled to the benefits of and are secured under the provisions of the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, P.L. 1980, c.72, as amended.

The scheduled payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds when due will be guaranteed under an insurance policy to be issued concurrently with the delivery of the Bonds by MUNICIPAL ASSURANCE CORP.



**MATURITIES, AMOUNTS, INTEREST RATES, YIELDS AND CUSIPS**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>CUSIP</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>CUSIP</u>
2019	\$140,000	2.25%	1.45%	536181AA8	2025	\$210,000	3.00%	2.45%	536181AG5
2020	150,000	2.50	1.70	536181AB6	2026	230,000	3.00	2.60	536181AH3
2021	160,000	2.75	1.90	536181AC4	2027	280,000	3.00	2.70	536181AJ9
2022	170,000	2.75	2.00	536181AD2	2028	280,000	3.00	2.80	536181AK6
2023	180,000	3.00	2.15	536181AE0	2029	280,000	3.00	2.90	536181AL4
2024	200,000	3.00	2.30	536181AF7	2030	280,000	3.00	3.00	536181AM2

**This cover page contains information for quick reference only. It is not a summary of this issue. Investors must read the entire Official Statement, including the Appendices attached hereto, to obtain information essential to the making of an informed investment decision.**

The Bonds are offered when, as and if issued, subject to the prior approval of legality by the law firm of Parker McCay P.A., Mount Laurel, New Jersey, Bond Counsel, and certain other conditions described herein. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the School District by its solicitor, William S. Donio, Esquire, of the law firm Cooper Levenson Attorneys at Law, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Bordentown, New Jersey, has acted as Municipal Advisor to the School District in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. It is anticipated that the Bonds in definitive form will be available for delivery through DTC in New York, New York on or about July 3, 2018.

**ROOSEVELT & CROSS, INC. AND ASSOCIATES**

**IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY**

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**Board of Education**

<b>Donna Michael-Ziereis</b>	<b>Board President</b>
<b>Joann Scannell</b>	<b>Board Vice President</b>
<b>Michelle DeMorat</b>	<b>Board Member</b>
<b>Judd McLaughlin</b>	<b>Board Member</b>
<b>Judge Daryl Todd</b>	<b>Board Member</b>
<b>Jason Goldstein</b>	<b>Board Member</b>
<b>Craig Kahn</b>	<b>Board Member</b>
<b>Alexa D'Amato Barrera</b>	<b>Board Member</b>
<b>Casey Lowry</b>	<b>Board Member</b>

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**Superintendent of Schools**

**Brian M. Pruitt**

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**Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**Teri J. Weeks**

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**Auditor**

**Ford, Scott and Associates LLC**  
**Ocean City, New Jersey**

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**Solicitor**

**William S. Donio, Esquire**  
**Cooper Levenson Attorneys at Law**  
**Atlantic City, New Jersey**

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**Bond Counsel**

**Parker McCay P.A.**  
**Mount Laurel, New Jersey**

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**Municipal Advisor**

**Phoenix Advisors, LLC**  
**Bordentown, New Jersey**

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The information which is set forth herein has been provided by The Board of Education of the City of Linwood, County of Atlantic, New Jersey ("Board" when referring to the governing body and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the Board), The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") and by other sources which are believed to be reliable by the School District, but the information provided by such sources is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness by the School District. Certain general and financial information concerning the School District is contained in Appendices "A" and "B" to this Official Statement. Such information has been furnished by the School District.

Where the Constitution or statutes of the State of New Jersey are referred to, reference should be made to such Constitution or statutes for a complete statement of the matters referred to therein. This Official Statement is submitted in connection with the sale of the Bonds referred to herein and may not be reproduced or used, in whole or in part, for any other purpose.

No dealer, broker, salesperson or other person has been authorized by the School District or by the Underwriter to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained in this Official Statement in connection with the offering of the Bonds and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by any of the foregoing. This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Bonds by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such offer, solicitation or sale. The information set forth herein has been obtained from the School District and other sources which are believed to be reliable, but is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstance, create an implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the School District since the date hereof.

References in this Official Statement to laws, rules, regulations, agreements, reports and other documents do not purport to be comprehensive or definitive. All references to such documents are qualified in their entirety by references to the particular document, the full text of which may contain qualifications of and exceptions to statements made herein and copies of which may be obtained from the School District during normal business hours.

Upon issuance, the Bonds will not be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, will not be listed on any stock nor other securities exchange and neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other federal, state, municipal or other governmental entity, other than the School District, will have passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this Official Statement.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFERING OF THE BONDS, THE UNDERWRITER MAY OVER-ALLOT OR EFFECT TRANSACTIONS WHICH STABILIZE OR MAINTAIN THE MARKET PRICE OF THE BONDS AT A LEVEL ABOVE THAT WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE PREVAIL IN THE OPEN MARKET. SUCH STABILIZATION, IF COMMENCED, MAY BE DISCOUNTED AT ANY TIME.

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

Municipal Assurance Corp. ("MAC") makes no representation regarding the Bonds or the advisability of investing in the Bonds. In addition, MAC has not independently verified, makes no representation regarding, and does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this Official Statement or any information or disclosure contained herein, or omitted herefrom, other than with respect to the accuracy of the information regarding MAC supplied by MAC and presented under the heading "Bond Insurance" and "Appendix E - Specimen Municipal Bond Insurance Policy".

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**  
**RELATING TO**  
**\$2,560,000**  
**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD,**  
**IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY**  
**SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2018**  
**(Bank Qualified) (Callable)**

**INTRODUCTION**

This Official Statement, including the cover page hereof and the Appendices attached hereto, sets forth certain information relating to The Board of Education of the City of Linwood, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey ("Board" when referring to the governing body and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the Board), and the issuance of \$2,560,000, aggregate principal amount of its School Bonds, Series 2018 ("Bonds").

The information contained herein relating to the School District including, *inter alia*, existing facilities, enrollment and other data was furnished by the School District unless otherwise indicated.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE BONDS**

The School District is issuing the Bonds pursuant to: (i) Chapter 24 of Title 18A of the New Jersey ("State") Statutes, as amended and supplemented ("School Bond Act"); (ii) a resolution duly adopted by the Board on May 23, 2018 ("Resolution"); and (iii) a bond ordinance ("Bond Ordinance") duly and finally adopted by the governing body of the City of Linwood, New Jersey ("City"), on behalf of the School District, in accordance with the New Jersey Local Bond Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq.*) and the School Bond Act (*N.J.S.A. 18A:24-10* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:24-11* in particular). Pursuant to the Bond Ordinance, and in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:24-3*, while the School District was classified as a "Type I" district in accordance with applicable law, the City issued its bond anticipation notes on behalf of the School District ("Notes"). In accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:9-1 et seq.*, pursuant to a public referendum, on November 9, 2016, the School District changed from a "Type I" to a "Type II" school district. As a result, the School District is now authorized to issue its own indebtedness, including, the Bonds.

**PURPOSE OF THE BOND ISSUE**

The Bonds are being issued to provide funds which will be used to: (i) permanently finance the costs of various capital improvements for the School District by the repayment at maturity of the outstanding Notes of the City; (ii) permanently finance the costs of various capital improvements for the School District for which obligations have been authorized, but not yet issued; and (iii) pay certain costs and expenses incidental to the issuance and delivery of the Bonds.

## **THE BONDS**

### **Description**

The Bonds will be issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$2,560,000, will be dated their date of delivery and bear interest from that date. Interest on the Bonds will be payable semiannually each year on January 15 and July 15 ("Interest Payment Dates"), commencing January 15, 2019, in each year until maturity or earlier redemption. The Bonds will mature on July 15 in the years and in the principal amounts, all as shown on the cover page of this Official Statement. The Bonds are subject to redemption prior to their stated maturity dates as set forth herein.

The Bonds will be issued in fully registered book-entry-only form without coupons in the principal denominations of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof or the necessary odd denominations. The principal of the Bonds will be payable to the registered owners at maturity upon presentation and surrender of the Bonds at the office of the Board. Interest on each Bond shall be payable on each Interest Payment Date of such Bond to the registered owner of record thereof appearing on the registration books kept by the School District for such purpose at the principal office of the School District, as of the close of business on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) day of the calendar month containing an Interest Payment Date ("Record Date").

So long as The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), or its nominee, Cede & Co., is the registered owner of the Bonds, payments of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be made directly to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC. Disbursements of such payments to the DTC Participants (as hereinafter defined) is the responsibility of DTC and disbursements of such payments to the Beneficial Owners (as hereinafter defined) of the Bonds is the responsibility of the DTC Participants and not the School District. See "THE BONDS--Book-Entry-Only System" herein.

### **Book-Entry-Only System<sup>1</sup>**

The description which follows of the procedures and record keeping with respect to beneficial ownership interests in the Bonds, payment of principal and interest, and other payments on the Bonds to DTC Participants or Beneficial Owners, confirmation and transfer of beneficial ownership interests in the Bonds and other related transactions by and between DTC, DTC Participants and Beneficial Owners, is based on certain information furnished by DTC to the School District. Accordingly, the School District does not make any representations as to the completeness or accuracy of such information.

The DTC will act as securities depository for the Bonds. The Bonds will be issued as fully-registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered Bond certificate will be issued for each maturity of the Bonds, each in the aggregate principal amount of such issue, and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC, the world's largest securities depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant

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<sup>1</sup> Source: The Depository Trust Company

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

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

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

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

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

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

Redemption proceeds and distributions on the Bonds will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the School District, or its hereafter designated paying agent, if any, on payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC, the School District, or its hereafter designated paying agent, if any, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds and distributions to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the School District, or its hereafter designated paying agent, if any, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Bonds at any time by giving reasonable notice to the School District, or its hereafter designated paying agent, if any. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, Bond certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

The School District may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, Bond certificates will be printed and delivered to DTC.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that the School District believes to be reliable, but neither the School District nor the Underwriter (as hereinafter defined) take any responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

**NEITHER THE SCHOOL DISTRICT NOR ITS HEREAFTER DESIGNATED PAYING AGENT, IF ANY, WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATION TO THE DTC PARTICIPANTS OR THE PERSONS FOR WHOM THEY ACT AS NOMINEES WITH RESPECT TO THE PAYMENTS TO OR PROVIDING OF NOTICE FOR THE DTC PARTICIPANTS, OR THE INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS.**

**SO LONG AS CEDE & CO. IS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE BONDS, AS NOMINEE OF DTC, REFERENCES HEREIN TO THE BONDHOLDERS OR REGISTERED OWNERS OF THE BONDS (OTHER THAN UNDER THE HEADING "TAX MATTERS") SHALL MEAN CEDE & CO. AND SHALL NOT MEAN THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE BONDS.**



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

In the event that the book-entry-only system is discontinued and the Beneficial Owners become registered owners of the Bonds, the following provisions would apply: (i) the Bonds may be exchanged for an equal aggregate principal amount of Bonds in other authorized denominations and of the same maturity, upon surrender thereof at the offices of the School District, or its hereafter designated paying agent; (ii) the transfer of any Bonds may be registered on the books maintained by the School District, or its hereafter designated paying agent, if any, for such purposes only upon the surrender thereof to the School District, or its hereafter designated paying agent, if any, together with the duly executed assignment in form satisfactory to the School District, or its hereafter designated paying agent, if any; and (iii) for every exchange or registration of transfer of the Bonds, the School District, or its hereafter designated paying agent, if any, may make a charge sufficient to reimburse for any tax or other governmental charge required to be paid with respect to such exchange or registration of transfer of the Bonds. Interest on the Bonds will be payable by check or draft, mailed on each Interest Payment Date to the registered owners thereof as of the close of business on the Record Date.

### **Redemption Provisions**

The Bonds maturing on and after July 15, 2026 are subject to redemption prior to maturity at the option of the School District on any date on or after July 15, 2025, upon notice as set forth below, in whole or in part (and, if in part, such maturities as the School District shall determine and within any such maturity by lot) at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of Bonds to be redeemed, plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

### **Notice of Redemption**

Notice of redemption shall be given by mailing first class mail in a sealed envelope with postage pre-paid not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the redemption date to the owner of every Bond of which all or a portion is to be redeemed at his or her last known address, if any, appearing on the registration books of the School District. So long as the Bonds are issued in book-entry-only form, all notices of redemption will be sent only to DTC and not be sent to the Beneficial Owners of the Bonds. Failure of an owner of the Bonds to receive such notice or of DTC to advise any Participant or any failure of a Participant to notify any Beneficial Owner of the Bonds shall not affect the validity of any proceedings for the redemption of Bonds. Such notice shall specify: (i) the series and maturity of the Bonds to be redeemed; (ii) the redemption date and the place or places where amounts that are due and payable upon such redemption will be payable; (iii) if less than all of the Bonds are to be redeemed, the letters and numbers or other distinguishing marks of the Bonds to be redeemed; (iv) in the case of a Bond to be redeemed in part only, the portion of the principal amount thereof to be redeemed; (v) that on the redemption date there shall become due and payable with respect to each Bond or portion thereof to be redeemed the redemption price; and (vi) that from and after the redemption date interest on such Bonds or portion thereof to be redeemed shall cease to accrue and be payable.

## **BOND INSURANCE**

### **Bond Insurance Policy**

Concurrently with the issuance of the Bonds, Municipal Assurance Corp. ("MAC") will issue its Municipal Bond Insurance Policy for the Bonds (the "Policy"). The Policy guarantees the scheduled payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds when due as set forth in the form of the Policy included as an appendix to this Official Statement.

The Policy is not covered by any insurance security or guaranty fund established under New York or Connecticut insurance law.

### **Municipal Assurance Corp.**

MAC is a New York domiciled financial guaranty insurance company and an indirect subsidiary of Assured Guaranty Ltd. ("AGL"), a Bermuda-based holding company whose shares are publicly traded and are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AGO". AGL, through its operating subsidiaries, provides credit enhancement products to the U.S. and global public finance, infrastructure and structured finance markets. Neither AGL nor any of the shareholders or affiliates of AGL, other than MAC, is obligated to pay any debts of MAC or any claims under any insurance policy issued by MAC.

MAC is wholly owned by Municipal Assurance Holdings Inc., which, in turn, is owned 61% by Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp. and 39% by Assured Guaranty Corp.

MAC's financial strength is rated "AA" (stable outlook) by S&P Global Ratings, a business unit of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P") and "AA+" (stable outlook) by Kroll Bond Rating Agency, Inc. ("KBRA"). Each rating of MAC should be evaluated independently. An explanation of the significance of the above ratings may be obtained from the applicable rating agency. The above ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold any security, and such ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the rating agencies, including withdrawal initiated at the request of MAC in its sole discretion. In addition, the rating agencies may at any time change MAC's long-term rating outlooks or place such ratings on a watch list for possible downgrade in the near term. Any downward revision or withdrawal of any of the above ratings, the assignment of a negative outlook to such ratings or the placement of such ratings on a negative watch list may have an adverse effect on the market price of any security guaranteed by MAC. MAC only guarantees scheduled principal and scheduled interest payments payable by the issuer of bonds insured by MAC on the date(s) when such amounts were initially scheduled to become due and payable (subject to and in accordance with the terms of the relevant insurance policy), and does not guarantee the market price or liquidity of the securities it insures, nor does it guarantee that the ratings on such securities will not be revised or withdrawn.

### *Current Financial Strength Ratings*

On July 14, 2017, KBRA announced it had affirmed MAC's financial strength rating of "AA+" (stable outlook). MAC can give no assurance as to any further ratings action that KBRA may take.

On June 26, 2017, S&P announced it had affirmed MAC's financial strength rating of "AA" (stable outlook). MAC can give no assurance as to any further ratings action that S&P may take.

For more information regarding MAC's financial strength ratings and the risks relating thereto, see AGL's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

#### *Capitalization of MAC*

As of March 31, 2018, MAC's policyholders' surplus and contingency reserve were approximately \$506 million and its unearned premium reserve was approximately \$235 million, in each case, determined in accordance with statutory accounting principles.

#### *Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference*

Portions of the following documents filed by AGL with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") that relate to MAC are incorporated by reference into this Official Statement and shall be deemed to be a part hereof:

- (i) the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 (filed by AGL with the SEC on February 23, 2018); and
- (ii) the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2018 (filed by AGL with the SEC on May 4, 2018).

All financial statements of MAC and all other information relating to MAC included in, or as exhibits to, documents filed by AGL with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, excluding Current Reports or portions thereof "furnished" under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K, after the filing of the last document referred to above and before the termination of the offering of the Bonds shall be deemed incorporated by reference into this Official Statement and to be a part hereof from the respective dates of filing such documents. Copies of materials incorporated by reference are available over the internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>, at AGL's website at <http://www.assuredguaranty.com>, or will be provided upon request to Municipal Assurance Corp.: 1633 Broadway, New York, New York 10019, Attention: Communications Department (telephone (212) 974-0100). Except for the information referred to above, no information available on or through AGL's website shall be deemed to be part of or incorporated in this Official Statement.

Any information regarding MAC included herein under the caption "BOND INSURANCE – Municipal Assurance Corp." or included in a document incorporated by reference herein (collectively, the "MAC Information") shall be modified or superseded to the extent that any subsequently included MAC Information (either directly or through incorporation by reference) modifies or supersedes such previously included MAC Information. Any MAC Information so modified or superseded shall not constitute a part of this Official Statement, except as so modified or superseded.

## *Miscellaneous Matters*

MAC makes no representation regarding the Bonds or the advisability of investing in the Bonds. In addition, MAC has not independently verified, makes no representation regarding, and does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this Official Statement or any information or disclosure contained herein, or omitted herefrom, other than with respect to the accuracy of the information regarding MAC supplied by MAC and presented under the heading "BOND INSURANCE".

## **SECURITY AND SOURCES OF PAYMENT FOR THE BONDS**

### **Taxing Power**

The Bonds are general obligations of the School District and the full faith, credit and taxing power of the School District are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds. The Bonds are payable, if payment is not provided in any other manner, from *ad valorem* taxes to be levied upon all taxable real property located within the School District without limitation as to rate or amount, except to the extent that enforcement of such payment may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar laws or equitable principles affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally ("Creditors' Rights Limitations").

In accordance with Section 56 of the School Bond Law, *N.J.S.A. 18A:24-56*, the Bonds shall be liens upon the real estate situated in the School District, the personal estates of the inhabitants of the School District and the property of the School District, and such estates and property shall be liable for the payment of the Bonds.

### **New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act**

The Bonds will be secured under the provisions of the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act of 1980, Chapter 56 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended and supplemented, *N.J.S.A. 18A:56-1 et seq.* ("School Bond Reserve Act"). Pursuant to the School Bond Reserve Act, there shall be a reserve comprised of two accounts, one in an amount equal to at least one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes issued before July 1, 2003 ("Old Reserve Account") and another in an amount equal to at least one percent (1%) of the aggregate issued and outstanding bonded indebtedness of counties, municipalities or school districts for school purposes issued on or after July 1, 2003 ("New Reserve Account", together with the Old Reserve Account, the "School Bond Reserve"). The amount to be held within the State Fund ("Fund") for the Support of Free Public Schools as the School Bond Reserve pledged by law to secure payments of principal and interest due on such bonds in the event of the inability of the issuer to make payment shall be determined on June 30 of each fiscal year by the State Treasurer and shall be funded in the amount determined by the State Treasurer on September 15 of the ensuing fiscal year. If the Old Reserve Account exceeds the amount determined to be required, the State Treasurer may transfer the excess to the New Reserve Account. The School Bond Reserve is required to be composed entirely of direct obligations of the United States Government or obligations guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. The amount of the School Bond Reserve may not exceed the moneys available in the Fund. If a county, municipality or school district is unable to meet payment of principal of or interest on any of its bonds issued for school purposes, it shall certify

such liability to the Commissioner of Education ("Commissioner") and the Director of the Division of Local Government Services ("Director") at least ten (10) days prior to the date any such payment is due. If the Commissioner and Director approve the certification, they shall certify the same to the trustees of the Fund. The trustees of the Fund will purchase such bonds at par value or will pay to the Bondholders the interest due or to become due within the limit of funds available in either account of the School Bond Reserve in accordance with the provisions of the School Bond Reserve Act. Payment by the trustees of the Fund on behalf of any county, municipality or school district shall be deducted from the appropriation or apportionment of State aid which may otherwise be payable to the district, county or municipality, and shall not obligate the State or entitle the school district, county or municipality to the payment of any additional appropriation or apportionment. To date, there has been no occasion to call upon this Fund.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING NEW JERSEY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

### **State's Role in Public Education**

The Constitution of the State of New Jersey ("State") provides that the maintenance of and the support of a thorough and efficient system of public schools for the instruction of all children between 5 and 18 years of age is a legislative responsibility. Below is a summary of the role of the State.

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

The Commissioner is the chief executive and administrative officer of the Department. The Commissioner is appointed by the Governor of the State, with the advice and consent of the State Senate, for a five (5) year, salaried term. The Commissioner is responsible for the supervision of all school districts in the State and is obligated to enforce the rules and regulations of the State Board. The Commissioner's consent is required for authorization to sell school bonds that exceed the statutory debt limits, and the Commissioner also may set the amount to be raised by taxation in a school district in a fiscal year, if a school budget has not been approved by the voters of the school district or by a board of school estimate, as the case may be, or by the governing body of the municipality.

An Executive County Superintendent of Schools ("County Superintendent") is appointed in each county in the State by the Commissioner with the approval of the State Board. The County Superintendent is the local representative of the Commissioner and is responsible for the daily supervision of the school districts in the county.

## **Structure of New Jersey School Districts**

State school districts are generally coterminous with the boundaries of the municipalities they serve. They are characterized by the manner in which the governing body takes office. Type I school districts, most commonly found in cities, have a board of education appointed by the mayor or chief executive officer of the municipality. In Type II districts, the board of education is elected by the voters of the school district. Almost all regional and consolidated school districts operate as Type II school districts. The School District is a Type II school district as of November 9, 2016.

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

## **STATE AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

### **General**

In 1973, the State Supreme Court ("Supreme Court") ruled that the existing method of financing school costs primarily through property taxation was unconstitutional. Pursuant to the Supreme Court's ruling, the State Legislature enacted the Public School Education Act of 1975 (P.L. 1975, c. 212) ("Act"), which required funding of the State's school aid through the State Gross Income Tax Act (P.L. 1976, c. 47). The Act also intended to provide property tax relief. A new formula (*N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-1 et seq.*), which took into account a local school district's ability to pay for its operating costs, was made available commencing July 1, 1976.

On June 5, 1990, the Supreme Court ruled in *Abbott v. Burke*, that the school aid formula described above did not distribute funds fairly. The Supreme Court found that poorer urban districts were significantly disadvantaged under the then funding formula because revenues were derived primarily from property taxes. The Supreme Court found that wealthy districts were able to spend more, yet tax less for educational purposes. In urban areas, on the other hand, the Supreme Court found the opposite to be true.

### **The Quality Education Act of 1990**

The Legislative response to *Abbott v. Burke* was the passage of the Quality Education Act of 1990 ("Quality Education Act"), (P.L. 1990, c. 52), which was signed into law on July 3, 1990. This law established a new formula for the distribution of state aid for public education commencing with the 1991-92 fiscal year. The law provided a formula that took into account property value and personal income to determine a district's capacity to raise money for public education. A budgetary limitation or "CAP" on expenditures was also provided in the law. The "CAP" was intended to control the growth in local property taxes. The Quality Education Act was amended and revised by Chapter 62 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1991 of the State, effective, March 14, 1991 and further amended by Chapter 7 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1993 effective January 14, 1993.

On July 12, 1994, the Supreme Court declared the school aid formula under the Quality of Education Act of 1990, as amended, unconstitutional on several grounds as it is applied to the 31 special needs districts designated by the State in ongoing litigation commonly known as *Abbott v.*

Burke II. No specific remediation was ordered, but the Supreme Court ultimately held that the Legislature and the Governor were required to have a new funding formula in effect by December 31, 1996 so that the new formula would be implemented in the 1997-98 fiscal year.

### **Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996**

In keeping with the Supreme Court's deadline, then Governor Christine Todd Whitman signed into law on December 20, 1996, the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 ("CEIFA" or "Comprehensive Plan"). The Comprehensive Plan affects how public schools are funded by the State, beginning in the 1997-98 fiscal year.

The Comprehensive Plan departs from other funding formulas adopted in the State in defining what constitutes a "thorough and efficient" education, which is what the State Constitution requires every public school student to receive. The Comprehensive Plan further establishes the costs to provide each student with a "thorough and efficient" education.

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

The definition of an "efficient" education under the Comprehensive Plan determines the cost to provide each student with an education that fulfills the requirements for the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The efficiency standard defines such things as optimal class size, administrator/teachers per student, schools per district, and the types and amount of classroom supplies, services, and materials. The Comprehensive Plan establishes an approximate amount per student to educate each student at various grade levels in the Core Curriculum Content Standards. This amount will be adjusted biennially for inflation by the consumer price index.

In determining how much Core Curriculum Standards Aid a school district will receive, the Comprehensive Plan considers each school district's financial ability to fund such a level of education. This component of the Comprehensive Plan is referred to as the local share requirement, namely, the amount of taxes that a school district can raise relative to other school districts based on property wealth and income levels. The purpose of the Core Curriculum Standards Aid is to provide school districts with adequate State assistance that is proportionate to their ability to pay. The purpose of this type of aid is to ensure that all school districts have the economic ability to provide their students with the ability to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards. In addition to the Core Curriculum Standards Aid, the Comprehensive Plan also provides per pupil assistance from the State for special education, early childhood programs, demonstrably effective programs, instructional supplement, bilingual education, county vocational schools and distance learning network.

Another form of aid that is provided by CEIFA is school facilities aid. During the 1997-98 fiscal period, this type of aid was provided to those school districts that qualified for aid under the

Quality Education Act. The amount of school facilities aid that the State provided during the 1997-98 fiscal year was determined by the amount budgeted in the approved State budget.

Beginning in the 1998-99 fiscal year, State aid for school facilities consisted of a ratio that divides (i) the amount of debt service or the amount of facilities rent for lease terms that exceed five years required to be budgeted for a fiscal year period into (ii) the costs that are approved by the Department for a proposed building or renovation project. The approved facility costs under the Comprehensive Plan have not yet been determined. The Comprehensive Plan requires the Governor to submit to the legislature criteria for determining approved facilities costs, State support levels and maintenance incentives applicable to the fiscal year.

The Comprehensive Plan also limits the amount school districts can increase their annual current expense and capital outlay budgets. Generally, these budgets can increase by either two and one-half percent (2.5%) or the consumer price index, whichever is greater. Recent amendments to the Comprehensive Plan lowered the budget CAP to two and one-half percent (2.5%) from three percent (3%). Budgets can also increase because of certain adjustments for enrollment increases, certain capital outlay expenditures, pupil transportation costs, and special education costs that exceed \$40,000 per pupil. Waivers are available from the Commissioner based on increasing enrollments and other fairly narrow grounds or by approval of the voters at the annual school election.

Under the Comprehensive Plan, rent payments made pursuant to a facilities lease purchase agreement for a term that exceeds five years are treated as debt service for accounting purposes. These rent payments will be eligible for aid in an amount determined in the State budget for the respective fiscal year. Rent payments under a facilities lease with a term not exceeding five years and under equipment leases are budgeted in the general fund and are subject to the school district's spending growth limitations under the Comprehensive Plan.

On May 14, 1997, the Supreme Court held that the Comprehensive Plan was unconstitutional as applied to the 31 special needs districts ("Abbott Districts") because: (1) its funding provisions fail to assure that students in such districts will receive a thorough and efficient education; and (2) supplemental programs to increase student performance in such districts have neither been adequately identified nor funded. They recognized the Core Curriculum Standards as a valid means of identifying what is a "thorough and efficient" education under the State Constitution, but found that the State did not adequately determine or provide the adequate funding level to allow those standards to be met in the Abbott Districts. The Comprehensive Plan was not held unconstitutional as applied to the non-Abbott Districts. The School District is not an Abbott District.

The Supreme Court ordered the State: (1) to increase State aid to the Abbott Districts for the 1997-98 school year to a level such that the per-pupil expenditure in such districts is equivalent to the average per-pupil expenditure in wealthy suburban districts; (2) through the Commissioner, to manage the additional spending to assure that it will be used to allow the students to meet the education content standards; and (3) under the supervision of the Superior Court, Chancery Division, to determine a plan to provide supplemental educational and facilities programs in the Abbott Districts.



Provisions for the additional amounts of money were appropriated in the State budgets. The Supreme Court then ruled that the Commissioner and the Department will be responsible for maintaining the educational system in accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court. In response to the order, the State enacted the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act discussed below.

### **Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act**

In response to the Supreme Court's order under CEIFA, then Governor Whitman signed into law on July 18, 2000, the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act ("Facilities Act"). The Facilities Act provides for full funding of the qualified costs of school facilities required in the Abbott Districts and for the funding of the qualified costs of school facilities for all other school districts in an amount equal to the ratio between their core curriculum facilities aid and their thorough and efficient budget times one hundred and fifteen percent (115%) or forty percent (40%) of the qualified costs, whichever is greater. In lieu of debt service aid, school districts may elect to receive grants for the State's share of the capital project and authorize bonds only for the local share of the capital project. School districts may receive debt service aid under the same formula for certain capital projects which were begun prior to the effective date of the Facilities Act.

A challenge was made to have the Facilities Act declared unconstitutional because it authorized the issuance of debt paid out of the State's General Fund without voter approval. On August 21, 2002, the Supreme Court upheld the Facilities Act as constitutional advancing the guarantee of a "thorough and efficient" education.

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

On January 7, 2008, the New Jersey Legislature adopted Senate Bill No. 4000 (companion Assembly Bill No. 500) entitled the "School Funding Reform Act of 2008" ("School Funding Reform Act"), which establishes a new system for the funding of public school districts. The intent of the School Funding Reform Act is to create a fair, equitable, and predictable funding formula based on student characteristics, regardless of the community in which a student resides. The legislation was signed into law by Governor Corzine on January 13, 2008.

The School Funding Reform Act maintains the requirements for the establishment and update by the State Board of Education of the core curriculum content standards that define the substance of a thorough education; however it repeals certain sections of the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996, P.L.1996, c.138, which established the State aid formulas that supported school district programs to implement such standards. In addition, the School Funding Reform Act establishes revised formulas for calculating such State aid.

The School Funding Reform Act also establishes two categorical State aid programs. The first categorical aid program will support the cost of providing services to general special education students that is not supported through the adequacy budget. The second categorical aid program will support security costs for school districts. The School Funding Reform Act also includes preschool education State aid, which will fund a significant expansion of early childhood programs. The School Funding Reform Act continues extraordinary special education aid, but with a number of revisions. In addition, the School Funding Reform Act establishes the State aid category of

educational adequacy aid for certain school districts that received education opportunity aid in the 2007-2008 school year and are spending below adequacy.

Moreover, the School Funding Reform Act provides a new formula for determining the amount of state aid received by a school district or county vocational school district for transportation aid.

The School Funding Reform Act also addresses issues associated with the funding of charter school students, as well as remaining choice students. The School Funding Reform Act also amends the school construction law, the "Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act," to establish the category of a "SDA" district, which is a district that received education opportunity aid or preschool expansion aid in the 2007-2008 school year. For these "SDA" districts, the State share for their school facilities projects will remain at one hundred percent (100%) and they will be constructed by the New Jersey Schools Development Authority. The School Funding reform Act also revises numerous sections of law that are related to school funding and school budgeting procedures.

In the New Jersey Supreme Court's most recent decision in *Abbott v. Burke* (decided on May 28, 2009), it was determined that the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 is constitutional as applied to the State's 31 Abbott Districts. The Court ordered the State to provide school funding to all districts during this and the next two (2) years in accordance with the School Funding Reform Act's funding formula, subject further to mandated review after three years of implementation.

### **Recent Developments in State Aid**

The State provides aid to school districts in accordance with amounts provided annually in the State budget. Such aid includes equalization aid, special education categorical aid, transportation aid, preschool education aid, supplemental core curriculum standards aid, choice aid, education adequacy aid, security aid, adjustment aid and other aid as determined in the discretion of the Commissioner.

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

### **FEDERAL AID TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Federal funds are available for certain programs approved by the federal government with allocation decided by the State, which assigns a proportion to each local school district. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C.A. § 6301 *et seq.* ("NCLB") is a federal assistance program for which a school district qualifies to receive aid. Under the NCLB, states and local educational agencies have been given flexibility with regard to the use of federal funds for education. Federal aid is generally received in the form of block grants.

## **SUMMARY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOL DEBT**

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

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

### **School Budgets**

On January 17, 2012, Governor Christopher J. Christie signed into law Senate Bill S-3148 which allows a school district to hold its annual school election in either April or on the same day as the General Election in November. The change in election date can be made by resolution of the board of education or the municipality or municipalities that are members of a regional board of education, or by citizen petition. The Board passed a resolution to officially change the date of the School District's annual school election to the first Tuesday in November.

In a Type II school district holding its annual election in November, the elected board of education develops the budget proposal in a timeframe identical to that described above. If the budget is at or below the state cap, voter approval is not required and the budget immediately goes into effect. If the budget exceeds the state mandated cap, the budget becomes temporary and the portion exceeding the cap is then submitted for voter approval in November.

The Commissioner must also review every proposed local school district budget for the then current school year. The Commissioner has the power to increase or decrease individual line items in a budget. Any amendments in the school district's budget must be approved by the board of the school district.

### **Limitation of Increase in the Net Current Expense Budget**

Annual increases in a school district budget are limited by law subject to certain limited exceptions. Specifically, P.L. 2007, c. 62, which became effective April 3, 2007, amended the prior limitations on a school district's ability to increase its net budget under CEIFA by placing a four percent (4%) cap on the amount that can be raised by property taxation in a given year for school district purposes (excluding debt service payments) over the prior budget year's tax levy. Appropriations for the payment of debt service on bonds, notes and lease obligations over five (5) years approved by the Commissioner were not subject to such limitations and were required to be included in full in a school district's budget.

Although P.L. 2007, c. 62 allowed for certain adjustments to the four percent (4%) tax levy cap for increases in enrollment, reductions in state aid and increases in health care costs, the bill also granted to the Commissioner discretion to grant waivers from the cap for increases in special education costs, capital outlay, and tuition charges for sending districts. During the first school budget year following the enactment of P.L. 2007, c. 62 (i.e., for the school year 2007-2008), school districts were permitted to seek voter approval to exceed the four percent (4%) levy cap. Such approval had to be obtained by a simple majority of those voting. After the first year, however, school districts were required to receive approval by at least sixty percent (60%) of the voters to

exceed the levy cap. In addition, the Commissioner was given the ability to grant certain extraordinary waivers to the tax levy cap for certain other cost increases beginning in fiscal year 2009 through 2012.

Legislation constituting P.L. 2010, c. 44 ("Chapter 44"), was adopted on July 13, 2010 and is applicable to the next local budget year following enactment. Chapter 44 provides limitation on school district spending by limiting the amount a school district can raise for school district purposes through the property tax levy by two percent (2%) over the prior year's tax levy; with exceptions only for enrollment increases, increases for certain normal and accrued liability for pension contributions in excess of two percent (2%), certain healthcare increases, and amounts approved by a simple majority of voters voting at a special election. The process for obtaining waivers from the Commissioner for additional increases over the tax levy or spending limitations has been eliminated under Chapter 44.

The restrictions under Chapter 44 solely apply to the property tax levy related to a school district's general fund and are not applicable to a school district's debt service fund. Accordingly, there are no restrictions imposed by Chapter 44 on a local school district's ability to raise funds through its property tax levy for debt service, and nothing contained in Chapter 44 limits the obligation of a school district to levy ad valorem taxes upon all taxable real property within the district to pay debt service on its bonds or notes.

### **Uniform System of Bookkeeping**

Effective July 1, 1993, the State mandated that all school districts develop and implement accounting practices consistent with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). In addition, the districts are required to comply with the Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts (Federal Handbook 2R2) for their internal accounting reporting systems. The School District's financial statements since the above effective date have been prepared in accordance with the GAAP requirements.

### **Annual Audits**

The board of education of each school district annually shall have a licensed public school accountant perform an audit of a school district's accounts and financial transactions. Within five (5) months after the end of the school fiscal year, the Commissioner shall receive certified copies of each school district's audit. In addition, the audit must be summarized and discussed at a regular public meeting of the local board of education within thirty (30) days of its completion.

### **Bonds and Notes**

School district bonds and bond anticipation notes are required to be issued in conformity with the School Bond Law, which establishes debt limits on the issuance of bonds or notes. The debt limits vary depending on the type of school system.

The School District is a Type II school district. All authorizations of debt in a Type II school district not having a board of school estimate require an approving referendum. The Local Finance Board and the Commissioner must approve any proposed authorization of debt that exceeds the combined statutory debt limitations of a Type II district and the municipality or municipalities

coterminous therewith. When such obligations are issued, they are issued in the name of the school district.

Prior to final approval, all authorizations of debt must be reported by a supplemental debt statement to the Division of Local Government Services, a State agency having regulatory responsibility for all local debt issuance in the State.

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

### **Refunding Bonds**

Notwithstanding the above provisions regarding issuance of debt, including debt limits and voter referendums, school districts may authorize and issue refunding bonds for the purpose of paying any refunded bonds, together with the costs of issuing the bonds.

### **Debt Limitation**

Except as provided below, no additional debt shall be authorized by a school district if the principal amount, when added to the net school debt previously authorized, exceeds a statutory percentage of the average equalized valuation of taxable property in the school district. As a kindergarten through eighth grade school district, the School District can borrow up to three percent (3.0%) of the average equalized valuation of taxable property in the School District. The School District is within its statutory borrowing capacity.

### **Exceptions to Debt Limitation**

A Type II local school district may also utilize its municipality's remaining statutory borrowing power (i.e., the excess of three and one half percent (3.5%) of the average equalized valuation of taxable property within the municipality over the municipality's net debt). The School District has not utilized any part of the City's borrowing margin. A school district must obtain approval from the Commissioner and the Local Finance Board before authorizing debt in excess of its limit.

### **Capital Lease Financing**

School districts are permitted to enter into lease purchase agreements: (1) for the acquisition of equipment; (2) for the acquisition of land and school buildings; and (3) for the construction or the improvement of the school buildings. Generally, lease purchase agreements for equipment cannot exceed five years except for certain leases financing energy savings equipment that are payable from the energy savings. Lease purchase agreements for school districts for a term of five (5) years or more must be approved by the Commissioner with the exception of certain energy-saving

equipment which may be leased for up to fifteen (15) years if paid from energy savings received by the school district. The Facilities Act repeals the authorization to enter into facilities leases in excess of five (5) years. Lease purchase agreements involving a ground lease of school facilities for a term of five (5) years or less must be approved by the Commissioner. The payment of rent on an equipment lease and on a five year and under facilities lease is treated as a current expense and is within the CAP on the school district's budget. Under CEIFA, lease purchase payments on leases in excess of five years will be treated as debt service payments and, therefore, will revive debt service aid if the school district is entitled and will be outside the school districts spending limitation on the General Fund.

### **Related Constitutional and Statutory Provisions**

In the general election of November 2, 1976, as amended by the general election of November 6, 1984, the following Article 8, Section 1, Paragraph 7, in respect of a state income tax, was added to the State Constitution:

No tax shall be levied on personal incomes of individuals, estates and trusts of this State unless the entire net receipts therefrom shall be received into the treasury, placed in a perpetual fund and be annually appropriated, pursuant to formulas established from time to time by the Legislature, to the several counties, municipalities and school districts of this State exclusively for the purpose of reducing or offsetting property taxes. In no event, however, shall a tax so levied on personal income be levied on payments received under the federal Social Security Act, the federal Railroad Retirement Act, or any federal law which substantially reenacts the provisions of either of those laws.

A progressive state income tax is currently in effect in the State. Interest payable on the Bonds is exempt therefrom.

The State Constitution may only be amended after: (i) approval of a proposed amendment by three-fifths of all of the members of each house of the State Legislature and approval by a majority vote in a statewide referendum; or (ii) approval in two (2) successive legislative years by a majority of all of the members of each house of the Legislature and approval by a majority vote in a statewide referendum. Amendments failing to receive voter approval may not be resubmitted for voter approval before the third succeeding general election after such disaffirmance.

### **Rights and Remedies of Owners of Bonds**

The New Jersey Municipal Finance Commission Act, Chapter 27 of Title 52 of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended and supplemented ("Municipal Finance Commission Act"), provides that when it has been established by court proceeding that a municipality has defaulted for over sixty (60) days in the payment of the principal of or interest on any of its outstanding bonds or notes, the Local Finance Board of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (which, pursuant to the Municipal Finance Commission Act, is constituted the Municipal Finance Commission and shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Commission") shall take control of the fiscal affairs of the defaulting municipality.

The Municipal Finance Commission Act provides that the Commission shall remain in control in the municipality until all bonds or notes of the municipality that have become due and all bonds or notes that will become due within one year, and the interest thereon, have been paid, funded or refunded, or the payment thereof in cash shall have been adequately provided for by a cash reserve.

The Municipal Finance Commission Act empowers the Commission to direct the school district coterminous with the municipality to provide for the funding of bonds or notes of the school district and the interest thereon, which the Commission shall have found to be outstanding and unpaid and to be due or become due. The Municipal Finance Commission Act further authorizes the Commission to bring and maintain an appropriate proceeding for the levy or collection of taxes for the payment of principal of or interest on such indebtedness which special tax shall be levied upon all the real and personal property in the school district subject to taxation.

Under Article 6 of the Municipal Finance Commission Act, while the Commission functions in a municipality having a school district coterminous therewith, no judgment, levy, or execution against the school district or its property for the recovery of the amount due on any bonds, notes or other obligations of the school district in the payment of which it has defaulted, shall be enforced unless otherwise directed by court order. However, Article 6 of the Municipal Finance Commission Act also provides that upon application of any creditor made upon notice to the school district and the Commission, a court may vacate, modify, or restrict any such statutory stay contained therein

### **Limitation of Remedies Under Federal Bankruptcy Code**

The undertakings of the School District should be considered with reference to Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Act, 11 U.S.C. Section 901 *et seq.*, as amended by Public Law 94-260, approved May 8, 1976 ("Chapter 9"), the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978, effective November 1, 1979, Public Law 100-597, effective November 3, 1988, the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994, effective November 22, 1994, and other bankruptcy laws affecting creditors' rights and municipalities in general. The amendments of P.L. 94-260 (the "1976 Amendment") replace former Chapter 9 and permit the State or any political subdivision, public agency, or instrumentality that is insolvent or unable to meet its debts to file a petition in a court of bankruptcy for the purpose of effecting a plan to adjust its debts; directs such a petitioner to file with the court a list of petitioner's creditors; provides that a petition filed under Chapter 9 shall operate as a stay of the commencement or continuation of any judicial or other proceeding against the petitioner; grants priority to debt owed for services or materials actually provided within three (3) months of the filing of the petition; directs a petitioner to file a plan for the adjustment of its debts; and provides that the plan must be accepted in writing by or on behalf of creditors holding at least two-thirds in amount or more than one-half in number of the listed creditors. The 1976 Amendments were incorporated into the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978 with only minor changes.

Reference should also be made to *N.J.S.A. 52:27-40 et seq.* ("State Bankruptcy Statute"), which provides that a municipality or school district has the power to file a petition in bankruptcy provided the approval of the New Jersey Municipal Finance Commission has been obtained. The powers of the New Jersey Municipal Finance Commission have been vested in the Local Finance Board. The Bankruptcy Act specifically provides that Chapter 9 does not limit or impair the power of a state to control, by legislation or otherwise, the procedures that a municipality or school district must follow in order to take advantage of the provisions of the Bankruptcy Act.

**THE ABOVE REFERENCES TO CHAPTER 9 AND THE STATE BANKRUPTCY STATUTE ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS AN INDICATION THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPECTS TO RESORT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 9 AND THE STATE BANKRUPTCY STATUTE OR THAT, IF IT DID, SUCH ACTION WOULD BE APPROVED BY THE LOCAL FINANCE BOARD, OR THAT ANY PROPOSED PLAN WOULD INCLUDE A DILUTION OF THE SOURCES OF PAYMENT OF AND SECURITY FOR THE BONDS.**

## **INFORMATION REGARDING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **General**

General information concerning the School District and the City of Linwood, including statistical, demographic and other relevant data, is set forth in Appendix "A" to this Official Statement.

### **Financial**

Appendix "B" to this Official Statement contains excerpts of the audited financial statement of the School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. A copy of the audit prepared by Ford, Scott and Associates LLC, Ocean City, New Jersey, certified public accountants, and containing the financial statements and complete Reports of Audit may be obtained upon request to the office of the Board Secretary.

## **LITIGATION**

Upon delivery of the Bonds, the School District shall furnish an opinion of its solicitor, William S. Donio, Esquire, of the law firm Cooper Levenson Attorneys at Law, Atlantic City, New Jersey ("Solicitor"), dated the date of delivery of the Bonds, to the effect that there is no litigation of any nature pending or threatened to restrain or enjoin the issuance, sale, execution or delivery of the Bonds, or in any way contesting or affecting the validity of the Bonds or any of the proceedings taken with respect to the issuance and sale thereof or the application of moneys to the payment of the Bonds. In addition, such opinion shall state that there is no litigation of any nature now pending or threatened by or against the School District wherein an adverse judgment or ruling could have a material and adverse impact on the financial condition of the School District or adversely affect the power to levy, collect and enforce the collection of taxes and other revenues for the payment of its bonds, which has not been disclosed in this Official Statement.

## **APPROVAL OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

All legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds are subject to the approval of Parker McCay P.A., Mount Laurel, New Jersey, Bond Counsel to the School District, whose approving legal opinion will be delivered with the Bonds substantially in the form set forth in Appendix "C" hereto. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the School District by its Solicitor.



The various legal opinions to be delivered concurrently with the delivery of the Bonds express the professional judgment of the attorneys rendering the opinions as to the legal issues explicitly addressed therein. In rendering a legal opinion, the attorney does not become an insurer or guarantor of that expression of professional judgment, of the transaction opined upon, or the future performance of parties to the transaction. Nor does the rendering of an opinion guarantee the outcome of any legal dispute that may arise out of the transaction.

## **PREPARATION OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

The School District hereby states that the descriptions and statements herein, including financial statements, are true and correct in all material respects and it will confirm the same to the purchasers of the Bonds, by certificates signed by various School District officials.

All other information has been obtained from sources that the School District considers to be reliable and it makes no warranty, guaranty or other representation with respect to the accuracy and completeness of such information.

Parker McCay P.A. has not participated in the preparation of this Official Statement, nor has such firm verified the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the information contained herein (except under the heading "TAX MATTERS") and accordingly will express no opinion with respect thereto.

Holman Frenia Allison, P.C., only takes responsibility for the financial statements appearing in Appendix "B" hereto.

## **TAX MATTERS**

### **Federal**

In the opinion of Parker McCay, P.A., Mount Laurel, New Jersey, Bond Counsel to the School District, assuming continuing compliance by the School District with the tax covenants described below, under existing law, interest on the Bonds is not included for federal income tax purposes in the gross income of the owners thereof pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as previously amended, and as further amended pursuant to Public Law 115-97 ("Tax Cuts and Jobs Act"), signed into law on December 22, 2017 (as amended, the "Code"), and is not a specific item of tax preference under Section 57 of the Code for purposes of calculating the alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and, for tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018, corporations pursuant to Section 55 of the Code.

For tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2018, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has repealed the alternative minimum tax for corporations. However, for tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018, the adjustment for "adjusted current earnings" set forth in Section 56(g) of the Code is required in determining a corporation's alternative minimum taxable income. Alternative minimum taxable income is increased by seventy-five percent (75%) of the excess, if any, of the "adjusted current earnings" of a corporation over the alternative minimum taxable income (determined without regard to this adjustment or the alternative tax net operating loss deduction). For certain corporations with tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018, interest on tax-exempt obligations, including the Bonds, is included in computing "adjusted current earnings" of those corporations. Accordingly, a portion of

the interest on the Bonds received or accrued by corporations with tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018 that own the Bonds is included in computing such corporation's alternative minimum taxable income for such year.

Section 884 of the Code imposes on certain foreign corporations a branch profits tax equal to thirty percent (30%) of the "dividend equivalent amount" for the taxable year. Interest on the Bonds received or accrued by a foreign corporation subject to the branch profits tax may be included in computing the "dividend equivalent amount" of such corporation.

In addition, passive investment income, including interest on the Bonds, may be subject to federal income taxation under Section 1375 of the Code for any S corporation that has Subchapter C earnings and profits at the close of the taxable year, if more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the gross receipts of such S corporation is passive investment income.

In rendering its opinion, Bond Counsel has relied on the School District's covenants contained in the Resolution and in the Certificate as to Nonarbitrage and Other Tax Matters, that it will comply with the applicable requirements of the Code, relating to, inter alia, the use and investment of proceeds of the Bonds and rebate to the United States Treasury of specified arbitrage earnings, if any, under Section 148(f) of the Code. Failure of the School District to comply with such covenants could result in the interest on the Bonds being subject to federal income tax from the date of issue. Bond Counsel has not undertaken to monitor compliance with such covenants or to advise any party as to changes in the law after the date of issuance of the Bonds that may affect the tax-exempt status of the interest on the Bonds.

Ownership of the Bonds may result in collateral federal income tax consequences to certain taxpayers including, without limitation, certain holders of an interest in a financial asset securitization investment trust, controlled foreign corporations, property and casualty insurance companies, individual recipients of Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits, individuals who otherwise qualify for the earned income credit, and to individuals and families that qualify for a premium assistance credit amount under Section 36B of the Code. The Code denies the earned income credit to an individual who is otherwise eligible if the aggregate amount of disqualified income of the taxpayer for the taxable year exceeds certain limits set forth in Sections 32(i) and (j) of the Code. Interest on the Bonds will constitute disqualified income for this purpose. The Code also provides that the earned income credit is phased out if the modified adjusted gross income of the taxpayer exceeds certain amounts. Interest on the Bonds is included in determining the modified adjusted gross income of the taxpayer. Section 36B of the Code provides that the amount of the premium assistance credit amount is in part determined by household income. Section 36B(d) of the Code provides that household income consists of the modified adjusted gross income of the taxpayer and certain other individuals. Modified adjusted gross income means adjusted gross income increased by certain amounts, including interest received or accrued by the taxpayer which is exempt from tax, such as the interest on the Bonds.

In addition, attention is called to the fact that Section 265(b)(1) of the Code eliminates the interest deduction otherwise allowable with respect to indebtedness deemed incurred by banks, thrift institutions and other financial institutions to purchase or to carry tax-exempt obligations acquired after August 7, 1986 other than "qualified tax-exempt obligations" as defined in Section 265(b)(3) of the Code. The School District has designated the Bonds as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purposes of Section 265(b)(1) of the Code. Eighty percent (80%) of the interest expense deemed

incurred by banks, thrift institutions and other financial institutions to purchase or carry "qualified tax-exempt obligations" is deductible.

Owners of the Bonds should consult their own tax advisors as to the applicability and effect on their federal income taxes of the alternative minimum tax, the branch profits tax and the tax on passive investment income of S corporations, as well as the applicability and effect of any other collateral federal income tax consequences.

## **New Jersey**

Bond Counsel is also of the opinion that interest on the Bonds and any gain from the sale thereof is not included in the gross income of the owners thereof under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act, as presently enacted and construed.

## **Changes in Federal and State Tax Law**

From time to time, there are legislative proposals in the United States Congress and in the states that, if enacted, could alter or amend the Federal and State tax matters referred to above or adversely affect the market value of the Bonds. It cannot be predicted whether or in what form any such proposals might be enacted or whether, if enacted, it would apply to bonds or notes issued prior to enactment. In addition, regulatory actions are from time to time announced or proposed and litigation is threatened or commenced which, if implemented or concluded in a particular manner, could adversely affect the market value of the Bonds.

**PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS OF THE BONDS SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS REGARDING ANY FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAX LEGISLATION, WHETHER CURRENTLY PENDING OR PROPOSED, REGULATORY INITIATIVES OR LITIGATION. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY BOND COUNSEL ARE BASED UPON EXISTING LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY RELEVANT JUDICIAL AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AS OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE AND DELIVERY OF THE BONDS AND BOND COUNSEL HAS EXPRESSED NO OPINION AS OF ANY DATE SUBSEQUENT THERETO OR WITH RESPECT TO ANY PENDING LEGISLATION, REGULATORY INITIATIVES OR LITIGATION.**

## **RATINGS**

S&P has assigned an underlying rating of "AA-" to the Bonds. S&P and KBRA (the "Rating Agencies") are expected to assign ratings of "AA" and "AA+", respectively, to the Bonds based upon the issuance of the Policy from MAC at the time of delivery of the Bonds. In addition, S&P has assigned a rating of "BBB+" based upon the additional security on the Bonds provided by the New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act.

The ratings reflect only the view of the Rating Agencies and an explanation of the significance of such ratings may only be obtained from the Rating Agencies at the following address: 55 Water Street, New York, New York 10041 and 845 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022, respectively. The School District furnished to S&P certain information and materials concerning the Bonds and the School District. There can be no assurance that the ratings will be maintained for any given period of time or that the ratings may not be raised, lowered or withdrawn entirely, if in the Rating Agencies

judgment, circumstances so warrant. Any downward change in, or withdrawal of such ratings, may have an adverse effect on the marketability or market price of the Bonds.

### **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

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

### **NO DEFAULT**

There is no record of default in the payment of the principal of or interest on the bonds or notes of the School District.

### **CONTINUING DISCLOSURE**

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 15c2-12, as amended, promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Rule"), the School District will, prior to the issuance of the Bonds, enter into an agreement, substantially in the form set forth in Appendix "D" hereto ("Continuing Disclosure Agreement").

The Board has not previously issued any indebtedness subject to the Rule and, therefore, has not had any undertakings with regard to continuing disclosure under the Rule. However, in connection with the issuance of the Bonds, the Board has appointed Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Bordentown, New Jersey to act as Continuing Disclosure Agent to assist in the filing of certain information on the Electronic Municipal Market Access system ("EMMA") as required with respect to continuing disclosure obligations pursuant to the Rule and, in particular, the Continuing Disclosure Agreement.

### **LEGALITY FOR INVESTMENT**

Applicable laws of the State provide that the Bonds are legal investments for funds held by, *inter alia*, banks, savings banks, trust companies, insurance companies or associations and fiduciaries.

### **UNDERWRITING**

The Bonds have been purchased from the School District at a public sale by by Roosevelt & Cross, Inc., and Associates, as underwriter ("Underwriter"), pursuant to a Certificate of Determination and Award, dated June 19, 2018. The Underwriter has purchased the Bonds in accordance with the Notice of Sale. The Bonds are being offered for sale at the yields set forth on the cover of this Official Statement. The Underwriter is obligated to purchase all of the Bonds if any of the Bonds are purchased.

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

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Inquiries regarding this Official Statement, may be directed to Teri J. Weeks, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Linwood City School District, 51 Belhaven Avenue, Linwood, New Jersey 08221, or to the Municipal Advisor, Phoenix Advisors, LLC at 4 West Park Street, Bordentown, New Jersey 08505.

So far as any statements made in this Official Statement involve matters of opinion or estimates, whether or not expressly stated, they are set forth as such and not as representations of fact, and no representation is made that any of such statements will be realized. Neither this Official Statement nor any statement which may have been made verbally or in writing is to be construed as a contract or agreement with the owners of the Bonds.

All quotations from and summaries and explanations of provisions of laws of the State herein do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the official compilation thereof.

This Official Statement has been duly executed and delivered by the School District.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF  
LINWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW  
JERSEY**

**By: /s/ Teri J. Weeks**

**TERI J. WEEKS,**

**Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**Dated: June 19, 2018**

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **General Information Relating to the School District and Economic and Demographic Information Relating to the City of Linwood**

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# **GENERAL, FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE CITY OF LINWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **The School District and Board of Education**

The Board of Education of the City of Linwood ("School Board" when referring to the governing body and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the School Board) is a Type II School district, consisting of nine (9) members elected to staggered three-year terms. The staggered terms provide for continuity in the membership and the functioning of the School Board. The Superintendent appointed by and responsible to the School Board, is the executive in charge of the instruction program and personnel. The School Business Administrator likewise appointed by and responsible to the School Board, is the chief fiscal and business officer of the system.

The School District operates a Pre-kindergarten through 8th grade education system. The School District is a constituent district of the Mainland Regional High School District. Its public-school students in grades 9 through 12 attend the Mainland Regional High School, located in Linwood. The Regional School District is a Type II School District, with members being elected by the voters of the cities of Somers Point, Linwood and Northfield. Linwood is currently responsible for 32.90% of the tax requirements of the District.

The Commissioner of Education must notify each school district, on or before December 15, of the amount of aid payable to each district for the succeeding year. The Commissioner must also notify the district of its maximum permissible local levy, if applicable. On or before January 15, local boards of education must submit to the Commissioner a copy of their proposed budgets for the next school year. The Commissioner then reviews all current expenses and capital outlay appropriations to determine their adequacy with regard to the annual report submitted for the district.

The School District operates on a fiscal year July 1 to June 30, but taxes are raised on a calendar year basis. This means that taxes are raised for six months of the two school years that make up the calendar year and paid to the local school by December 31.

The Regional Board operates on a fiscal year July 1 to June 30, but taxes are levied for the school on a calendar year basis. This means that taxes are raised for six months of the two school years (as in the case of the local school) that make up the calendar year and paid to the Regional School by December 31.

In addition to the public school systems, St. Joseph's Catholic School in Somers Point and Holy Spirit High School in Absecon offer parochial education for students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade and grades nine through twelve, respectively.

Atlantic County offers a vocational school to all students desirous of attending and also supports a two-year Atlantic-Cape Community College for its residents.

Since 1951, all school districts of the State of New Jersey must be audited by a licensed Public School Accountant who is either a Certified Public Accountant or Registered Municipal Accountant of New Jersey, or both. The New Jersey State Board of Certified Public Accountants regulates the Public School Accountant and issues licenses. The annual audit must be filed with the Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education of the State of New Jersey by December 5<sup>th</sup>.

The duties and responsibilities of the Board are mandated by the School Code and therefore, the Board performs only those acts for which express or implied authority exists in law or in the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. Among its powers and duties, the Board is required to: (a) enforce the rules of the State Board of Education; (b) make, amend and repeal rules for its own governance, the transaction of its business, the governance and management of its public schools and public properties in the School District, and for the employment, regulation of conduct and discharge of employees; and (c) perform all acts necessary for the proper conduct, equipping and maintaining of its public schools.

Pursuant to the School Code, the Board may fix and determine the amount of money in its budget, approve capital projects and authorize the issuance of school bonds, all to be submitted to and adopted by the legal voters of the School District, in the manner and subject to the limitations described herein.

### Organization and Structure

The Superintendent of Schools, Brian M. Pruitt, directs the day-to-day administration and operation of the School District. He has served in this capacity since February 1, 2018. Prior to being superintendent at the City of Linwood School District, Mr. Pruitt has served as a Teacher, Principal and Superintendent of Schools in other New Jersey School Districts.

The Board Secretary and Business Administrator is Teri J. Weeks, CPA. She has served in this capacity since September of 1997.

### School District Facilities

The School District operates two schools: the Seaview Elementary School, serving preschool handicap and kindergarten through grade four, and the Belhaven Middle School, grades five through eight. Both schools have recently been renovated and enlarged. Seaview Elementary School has a current enrollment of 439 and a functional capacity of 417. Belhaven Middle School has a current enrollment of 381 and a functional capacity of 537.

The following table presents the School District's five-year enrollment history:

Grade	School Year				
	17-18	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14
Pre-K	12.0	13.0	16.0	17.0	19.0
Kindergarten	62.0	70.0	57.0	68.0	54.0
1	72.0	68.0	75.0	77.0	80.0
2	68.0	74.0	78.0	82.0	76.0
3	77.0	78.0	81.0	74.0	72.0
4	78.0	86.0	73.0	72.0	79.0
5	85.0	77.0	76.0	85.0	83.0
6	77.0	81.0	88.0	92.0	88.0
7	90.0	90.0	93.0	90.0	102.0
8	90.0	95.0	87.0	102.0	101.0
Special Ed.	109.0	104.0	108.0	101.0	109.0
	820.0	836.0	832.0	860.0	863.0

Source: Application for State School Aid (ASSA), count taken as of October 15th.

## Long Term Debt

The School District currently has no long term bonded debt other than this proposed issue.

## School District Indebtedness – Borrowing Capacity

The basic borrowing power of the School District is 3% of the three-year equalized valuation basis of the City of Linwood. The equalized valuation basis of a municipality is the average, for the three preceding years, of all taxable property, improvements to real property and certain “Class II Railroad Property” located within its boundaries. Equalized valuation basis is determined annually by the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

### Debt Incurring Capacity at December 31, 2017

3% of Averaged (2015-2017) Equalized Valuation of Real Property with Improvements (1)	\$ 28,044,904.36
School District Debt	-
Remaining Debt Incurring Capacity as of 12/31/2017	<u>\$ 28,044,904.36</u>

(1) 3-Year Average Equalized Valuation  
is \$934,830,145.33.

Source: Equalized valuation bases were provided by the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Taxation.

### Direct and Overlapping Debt (1) at December 31, 2017

Overlapping Debt			
Mainland Regional School District (1)	City of Linwood (1)	Atlantic County (2)	Total
\$ 10,211,220.52	\$ 17,064,141.32	\$ 4,362,417.28	\$ 31,637,779.12
Gross Debt			
Direct Debt of the School District at December 31, 2017			-
Total Direct and Overlapping Debt			<u>\$ 31,637,779.12</u>

(1) Annual Debt Statement as filed by the City of Linwood as of December 31, 2017.

(2) 2.67080796% of the Gross debt for the County of Atlantic County at December 31, 2017 in the amount of \$163,336,988.00. The amount attributed to the City of Linwood is based on average equalized valuation taxable at December 31, 2017 for each City of Linwood divided by total equalized valuation for Atlantic County.

## School District Retirement System

Employees of the School District are enrolled in one of two retirement systems. Teachers and members of the professional staff have retirement benefits covered under the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund of the State of New Jersey. All other eligible employees are enrolled in the Public Employees' Retirement System. See Appendix B, “Notes to the Financial Statements” for further detail.

## **Employee Collective Bargaining Units**

The School District, as of June 30, 2017 employed 134 persons on a full-time equivalency basis in instructional and non-instructional/non-professional capacities. The School District has separate agreements with the following collective bargaining units:

- (1) Linwood Education Association; contract expires June 30, 2019.
- (2) Linwood Principals and Supervisors Association; contract expires June 30, 2018.

## **Transportation**

The City is accessible by land via the Garden State Parkway, a major north-south artery which is adjacent to the City and provides access to New York City, and via the Atlantic City Expressway, which is five miles distance and leads directly to Philadelphia. The Parkway going south connects with the Cape May-Lewes ferry service, which provides a convenient, modern method of crossing the Delaware Bay to points south.

## **Hospitals**

Shore Memorial Hospital, a modern health facility located in neighboring Somers Point, is approximately two miles from Linwood. In addition, Atlantic City Medical Center has two large, modern facilities in Atlantic County, which can be reached from Linwood in less than one-half hour.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Fiscal and Financial Data

The School District's financial statements were prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The financial information set forth herein includes the adopted 2017-2018 School District budget (see "Budget") and certain financial information for the fiscal years (ending June 30) 2015, 2016 and 2017. See Appendix A for certain audited financial statements of the School District for fiscal year 2014.

### Changes in Net Position

The following table sets forth the Changes in Net Position of the School District for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015:

<b>Revenues:</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Program Revenues:			
Charges for Services	\$ 321,524	\$ 278,112	\$ 248,770
Grants and Contributions	5,308,931	4,033,833	3,301,697
General Revenues:			
Property Taxes	11,218,084	11,517,868	11,376,075
Grants and Entitlements	1,720,436	1,658,433	1,620,550
Capital Proceeds from the City of Linwood		559,411	831,596
Other	62,874	73,972	115,234
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 18,631,849</u>	<u>\$ 18,121,629</u>	<u>\$ 17,493,922</u>
<b>Program Expenses:</b>			
Instruction	\$ 12,015,855	\$ 10,989,923	\$ 10,780,589
Support Services:			
Tuition	144,291	159,964	130,598
Student and Instructional Related Services	3,239,485	2,730,790	2,251,394
General and School Administration	1,963,234	2,027,893	1,737,672
Operations and Maintenance	2,218,738	2,072,166	2,270,126
Pupil Transportation	213,525	148,906	136,680
Child Care	115,205	81,403	74,414
Total Expenses	<u>19,910,333</u>	<u>18,211,045</u>	<u>17,381,473</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Position	<u>\$ (1,278,484)</u>	<u>\$ (89,416)</u>	<u>\$ 112,449</u>

Source: Audited Financial Statements.

## Statement of Net Position

The following table sets forth the School District's Statement of Net Position (1) for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,234,958	\$ 2,966,055	\$ 2,683,205
Receivables, Net	248,494	235,839	196,541
Capital Assets, Net	16,102,697	16,624,520	16,626,933
Deferred Outflow of Resources	1,429,876	667,325	347,786
Total Assets	<u>\$ 21,016,025</u>	<u>\$ 20,493,739</u>	<u>\$ 19,854,465</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 322,052	\$ 68,561	\$ 180,815
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Due Within One Year	1,181,892	679,398	456,824
Due Beyond One year	5,141,909	4,370,213	3,607,142
Deferred Inflow of Resources	343,354	70,265	214,966
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 6,989,207</u>	<u>\$ 5,188,437</u>	<u>\$ 4,459,747</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	\$ 16,102,697	\$ 16,624,520	\$ 16,626,933
Restricted for:			
Capital Projects	525,214	733,114	896,037
Other Purposes	2,327,592	2,140,559	1,607,836
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(4,928,685)	(4,192,891)	(3,736,088)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 14,026,818</u>	<u>\$ 15,305,302</u>	<u>\$ 15,394,718</u>

(1) Includes both Governmental and Business-Type Activities.

Source: Audited Financial Statements.

## Budget and Operations

The following table summarizes the School District budgets for fiscal years 2017-2018, 2016-2017, and 2015-2016.

	2017-2018 Budget	Audited (1) 2016-2017 Realized	Audited (1) 2015-2016 Realized
Anticipated Revenues:			
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$ 1,012,772	\$ -	\$ -
Revenues from:			
Local Sources	11,490,178	11,564,504	11,808,591
State Sources	1,581,845	1,721,200	1,659,604
Federal Sources	240,134	266,272	259,551
Total Anticipated Revenues	<u>14,324,929</u>	<u>13,551,976</u>	<u>13,727,746</u>
Appropriations:			
Current Expenses	13,909,798	12,849,552	12,777,708
Special Revenue Projects	242,284	338,068	315,546
Capital Outlay	172,847	330,093	234,872
Total Appropriations / Expenditures	<u>14,324,929</u>	<u>13,517,713</u>	<u>13,328,126</u>

Source: User Friendly Budget & Audited Financial Statements.

(1) Audited amounts exclude both revenue and expenses for On-behalf Payments made by the State of New Jersey.

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

### Population

The population of the School District has decreased from 7, 172 persons in 2000 to 7,092 persons in 2010, a decrease of 1.12 percent.

The following tables summarize the population trends and the respective population densities of the City of Linwood and Atlantic County.

Population Trends – Census Data from 1970 to 2010:		
Year	City of Linwood	County of Atlantic
1970	6,159	175,043
1980	6,144	194,119
1990	6,866	224,327
2000	7,172	252,552
2010	7,092	274,549
2016 Estimated	6,892	270,991

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

## Population Density

The following table illustrates population figures per square mile in each of the constituent municipalities and Atlantic County:

Area	Land Area Sq. Miles	2010		2016	
		Population	Density Pop./Sq. Mile	Population	Density Pop./Sq. Mile
City of Linwood	3.83	7,092	1,852	6,892	1,799
County of Atlantic	501.01	274,549	548	270,991	541

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

## Land Utilization

The School District encompasses an area of 3.83 square miles and is suburban and primarily residential.

## Personal Income

The following table illustrates per capita personal income for the County of Atlantic County for the past ten years available:

Year	Per Capita Personal Income
2015	\$ 43,695
2014	41,931
2013	40,769
2012	40,429
2011	39,709
2010	38,305
2009	38,348
2008	38,765
2007	37,121
2006	36,095

Source: NJ Department of Labor



## Labor Force Data – Annual Averages

The following table illustrates labor force and unemployment statistics for the City of Linwood, the County of Atlantic, the State of New Jersey and the United States for the years 2014 through 2016:

	2016	2015	2014
<b>City of Linwood</b>			
Labor Force	3,247	3,319	3,452
Employment	3,084	3,125	3,224
Unemployment	163	194	228
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.0%	5.8%	6.6%
<b>County of Atlantic</b>			
Labor Force	124,251	127,666	133,130
Employment	115,053	115,704	119,313
Unemployment	9,198	11,962	13,817
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.4%	9.4%	10.4%
<b>State of New Jersey</b>			
Labor Force	4,524,300	4,543,741	4,518,700
Employment	4,299,900	4,288,839	4,218,450
Unemployment	224,400	254,902	300,250
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.0%	5.6%	6.6%
<b>United States</b>			
Labor Force	159,186,000	157,128,000	146,305,000
Employment	150,113,000	149,428,000	136,688,000
Unemployment	9,073,000	7,700,000	9,617,000
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7%	4.9%	6.6%

Source: State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

## **CERTAIN FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF LINWOOD**

### **School District Tax Base**

The School District serves the City of Linwood. The tax base of the municipality is also the School District's tax base. Much of the following information describes that base. In addition to State aid, local real property tax is the major funding source for the School District.

The School District is located in the south-eastern portion of the County of Atlantic, New Jersey. The School District falls within the Atlantic City Metropolitan Statistical Area ("MSA"), an area coterminous with Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

### **Limitation on Expenditure Growth of Municipalities**

Statutory requirements begun in 1977 have placed significant restrictions on the growth of annual expenditures for New Jersey political subdivisions, including the City of Linwood.

Under an amendment to the Local Budget Law, Chapter 4 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, municipalities are prohibited from increasing the final appropriations by more than 3.50 percent, or the increase in the Federal Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchases ("Index Rate"), whichever is less, over the previous year except by referendum, but such prohibition is subject to certain exceptions, which include additional increases for all debt service; amounts, if any, required for funding a preceding year's deficit; and expenditures funded by sources other than the local property tax. If the Index Rate does not equal or exceed 3.50 percent, municipalities may set their budget caps at 3.5 percent by ordinance.

### **Financial and Statistical Information Regarding Constituent Municipalities**

In the following pages the financial position and the results of financial operations of the City of Linwood Current Fund for fiscal years ending December 31, 2017 and 2016 are reflected in the respective balance sheets and comparative statements of operations and changes in current fund balances.

**CITY OF LINWOOD  
CURRENT FUND  
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET – REGULATORY BASIS**

	<b>Audited Balance Dec. 31, 2017</b>	<b>Audited Balance Dec. 31, 2016</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash & Investments	\$ 4,317,421	\$ 1,761,517
Property Taxes Receivable	383,148	376,439
Tax Title Liens Receivable	34,437	38,454
Property Acquired for Taxes	28,147	28,147
Interfunds Receivable	173,199	174,382
Other Accounts Receivable	37,885	39,732
Deferred Charges		40,180
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,974,237</b>	<b>\$ 2,458,851</b>
<b>Liabilities, Reserves &amp; Fund Balance</b>		
Appropriation Reserves	\$ 274,046	\$ 176,478
Reserve for Encumbrances	135,036	134,821
Special Emergency Note Payable	-	40,180
Accounts Payable	23,653	23,096
Tax Overpayments	18,073	35,693
Prepaid Taxes	2,564,353	260,214
Prepaid Sewer Rents	338,059	323,487
Interfunds Payable	989	989
Reserve for Receivables & Other Assets	656,816	657,154
Fund Balance	963,211	806,739
<b>Liabilities, Reserves &amp; Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,974,237</b>	<b>\$ 2,458,851</b>

Source: City of Linwood Annual Audit for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

**CITY OF LINWOOD  
CURRENT FUND  
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE  
REGULATORY BASIS**

	<b>Audited Year Ended Dec. 31, 2017</b>	<b>Audited Year Ended Dec. 31, 2017</b>
<b>Revenue &amp; Other Income Realized</b>		
Fund Balance	\$ 105,000	\$ 165,000
Miscellaneous Revenue Anticipated	2,536,907	2,635,802
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	387,179	572,729
Receipts from Current Taxes	31,264,051	31,071,507
Non Budget Revenues	67,041	84,125
Appropriation Reserves Lapsed	181,475	187,972
Interfunds Returned	-	164,877
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Other Income Realized</b>	<b>34,541,653</b>	<b>34,882,012</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Appropriations Within "CAPS"		
Salaries & Wages	3,235,883	3,147,719
Other Expenses	3,906,579	3,767,010
Deferred Charges & Statutory Expenditures	858,640	934,009
Appropriations Excluded from "CAPS"		
Other Expenses	1,307,086	1,449,143
Capital Improvements	40,250	196,000
Debt Service	2,306,973	2,143,721
Deferred Charges	40,180	40,180
Local School District Taxes	11,286,131	11,367,976
Regional School District Taxes	6,575,874	6,317,665
County Taxes	4,720,511	4,549,880
Interfunds Created	-	164,877
Refund of Prior Year's Revenue	2,075	118,587
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>34,280,182</b>	<b>34,196,768</b>
Excess in Revenue	261,472	685,244
Fund Balance - January 1	806,739	286,495
Fund Balance Utilized as Revenue	(105,000)	(165,000)
Fund Balance - December 31	<b>\$ 963,211</b>	<b>\$ 806,739</b>

Source: City of Linwood Annual Audit for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Assessed Valuations & Equalized Valuations of Real Property, Tax Levies and Tax Rates**

<b>Year</b>			<b>Equalized (True) Value</b>	<b>Ratio of Assessed to True Value</b>			<b>Linwood School District Tax Levy</b>	<b>Tax Rate per \$100 of Assessed Value</b>	
								<b>Total</b>	<b>Linwood School District</b>
2017	\$	961,551,000	\$ 918,055,277	104.74%	\$	32,049,437	\$ 11,286,131	\$ 3.334	\$ 1.174
2016		978,750,200	959,996,164	101.95%		31,530,487	11,367,976	3.222	1.162
2015		986,052,200	997,942,958	98.81%		31,797,789	11,446,971	3.225	1.160
2014 (1)		1,009,416,904	1,015,360,682	99.41%		31,282,617	11,265,025	3.100	1.116
2013		779,803,897	1,048,358,046	74.38%		30,978,275	11,045,280	3.973	1.417

Source: Atlantic County Abstract of Ratables  
(1) Revaluation

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Trend of Real Property Classifications**

<b>Year</b>			<b>Vacant Land</b>	<b>Residential</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Farmland</b>	<b>Total Real Property</b>	<b>Personal Property</b>	<b>Total Taxable Value</b>
2017	\$	15,718,000	\$	828,083,900	\$	117,749,100	\$ -	\$	961,551,000
2016		17,525,500		842,409,500		117,900,700	914,500		978,750,200
2015		18,239,300		845,963,100		120,935,300	914,500		986,052,200
2014		17,950,900		860,628,300		129,366,000	880,200	1,008,825,400	591,504 (1)
2013		13,303,800		668,610,000		96,528,400	784,000	779,226,200	577,697

Source: State of NJ, Division of Local Government Services  
(1) Revaluation

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Property Tax Rates - Direct and Overlapping Governments**  
**Per \$100 of Assessed Valuation**  
**Last Five Years**

<b>Assessment Year</b>	<b>Local School District</b>	<b>Regional School District</b>	<b>City of Linwood</b>	<b>Atlantic County Tax Levy</b>	<b>Total</b>
2017	\$ 1.174	\$ 0.684	\$ 0.985	\$ 0.491	\$ 3.334
2016	1.162	0.645	0.950	0.465	3.222
2015	1.160	0.648	0.945	0.472	3.225
2014	1.116	0.629	0.917	0.438	3.100
2013	1.417	0.799	1.175	0.582	3.973

Source – Atlantic County Abstract of Ratables

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Schedule of Principal Taxpayers**

<b>Taxpayer</b>	<b>Nature of Business</b>	<b>2017 Assessed Value</b>	<b>As a % of Net Assessed Value</b>
1 CCC Atlantic, LLC	Corporate & Retail	\$ 4,809,000	0.50%
2 Brandall Estates, LLC	Senior Assisted Living	7,065,500	0.73%
3 Central Square	Retail	2,518,800	0.26%
4 Lg-ohi Linwood Llc	Medical Care Center	6,829,900	0.71%
5 Central Square	Professional Offices	2,518,800	0.26%
6 Alexon Enterprises, LLC	Corporate Offices	2,024,000	0.21%
7 Longport Media, LLC	Radio Stations	1,449,100	0.15%
8 7 Pond, LLC	Residence	1,371,300	0.14%
9 Individual Property Owner #1	Residence	1,334,400	0.14%
10 650 New Road Associates, LLC	Professional Offices	1,293,900	0.13%
		<b>\$ 31,214,700</b>	<b>3.25%</b>

Source – Municipal Tax Assessors

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Financial Statements of the School District**

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# Linwood Board of Education

51 Belhaven Avenue  
Belhaven Avenue School  
Linwood, New Jersey 08221



## Excellence in Teaching and Learning

### ***Michelle Cappelluti, EdD.***

Chief School Administrator

Voice: (609) 926-6703 Fax: (609) 926-6705

email: [michellecappelluti@linwoodschoools.org](mailto:michellecappelluti@linwoodschoools.org)

### ***Teri J. Weeks, CPA***

School Business Administrator

Voice: (609) 926-6707 Fax: (609) 926-6705

email: [teriweeks@linwoodschoools.org](mailto:teriweeks@linwoodschoools.org)

September 25, 2017

Honorable President and  
Members of the Board of Education  
Linwood School District  
Atlantic County, NJ 08221

Dear Members of the Board:

The comprehensive annual financial report of the Linwood School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 is hereby submitted. Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data and completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures, rests with the management of the Linwood Board of Education. To the best of our knowledge and belief, the data presented in this report is accurate in all material respects and is reported in a manner designed to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the various funds and account groups of the District. All disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the District's financial activities have been included.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is presented in four sections: introductory, financial, statistical and single audit. The introductory section includes this transmittal letter, the District's organizational chart and a list of the principal officials. The financial section includes the basic financial statements and schedules, management's discussion and analysis, as well as the auditor's report thereon. The statistical section includes selected financial and demographic information, generally presented on a multi-year basis. The District is required to undergo an annual single audit in conformity with the provisions of the Single Audit Act of 1996, OMB Circular Uniform Guidance and NJ OMB 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid*. Information related to this single audit, including the auditor's report on the internal control structure and compliance with applicable laws and regulations and findings and recommendations, are included in the single audit section report.

### 1) REPORTING ENTITY AND ITS SERVICES:

Linwood School District is a Type I district and therefore a component unit of the City of Linwood within the criteria adopted by the GASB as established by GASB Statement No. 14. All funds and account groups of the District are included in this report. The Linwood Board of Education and all its schools constitute the District's reporting entity.

The District provides a full range of educational services appropriate to grade levels Preschool Handicapped and Inclusion through grade 8. These include regular as well as special education for handicapped youngsters. The District completed the 2016-2017 fiscal year with an average daily enrollment of 843.2 students, which is a .52% increase from the previous year's enrollment.

The following details the changes in the student enrollment of the District over the last five years.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Student Enrollment</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
2016-2017	843.2	0.52%
2015-2016	838.8	-2.91%
2014-2015	863.9	-0.47%
2013-2014	868	-2.43%
2012-2013	889.6	0.55%

### **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

Economic demands placed on the district remain significant and continue to be driven by the challenge of meeting individual needs. While enrollment has decreased slightly, the demand for these unique and important programs continues to grow. Our economic outlook reflects the support we receive from local tax payers who fund eighty-one percent of our general operating budget, excluding oh-behalf payments. During difficult economic times such as those we continue to experience, such support will most certainly be tested.

The District implemented, effective the 2012-2013 school year, a regular education tuition based program. Eligible students effective the 2016-2017 school year pay a tuition fee of 50% of the certified cost per pupil from the prior year for regular education and 90% for special education. The District also provided an expanded day Kindergarten program for a fee of \$3,750 and a Preschool Inclusion program for a fee of \$2,750 for the 2016-2017 school year. Both programs have been very successful and are at capacity.

The District received notification of reduced State aid after the 2017-2018 budget was finalized. The Board approved to reduce expenditures through attrition to accommodate this loss of aid.

### **MAJOR INITIATIVES**

The District will continue to retrofit and upgrade the facilities and structure to promote energy efficiencies. The district will be exploring green energy solutions during the 2017-2018 school year.

Educationally the Board is in year two of our adopted district goals:

- To identify and use data to drive curriculum implementation and program development
- To maintain and enhance the district's level of excellence within the current challenging fiscal environment

To this end, we have implemented a means to measure student growth through Reading Inventory in grades kindergarten through eight, and Linkit! In grades five through eight.

In addition the elementary grades have implemented a new reading series, Journeys, and a Backwards Design Curriculum with PBL Summative Assessments in grades five through eight. Our Go Math series has been updated to the 2015 edition and specific criteria have been set for our Gifted and Talented program.

The district continues to provide teaching staff member's ongoing professional development which supports student achievement acknowledging the increased rigor of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

The Next Generation Science Standards have been completed for all required grade levels and fully implemented in the science curriculum.

With all of this in place, we will be focusing on assessments and data to drive instruction, common benchmark assessments, department meetings, weekly professional learning community (PLC) meetings, and articulation with the regional high school.

#### 4) INTERNAL ACCOUNTING CONTROLS:

The management of the City of Linwood Board of Education is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to ensure that the assets of the District are protected from the loss, theft, or misuse and to ensure that adequate accounting data are compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principals. The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that 1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and 2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

As a recipient of federal and state financial assistance, the management of the Linwood Board of Education also is responsible for ensuring that an adequate internal control structure is in place to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to those programs. This internal control structure is also subject to periodic evaluation by the District management.

As part of the District's single audit described earlier, tests are made to determine the adequacy of the internal control structure, including that portion related to federal and state financial assistance programs, as well as to determine that the District has complied with applicable laws and regulations.

#### 5) BUDGETARY CONTROLS:

In addition to internal accounting controls, the Linwood School District maintains budgetary controls. The objective of these budgetary controls is to ensure compliance with legal provisions embodied in the annual appropriated budget approved by the Linwood City Board of School Estimates. Annual appropriated budgets are adopted for the general fund and the special revenue fund. Debt service is handled through the City of Linwood. Project length budgets are approved for the capital improvements and accounted for in the capital projects fund. The final budget amount as amended for the fiscal year is reflected in the financial section.

An encumbrance accounting system is used to record outstanding purchase commitments on a line item basis. Open encumbrances at year end are either canceled or are included as re-appropriation of fund balance in the subsequent year. Those amounts to be re-appropriated are reported as reservations of fund balance at June 30th.

#### 6) ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND REPORTS:

The Linwood School District's accounting records reflect generally accepted accounting principles, as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The accounting system of the District is organized on the basis of funds and account groups. These funds and account groups are explained in "Notes to the Financial Statements", Note 1.

## 7) DEBT ADMINISTRATION:

The Linwood School District was a Type I School District. Effective November 9, 2016, the District became a Type II School District. In the State of New Jersey, all Type I school debt is borne by the municipality rather than the school district. The District has not issued any debt as at Type II district.

## 8) CASH MANAGEMENT:

The investment policy of the District is guided in large part by state statute as detailed in "Notes to the Financial Statements", Note 2. The District has adopted a cash management plan which requires it to deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act ("GUDPA"). GUDPA was enacted in 1970 to protect Governmental Units from a loss of funds on deposit with a failed banking institution in New Jersey. The law requires governmental units to deposit public funds only in public depositories located in New Jersey, where the funds are secured in accordance with the Act.

## 9) RISK MANAGEMENT:

The Linwood Board of Education carries various forms of insurance, including but not limited to general liability, automobile liability and comprehensive/collision, hazard, and theft insurance on property and contents, and fidelity bonds.

## 10) OTHER INFORMATION:

A) *Independent Audit* - State statutes require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants or registered municipal accountants. The accounting firm of Ford, Scott & Associates, L.L.C., CPAs, was selected by the Board. In addition to meeting the requirements set forth in state statutes, the audit also was designed to meet the requirements of the Single Audit Act Amendment of 1996 and the related State Treasury Circular Letter NJ OMB 15-08. The auditor's report on the general purpose financial statements and combining and individual fund statements and schedules is included in the financial section of this report. The auditor's reports related specifically to the single audit are included in the single audit section of this report.

The City of Linwood (the City) is a suburban community located in Atlantic County. The City comprises an area of four square miles lying approximately nine miles to the west of Atlantic City and bounded by the municipalities of Northfield, Egg Harbor Township and Somers Point.

Somers Point forms the southwestern boundary with the Patcong Creek providing much of the northwesterly boundary. The City of Northfield lies to the northeast, and Scull's Creek and Scull's Bay make up much of the boundary to the east and southeast. The Patcong Creek enlarges to form Mill Pond at the northern corner of the City.

The City of Linwood provides educational facilities for Preschool handicap and kindergarten through the eighth grade at two separate schools. The Seaview Elementary School accommodates Preschool handicap and Kindergarten through grade four. Grades five through eight attend the Belhaven Middle School.

High School students, grades nine through twelve, attend Mainland Regional High School, located centrally in the City of Linwood.

The original portion of the Seaview School was opened in 1961. Seaview School was renovated and new construction added to it with its completion in September 1995. Major renovation were completed to the

pipe insulation, fire alarm and security systems for 2005. It contains 25 classrooms, LRC's, Gymnasium, Library/Media Center, Computer Lab, Art and Music Rooms and a Cafetorium. It occupies a thirteen acre site.

The Belhaven School occupies a 4.4 acre site at Belhaven and Wabash Avenue. This facility was constructed in five stages. The original two story, plus basement, was built in 1908 was expanded in 1926. A one story unit was added in 1957 and in 1970 a two story classroom wing was provided along with a gymnasium, industrial education area, home economics room and a large music room. The latest addition was completed in 1997 providing a new library, media center, ITV room, computer lab, art room, gymnasium, cafetorium, office areas and other building renovations.

The school system is governed by a nine member Board of Education who are elected to serve staggered three-year terms. As of June 30, 2017, the District employed 80.5 full time equivalent of instructional staff and 25.33 full time equivalent support services staff. Enrollment as of September 2016 was 843 students, including preschool inclusion.

#### 11) ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

We would like to express our appreciation to the members of the Linwood School Board of Education for their concern in providing fiscal accountability to the citizens and taxpayers of the school district and thereby contributing their full support to the development and maintenance of our financial operation. The preparation of this report could not have been accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of our financial and accounting staff.

Respectfully submitted,

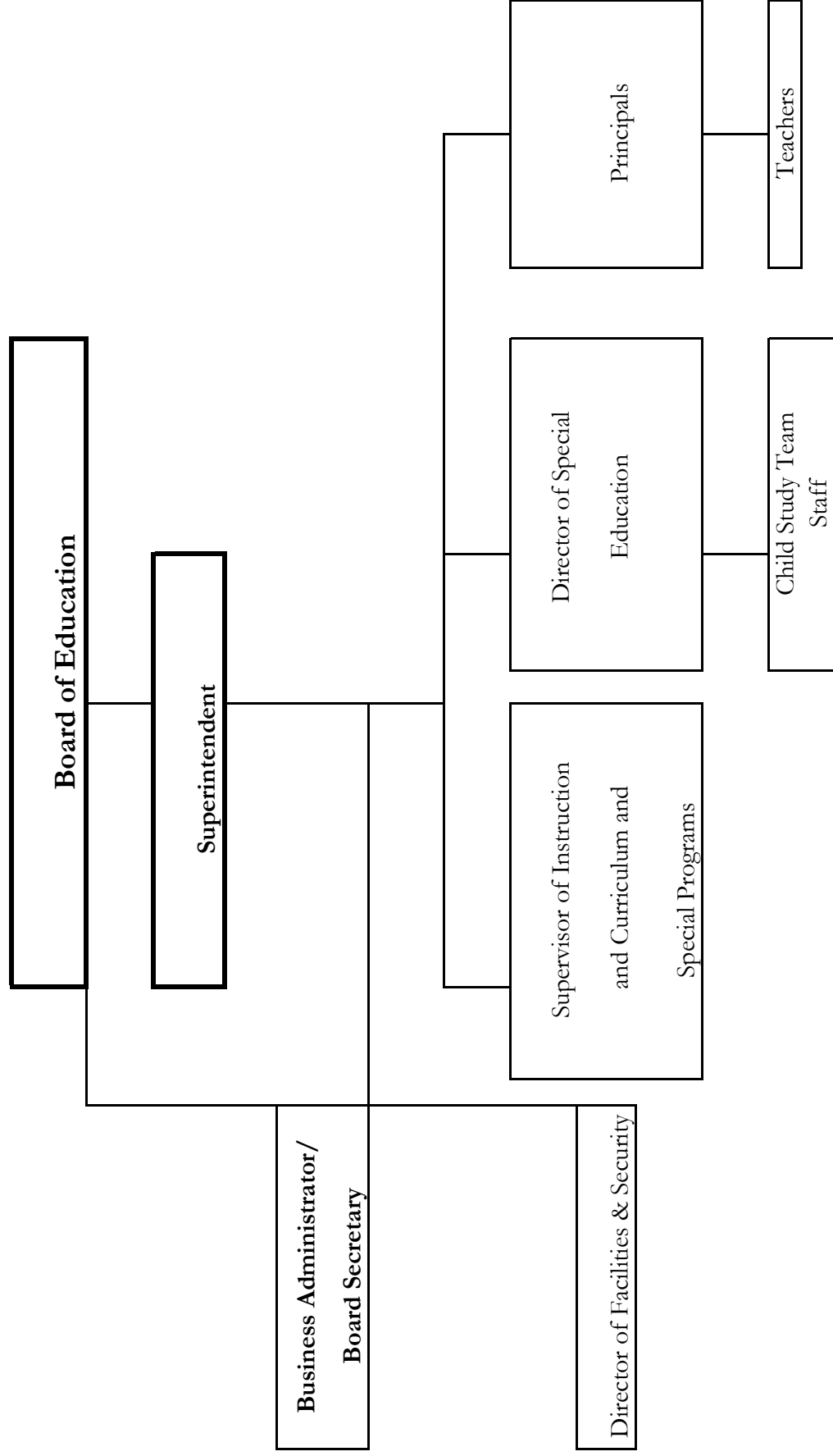
*Michelle Cappelluti*

Michelle Cappelluti, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools

*Teri J. Weeks*

Teri J. Weeks, CPA, SFO, RSBO  
Business Administrator  
Board Secretary

**CITY OF LINWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**CHART OF ORGANIZATION**



**LINWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**ROSTER OF OFFICIALS**  
**JUNE 30, 2017**

**Members of the Board of Education**

**Term Expires**

Richard Sless, President	2017
Joann Scannell, Vice-President	2019
Lynn E. Gibson	2017
Donna Michael-Ziereis	2018
Michelle DeMorat	2018
Judd McLaughlin	2019
Judge Daryl Todd	2018
Jason Goldstein	2017
Craig Kahn	2019

**Other Officials**

Michelle Cappelluti Ed. D., Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Teri J. Weeks, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Kelly Batz, Treasurer  
William Donio, Esq., Solicitor

**LINWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS**

**AUDIT FIRM**

**Ford, Scott & Associates, L.L.C.**  
Certified Public Accountants  
Ocean City, New Jersey

**ATTORNEY**

**William Donio, Esq.**  
Atlantic City, New Jersey

**ARCHITECT**

**Daniel Scott Mascione**  
Northfield, New Jersey

**OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES**

**Ocean First**  
New Road, Linwood, New Jersey



## **Financial Section**

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### **Independent Auditor's Report**

The Honorable President and  
Members of the Board of Education  
City of Linwood School District  
City of Linwood, New Jersey  
County of Atlantic

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Linwood School District, State of New Jersey, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

#### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## ***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Linwood School District, in the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## ***Other Matters***

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Required Supplementary Information identified in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### ***Other Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City of Linwood School District's basic financial statements. The combining and individual non-major fund financial statements and schedule of expenditures of federal awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and the schedule of state financial assistance as required by NJ OMB 15-08 and the introductory and statistical sections are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual non-major fund financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by the Uniform Guidance and the schedule of state financial assistance as required by NJ OMB 15-08 is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual non-major fund financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by the Uniform Guidance, and the schedule of state financial assistance as required by NJ OMB 15-08 is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 25, 2017 on our consideration of the City of Linwood School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering City of Linwood School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

***Ford, Scott & Associates, L.L.C.***  
**FORD, SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.**  
**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

***Michael S. Garcia***

**Michael S. Garcia**  
**Certified Public Accountant**  
**Licensed Public School Accountant**  
**No. 2080**

**September 25, 2017**

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**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**PART I**

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section of the Linwood City School District's ("District") annual financial report presents our discussion and analysis of the District's financial performance during the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2017. Please read it in conjunction with the transmittal letter at the front of this report and the District's financial statement.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The net position of the District decreased \$1,278,484 from FY 16 to FY 17 which represents a 8.35% decrease from the prior year.
- The State of New Jersey reimbursed the District \$431,155 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 for the employer's share of social security contributions for TPAF members as calculated on their base salaries. This amount, which is not budgeted, is included as both a revenue and appropriation in the financial statements.
- The State of New Jersey contributed on behalf of the District \$1,299,133 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 for the employer's share of pension and post retirement medical contributions for TPAF members. This amount, which is not budgeted, is included as both a revenue and appropriation in the financial statements.
- As required by New Jersey State Statutes, the unreserved fund balance of the general fund is limited to the greater of 2% of the total general fund expenditures or \$250,000. Any excess is required to be designated as Reserved Fund Balance – Excess Surplus and included in the next year's budget as budgeted fund balance. As of June 30, 2017 the District had a total excess surplus of \$633,754.
- During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, the District's General Fund revenue realized was \$34,263 more than General Fund expenditures. During the prior fiscal year, revenue was more than expenses by \$399,620.

### OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of four parts – *management's discussion and analysis* (this section), the basic *financial statements*, *required supplementary information*, and an optional section that presents *combining statements for special revenue, capital projects, and fiduciary funds*. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the District.

- The first two statements are *government-wide financial statements* that provide both *long-term* and *short-term* information about the District's *overall* financial status.
- The remaining statements are *fund financial statements* that focus on individual parts of the District's government, reporting on the District's operations in *more detail* than the government-wide statements.
  - The *governmental funds* statements tell how *general government* services like instruction were financed in the *short term* as well as what remains for future spending.
  - The *proprietary fund statements* provide information on activities in which the District operates similar to private business.
  - *Fiduciary fund* statements provide information about the financial relationships – like the unemployment trust fund – in which the District acts solely as a *trustee or agent* for the benefit of others, to whom the resources in question belong.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the information in the financial statements. Figure A-1 shows how the required parts of this annual report are arranged and relate to one another.

Figure A-1 summarizes the major features of the District's financial statements, including the portion of the District's government they cover and the types of information they contain. The remainder of this overview section of management's discussion and analysis explains the structure and contents of each of the statements.



**Major Features of Linwood City School District's  
Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements  
(Figure A-1)**

	Government wide Statements	Fund Statements		
		Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds	Fiduciary Funds
Scope	Entire District (except fiduciary funds)	The activities of the District that are not proprietary or fiduciary, such as food service and student activities	Activities the District operates similar to private businesses; N/A	Instances in which the District is the trustee or agent for someone else's resources, such as payroll agency and student activities.
Required financial statements	Statement of net position  Statement of activities	Balance sheet  Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances	Statement of net position	Statement of fiduciary net position
			Statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net assets	Statement of changes in fiduciary net position
			Statement of cash flows	
Accounting basis and measurement focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Modified accrual accounting and current financial resources focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus
Type of asset/liability information	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, and short-term and long- term.	Only assets expected to be used up and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets included.	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term.	All assets and liabilities, both short-term and long-term.
Type of inflow/outflow information	All revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when cash is received or paid.	Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures when goods or services have been received and payment is due during the year or soon thereafter	All revenues and expenses, regardless of when cash is received or paid.	All revenues and expenses during year, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

**Government-Wide Statements**

The government-wide statements report information about the District as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of net position includes *all* of the government's assets and liabilities. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two government-wide statements report the District's *net position* and how they have changed. Net position – the difference between the District's assets and liabilities – is one way to measure the District's financial health, or *position*.

- Over time, increases or decreases in the District's net position are an indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating, respectively.
- To assess the overall health of the District you need to consider additional non-financial factors such as changes in the District's property tax base and the condition of the District's facilities.

The government-wide financial statements of the District are included in one category:

- *Governmental Activities* – most of the District’s basic services are included here, such as instruction, administration, and plant operations. Property taxes and state and federal grants finance most of these activities.
- *Business-Type Activities* – this service is provided on a charge for services basis to recover expenses of the program. The Before and After School Program is reported as a business activity.

## Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the District’s most significant *funds* – not the District as a whole. Funds are accounting devices that the District uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending for particular purposes.

The District has three kinds of funds:

- *Governmental Funds* – Most of the District’s basic services are included in governmental funds, which focus on (1) how *cash and other financial assets* that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out and (2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed *short-term* view that helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the District’s programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, we provide additional information at the bottom of the governmental funds statement that explains the relationship (or differences) between them.
- *Enterprise Funds* – The District is responsible for activities of the Before and After School Program. A fee is charged to users of the program that covers the cost of services provided by the District. The fund is operated in a manner similar to the private sector.
- *Fiduciary Funds* – The District is responsible for other assets that - because of a trust arrangement – can be used only for the trust beneficiaries. The District is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purposes. All of the District’s fiduciary activities are reported in separate statement of fiduciary net position and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. We exclude these activities from the District’s government-wide financial statements because the District cannot use these assets to finance its operations.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

**Net Position.** Net position of the District decreased due to an excess of revenues over expenditures, while depreciation expense exceeded capital outlay additions.

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Current and other assets	\$ 3,433,174	\$ 3,143,468	\$ 50,279	\$ 58,426
Capital assets	16,102,697	16,624,520		
Deferred Outflows	1,429,876	667,325		
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>20,965,747</b>	<b>20,435,313</b>	<b>50,279</b>	<b>58,426</b>
Long-term liabilities	6,323,801	5,049,611		
Other liabilities	321,786	66,343	267	2,218
Deferred Inflows	343,354	70,265		
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>6,988,941</b>	<b>5,186,219</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>2,218</b>
Net assets				
Invested in capital assets	16,102,697	16,624,520		
Restricted	2,852,806	2,873,673		
Unrestricted	(4,978,697)	(4,249,099)	50,012	56,208
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 13,976,806</b>	<b>\$ 15,249,094</b>	<b>\$ 50,012</b>	<b>\$ 56,208</b>

As required by New Jersey Statutes, the unassigned fund balance of the District is not permitted to exceed the greater of 2% of total general fund expenditures, after reductions for On-behalf TPAF pension and social security and assets

acquired under capital leases or \$250,000. Any excess must be appropriated as budgeted fund balance in the subsequent years' budget. As of June 30, 2017, the District did have \$1,546,526 excess fund balance, of which \$912,772 is designated for use in the 2017-2018 district budget.

Changes in Net Position. The total revenue of the District increased approximately \$325,469 predominately due to the increases in Extraordinary Aid and tuition revenue.

### Governmental Activities

The following schedule summarizes the governmental activities of the District during the 2016 fiscal year.

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
<b>Revenues</b>						
Program revenue						
Charges for services	\$ 212,747	\$ 162,002	\$ 108,777	\$ 116,110	\$ 321,524	\$ 278,112
Federal grants	266,272	259,551			266,272	259,551
State grants and entitlements	764	1,171			764	1,171
Local Grants	71,032	54,824			71,032	54,824
General revenues						
Property taxes	11,218,084	11,517,868			11,218,084	11,517,868
State aid entitlements	6,690,759	5,376,720			6,690,759	5,376,720
Other	(159,457)	595,421	233	75	(159,224)	595,496
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>18,300,201</b>	<b>17,967,557</b>	<b>109,010</b>	<b>116,185</b>	<b>18,409,211</b>	<b>18,083,742</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Instruction:						
Regular	8,628,752	7,964,606			8,628,752	7,964,606
Special Education	2,512,965	2,181,381			2,512,965	2,181,381
Other special instruction	676,317	645,998			676,317	645,998
Other instruction	197,821	197,938			197,821	197,938
Support services:						
Student & instruction related services	3,239,485	2,730,790			3,239,485	2,730,790
Tuition	144,291	159,964			144,291	159,964
School administration services	669,407	726,228			669,407	726,228
General & business admin services	1,293,827	1,301,665			1,293,827	1,301,665
Plant operations & maintenance	1,996,640	2,034,279			1,996,640	2,034,279
Pupil transportation	213,525	148,906			213,525	148,906
Transfer to Charter Schools					-	-
Business-type activities			115,205	81,403	115,205	81,403
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>19,573,030</b>	<b>18,091,755</b>	<b>115,205</b>	<b>81,403</b>	<b>19,688,235</b>	<b>18,173,158</b>

### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRICT'S FUNDS

As of the year end, the governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$3,111,388 which is \$34,263 more than the beginning of the year. The increase in fund balance was the result of the slight increase in property taxes and the overall decrease in budgetary expenditures as planned. Overall, the financial position of the District remains sound.

The District did not enter into any debt obligations during the fiscal year. Any projects or debt prior to November 9, 2016 was approved by the City of Linwood and would be a direct obligation of the City. The City authorized a bond ordinance in the amount of \$4,250,000 to fund projects beginning July 1, 2013.

## General Fund Budgetary Highlights

As further explained in the Notes to the Financial Statements, annual appropriated budgets are prepared in the spring of each year for the general and special revenue funds. The budgets are submitted to the County office and, as a Type II School District, are approved by voters. Transfers of appropriations may be made by Board resolution at any time during the fiscal year. The District is permitted to encumber funds throughout the year for purchases ordered but not yet received. Any open encumbrances as of June 30<sup>th</sup> carry over to the next fiscal year and are added to the appropriation reflected in the certified budget.

After adjusting total revenue reported on Exhibit C-1 for the Reimbursed TPAF Social Security Contribution and On-behalf TPAF Contribution, which are not budgeted, the District's actual revenue was more than the budget by approximately \$34,263. The added revenue is from \$141,169 more state aid and \$139,388 of Other Miscellaneous Income that was not budgeted. Again, after adjusting for the Reimbursed TPAF Social Security Contribution and On-behalf TPAF Contribution, actual revenues were greater than actual expenditures by \$34,691. Audit exhibit C-1 does not include current year depreciation expense.

## CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

### Capital Assets

At the end of 2017, the District had invested \$16,102,697 million in a broad range of capital assets, including land, buildings, vehicles and machinery. This amount represents a net decrease (including additions and deductions) of approximately \$521,823, or 3.24% over last year.

	<b>Governmental</b>	
	<b><u>Activities</u></b>	
	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>
Land	\$ 859,382	\$ 859,382
Construction In Progress	269,140	150,070
Buildings and Improvements	14,493,168	15,082,286
Machinery & Equipment	481,008	532,782
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 16,102,697</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 16,624,520</u></b>

During the 2017 fiscal year, the District substantially completed the Belhaven HVAC controls upgrade project, Seaview Cafeteria Floor replacement project and Room 103 Renovation. The district is reviewing Lighting efficiency upgrades and the Seaview Field and Drainage project is out to bid for completion during the 2017-2018 school year.

More detailed information about the District's capital assets is presented in Note 4 to the financial statements.

### Long-Term Debt

New Jersey State Statutes governing Type I School Districts require the bonded debt be assumed by the City and provision for amortization of principal and interest on the outstanding debt is included in the City budget. The district was Type I prior to November 9, 2016. The District has not issued debt as a Type II district.

## ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES

The District will continue to seek additional shared service opportunities to provide educational and co-curricular activities for our students if financially feasible and in line with our program goals. We work to provide our own in-house professional development for all staff as well as sharing these costs with neighboring districts. Additionally the district was able to provide tuition based Expanded Day kindergarten and Preschool Inclusion programs based on the 2015-2016 enrollment. This program provides a revenue source to the district. Effective the 2017-2018 school year, in an effort to increase participation, the district lowered the tuition for the grades 1-8 regular education program to 50% of the most recent certified cost per pupil.

The District continues to streamline operations to reduce overall budget expenditures. The District is experiencing an increase in enrollment effective the 2017-2018 school year including a large increase in the Preschool Disabled program.

#### **CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to present users (residents, receiving districts, and creditors) with a general overview of the District's finances and to demonstrate the District's accountability. If you have questions about the report or need additional financial information, contact the District's Business Administrator at 51 Belhaven Avenue, Linwood, New Jersey 08221.

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## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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## **DISTRICT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2017**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	<b>Business-Type Activities</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,189,218	\$ 45,740	\$ 3,234,958
Receivable - State	160,093		160,093
Receivable - Federal	59,319		59,319
Due from Fiduciary Funds	892		892
Other Accounts Receivable	23,651	4,538	28,189
Capital assets:			
Land	859,382		859,382
Construction in Progress	269,140		269,140
Depreciable capital assets, net of depreciation	14,974,175		14,974,175
Total Assets	<u>19,535,871</u>	<u>50,279</u>	<u>19,586,150</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	<u>1,429,876</u>		<u>1,429,876</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	311,955	-	311,955
Advances	9,831	267	10,097
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Due beyond one year	1,181,892		1,181,892
Net Pension Liability	5,141,909		5,141,909
Total liabilities	<u>6,645,587</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>6,645,853</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	<u>343,354</u>		<u>343,354</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	16,102,697		16,102,697
Restricted for:			
Other Purposes	340,033		340,033
Capital Reserve	525,214		525,214
Maintenance Reserve	341,033		341,033
Excess Surplus - Undesignated	633,754		633,754
Excess Surplus - Designated	912,772		912,772
Subsequent Year's Expenditures	100,000		100,000
Unrestricted	(4,978,697)	50,012	(4,928,685)
Total net position	<u>\$ 13,976,806</u>	<u>\$ 50,012</u>	<u>\$ 14,026,818</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2017**

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Indirect Expenses Allocation	Program Revenues			Business - type Activities	Total
			Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities		
Governmental activities:							
Instruction:							
Regular	\$ 6,723,303	\$ 1,905,449	\$ 212,747	\$ 2,863,794	\$ (5,552,211)	\$ -	\$ (5,552,211)
Special education	1,958,038	554,927		912,332	(1,600,633)		(1,600,633)
Other special instruction	526,969	149,348		291,289	(385,028)		(385,028)
Other instruction	154,137	43,684		64,459	(133,362)		(133,362)
Support services:							
Tuition	144,291			36,000	(108,291)		(108,291)
Student & instruction related services	2,524,124	715,361		1,112,342	(2,127,143)		(2,127,143)
School administrative services	493,996	175,411			(669,407)		(669,407)
Central Services	462,591	164,260			(626,851)		(626,851)
General Administrative services	492,202	174,774			(666,976)		(666,976)
Plant operations and maintenance	1,438,462	558,178		14,582	(1,982,058)		(1,982,058)
Pupil transportation	155,864	57,661			(213,525)		(213,525)
Unallocated benefits	4,499,053	(4,499,053)		14,133	14,133		14,133
Total governmental activities	19,573,030	0	212,747	5,308,931	(14,051,352)	-	(14,051,352)
<b>Business Type Activities</b>							
Child Care	115,205		108,777			(6,428)	(6,428)
Total government	\$ 19,688,235	\$ 0	\$ 321,524	\$ 5,308,931	\$ (14,051,352)	\$ (6,428)	\$ (14,057,780)
General revenues:							
Taxes:							
Property taxes, levied for general purposes, net							
					\$ 11,218,084		\$ 11,218,084
Federal and State aid not restricted					1,720,436		1,720,436
Miscellaneous Income					62,641	233	62,874
Loss on Disposal of Equipment					(222,098)		(222,098)
Total general revenues, special items and transfers					12,779,064	233	12,779,297
Change in Net Position					(1,272,288)	(6,196)	(1,278,484)
Net Position—beginning, as restated					15,249,094	56,208	15,305,302
Net Position—ending					\$ 13,976,806	\$ 50,012	\$ 14,026,818

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

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## **FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**June 30, 2017**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,322,971	\$	\$ 2,322,971
Capital Reserve Account	525,214		525,214
Maintenance Reserve Account	341,033		341,033
Receivable - Federal		59,319	59,319
Receivable - State	160,093		160,093
Due from other funds	41,435		41,435
Other Accounts Receivable	17,562	6,089	23,651
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,408,308</u>	<u>\$ 65,408</u>	<u>\$ 3,473,716</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 288,882	\$ 23,073	\$ 311,955
Interfund Accounts Payable	289	40,254	40,543
Unearned revenue	7,750	2,081	9,831
Total liabilities	<u>296,921</u>	<u>65,408</u>	<u>362,329</u>
Fund Balances:			
Restricted for:			
Excess surplus Undesignated	633,754		633,754
Excess surplus Designated	912,772		912,772
Committed to:			
Capital Reserve	525,214		525,214
Maintenance Reserve	341,033		341,033
Assigned to:			
Designated for subsequent year's expenditures	100,000		100,000
Other purposes	340,033		340,033
Unreserved, reported in:			
General fund	258,582		258,582
Total Fund balances	<u>3,111,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,111,388</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 3,408,308</u>	<u>\$ 65,408</u>	
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position (A-1) are different because:			
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.			16,102,697
Pension Liabilities Net of Deferred Outflows & Inflows			(4,055,387)
Some liabilities, such as compensated absences are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.			(1,181,892)
Net position of governmental activities			<u>\$ 13,976,806</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, And Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2017**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Local tax levy	\$ 11,218,084		\$ 11,218,084
Miscellaneous	275,388		275,388
State sources	3,450,724	764	3,451,488
Federal sources		266,272	266,272
Local sources		71,032	71,032
	<u>14,944,196</u>	<u>338,068</u>	<u>15,282,265</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Current:			
Regular instruction	4,299,341	52,166	4,351,507
Special education instruction	1,173,799	93,497	1,267,296
Other special instruction	270,154	70,915	341,069
Other instruction	99,762		99,762
Support services and undistributed costs:			
Tuition - Special Education	108,291	36,000	144,291
Student & instruction related services	1,576,908	56,775	1,633,683
School administrative services	400,590		400,590
Other administrative services	399,135		399,135
Central Services	375,123		375,123
Plant operations and maintenance	1,274,720		1,274,720
Pupil transportation	131,680		131,680
Unallocated Benefits	4,484,920	14,133	4,499,053
Capital Outlay	315,511	14,582	330,093
	<u>14,909,933</u>	<u>338,068</u>	<u>15,248,001</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>34,263</u>	<u>(0)</u>	<u>34,263</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>			
			0
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>
Total other financing sources and uses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>
Net change in fund balances	34,263	(0)	34,263
Fund balance—July 1	3,077,125		3,077,125
Fund balance—June 30	<u>\$ 3,111,388</u>	<u>\$ (0)</u>	<u>\$ 3,111,388</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,**  
**and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds**  
**to the Statement of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2017**

**Total net change in fund balances - governmental funds (from B-2)** \$ 34,263

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities (A-2) are different because:

Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense.

This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlays in the period.

Depreciation expense	\$ (763,306)	
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	(222,098)	
Capital outlays	<u>463,581</u>	(521,823)

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

District pension contributions-PERS

Cost of benefits earned net of employee contributions	<u>(282,234)</u>	(282,234)
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In the statement of activities, certain operating expenses, e.g., compensated absences (vacations) are measured by the amounts earned during the year. In the governmental funds, however, expenditures for these items are reported in the amount of financial resources used (paid). When the earned amount exceeds the paid amount, the difference is reduction in the reconciliation (-); when the paid amount exceeds the earned amount the difference is an addition to the reconciliation (+).

(502,494)

<b>Change in net position of governmental activities</b>	<u><u>\$ (1,272,288)</u></u>
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**City of Linwood School District**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**June 30, 2017**

	<b>Business-Type Activities - Enterprise Funds</b>	
	<b>Before and After School Program</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 45,740	\$ 45,740
Other receivables	4,538	4,538
Interfund Accounts Receivable		-
Total current assets	<u>50,279</u>	<u>50,279</u>
 Total assets	<u><u>\$ 50,279</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 50,279</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable		\$ -
Prepaid program fees	<u>267</u>	<u>267</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>267</u>	<u>267</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities:		
Compensated absences		-
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities	<u>267</u>	<u>267</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Invested in capital assets net of related debt	-	-
Unrestricted	<u>50,012</u>	<u>50,012</u>
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 50,012</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 50,012</u></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

City of Linwood School District  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position  
Proprietary Funds  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017

	<u>Before and After School Program</u>	<u>Total Proprietary</u>
Operating revenues:		
Charges for services:		
Tuition - net of discounts	\$ 108,777	\$ 108,777
Total operating revenues	<u>108,777</u>	<u>108,777</u>
Operating expenses:		
Salaries	66,993	66,993
Benefits - FICA, DCRP, and Unemployment	6,647	6,647
Rent	13,000	13,000
Audit	500	500
Services	17,321	17,321
General supplies	10,744	10,744
Total Operating Expenses	<u>115,205</u>	<u>115,205</u>
Operating income	<u>(6,428)</u>	<u>(6,428)</u>
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Interest	233	233
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	<u>233</u>	<u>233</u>
Capital Assest		
Equipment		-
Net Capital	-	-
Income before contributions & transfers	<u>(6,196)</u>	<u>(6,196)</u>
Transfers in (out)	-	-
Change in net position	<u>(6,196)</u>	<u>(6,196)</u>
Total net position—beginning	56,208	56,208
Total net position—ending	<u>\$ 50,012</u>	<u>\$ 50,012</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2017**

	<b>Before and After School Program</b>	<b>Total Proprietary</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from customers	\$ 107,544	\$ 107,544
Payments for salaries and benefits	(73,640)	(73,640)
Rent	(14,000)	(14,000)
Services	(17,321)	(17,321)
Other costs	(500)	(500)
Supplies	(10,853)	(10,853)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(8,770)</u>	<u>(8,770)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Operating subsidies and transfers (to)from other funds		-
Net cash provided by non-capital financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchases of capital assets		-
Net cash (used for) capital and related financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Interest	233	233
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>233</u>	<u>233</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(8,537)	(8,537)
Balances—beginning of year	54,277	54,277
Balances—end of year	<u>\$ 45,740</u>	<u>\$ 45,740</u>
<b>Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:</b>		
Operating income (loss)	\$ (6,428)	\$ (6,428)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable		-
Increase/(Decrease) in Deferred Revenues		-
(Increase)/Decrease in accounts receivable, net		-
Total adjustments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ (6,428)</u>	<u>\$ (6,428)</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**City of Linwood School District  
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position  
Fiduciary Funds  
June 30, 2017**

	<b>Agency Fund</b>
	<hr/>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 78,506
Accounts Receivable	<hr/> 506
	<hr/>
Total assets	<hr/> \$ 79,012 <hr/>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Interfund Accounts Payable	764
Payable to student groups	59,500
Payroll deductions and withholdings	<hr/> 14,610
Total liabilities	<hr/> \$ 79,012 <hr/>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The City of Linwood School District is an instrumentality of the State of New Jersey, established to function as an educational institution. The Board became a Type II school district effective November 9, 2016, and currently consists of appointed and elected officials and is responsible for the fiscal control of the District. A superintendent is appointed by the Board and is responsible for the administrative control of the District.

The financial statements of the Board of Education (Board) of the City of Linwood School District (District) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. In its accounting and financial reporting, the District follows the pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the District are discussed below.

Pensions: For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) and additions to/deductions from the fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the TPAF and PERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

**A. REPORTING ENTITY**

The City of Linwood School District is a Type II district effective November 9, 2016 located in the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey. As a Type II district, the Board of Education members are elected. Board members who were on the Board prior to November 9, 2016 were appointed by the Mayor. The Board is now comprised of nine members appointed or elected to three-year terms. The purpose of the district is to educate students in grades PreK -8. The City of Linwood School District had an approximate enrollment at June 30, 2017 of 836 students.

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

- the organization is legally separate (can sue or be sued in their own name)
- the District holds the corporate powers of the organization
- the District appoints a voting majority of the organization's board
- the District is able to impose its will on the organization
- the organization has the potential to impose a financial benefit/burden on the District
- there is a fiscal dependency by the organization on the District

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

**B. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS**

The District's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the District as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the District's major funds). Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type. The District's general and special revenue activities are classified as governmental activities.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - CONTINUED**

**B. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**

In the governmental-wide Statement of Net Position, both the governmental and business-type activities columns (a) are presented on a consolidated basis by column, (b) and are reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The District's net position are reported in three parts-invested in capital assets, net of related debt; restricted net position; and unrestricted net position. The District first utilizes restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

The government-wide Statement of Activities reports both the gross and net cost of each of the District's functions and business-type activities. The functions are also supported by general government revenues (property taxes, certain intergovernmental revenues, etc.). The Statement of Activities reduces gross expenses (including depreciation) by related program revenues, operating and capital grants. Program revenues must be directly associated with the function (regular instruction, vocational programs, student & instruction related services, etc.) or a business-type activity. Operating grants include operating-specific and discretionary (either operating or capital) grants while the capital grants column reflects capital-specific grants.

The net costs (by function or business-type activity) are normally covered by general revenue (property taxes, tuition, interest income, etc.).

The District does allocate indirect costs such as depreciation expense, compensated absences, On-behalf TPAF Pension Contributions, and Reimbursed TPAF Social Security Contributions.

The government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the District as an entity and the change in the District's net position resulting from the current year's activities. The government-wide statements do not include fiduciary activity.

**C. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial transactions of the District are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures/expenses. The various funds are reported by generic classification within the financial statements.

The emphasis in fund financial statements is on the major funds in either the governmental or business-type activities categories. Non-major funds by category are summarized into a single column. GASBS No. 34 sets forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets, liabilities, revenues or expenditures/expenses of either fund category or the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The non-major funds are combined in a column in the fund financial statements. The State of New Jersey Department of Education has mandated that all New Jersey School Districts must report all governmental funds as major, regardless of the fund meeting the GASB definition of a major fund. However, the criteria are applied to proprietary funds.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - CONTINUED**

**C. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**

The following fund types are used by the District:

**1. Governmental Funds**

The focus of the governmental funds' measurement (in the fund statements) is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The following is a description of the governmental funds of the District:

- a. **General fund** is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.
- b. **Special revenue** funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for a specific purpose.
- c. **Capital projects** funds are used to account for all financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities. The financial resources are derived from temporary notes or serial bonds. Prior to November 9, 2016, as a Type I School District all debt is borne by the municipality rather than the school district.

**Fund Balances – Governmental Funds**

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report the following classifications of fund balance:

Non-spendable – includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not spendable in form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted – includes amounts restricted by external sources (creditors, laws of other governments, etc.) or by constitutional provision or enabling legislation.

Committed – includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes. Committed fund balance is reported pursuant to resolutions passed by the Board of Education, the District's highest level of decision making authority. Commitments may be modified or rescinded only through resolutions approved by the Board of Education.

Assigned – includes amounts that the District intends to use for a specific purpose, but do not meet the definition of restricted or committed fund balance. Under the District's policy, amounts may be assigned by the Business Administrator.

Unassigned – includes amounts that have not been assigned to other funds or restricted, committed or assigned to a specific purpose within the General Fund. The District reports all amounts that meet the unrestricted General Fund Balance Policy described below as unassigned:

The details of the fund balances are included in the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet. When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the District considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balance are available, the District considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - CONTINUED**

**C. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**

**2. Proprietary Funds**

The focus of proprietary fund measurement is upon determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows. The generally accepted accounting principles applicable are those similar to businesses in the private sector. The following is a description of the proprietary funds of the District.

**3. Enterprise Funds**

Enterprise funds are required to be used to account for operations for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services and the activity (a) is financed with debt that is solely secured by a pledge of the net revenues, (b) has third party requirements that the cost of providing services, including capital costs, be recovered with fees and charges or (c) establishes fees and charges based on a pricing policy designated to recover similar costs. The District's enterprise funds consist of an after school program.

**4. Fiduciary Funds**

Fiduciary funds are used to report assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others and therefore are not available to support District programs. The reporting focus is on net position and changes in net Position. They are reported using accounting principles similar to proprietary funds.

The emphasis in fund financial statements is on the major funds in either the governmental or business-type activities categories. Non-major funds by category are summarized into a single column. GASBS No. 34 sets forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets, liabilities, revenues or expenditures/expenses of either fund category or the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The non-major funds are combined in a column in the fund financial statements.

The District's fiduciary funds are presented in the fiduciary fund financial statements by type (pension, private purpose and agency). Since, by definition, these assets are being held for the benefit of a third party (other local governments, private parties, pension participants, etc.) and cannot be used to address activities or obligations of the government, these funds are not incorporated into the government-wide statements.

**D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

Basis of accounting refers to the point at which revenues or expenditures/expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. It relates to the timing of the measurements made regardless of the measurement focus applied.

**1. Accrual**

Both governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements and fiduciary fund financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

**2. Modified Accrual**

The governmental fund financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual; i.e., both measurable and available. "Available" means collectible within the current period or within 60 days after year end. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. The exception to this general rule is that principal and interest on general obligation long-term debt, if any, is recognized when due.



**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - CONTINUED**

**E. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AMOUNTS**

**1. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

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

For the purposes of determining cash equivalents the District considers all investments with an original maturity of three months or less as cash equivalents.

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

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

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

**2. Investments**

Investments, including deferred compensation and pension funds, are stated at fair value, (quoted market price or the best available estimate).

**3. Inventories**

Inventories in the general fund consist of expendable supplies held for the District's use and are carried at cost using the first-in, first-out method. Inventories in the enterprise fund are valued at cost, which approximates market, using the first-in, first-out method. As of June 30, 2017, the District did not have inventory in the general fund or the enterprise fund.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - CONTINUED**

**E. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AMOUNTS - CONTINUED**

**4. Capital Assets**

Capital assets purchased or acquired with an original cost of \$2,000 or more are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Contributed assets are reported at fair market value as of the date received. Additions, improvements and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings	20-50 years
Machinery and equipment	5-10 years
Improvements	10-20 years

GASBS No. 34 requires the District to report and depreciate new infrastructure assets effective with the beginning of the current year. Infrastructure assets include roads, parking lots, underground pipe, etc. Neither their historical cost nor related depreciation has historically been reported in the financial statements. The District has included all infrastructure assets in the current fiscal year.

**5. Revenues**

Substantially all governmental fund revenues are accrued. Property taxes are susceptible to accrual and under New Jersey State Statutes a municipality is required to remit to its school district the entire balance of taxes in the amount certified, prior to the end of the school year. The District records the entire approved tax levy as revenue (accrued) at the start of the fiscal year, since the revenue is both measurable and available. Subsidies and grants to proprietary funds, which finance either capital or current operations, are reported as non operating revenue. In respect to grant revenues, the provider recognizes liabilities and expenses and the recipient recognizes receivables and revenue when the applicable eligibility requirements, including time requirements are met. Resources transmitted before the eligibility requirements are met are reported as advances by the provider and unearned revenue by the recipient. Program revenues, including tuition revenue are reported as reductions to expenses in the statement of activities.

**6. Expenditures**

Expenses are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred. Inventory costs are reported in the period when inventory items are used, rather than in the period purchased.

**7. Compensated Absences**

Compensated absences are those absences for which employees will be paid, such as vacation, sick leave, and sabbatical leave. A liability for compensated absences that are attributable to services already rendered, and that are not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the District and its employees, is accrued as the employees earn the rights to the benefits. Compensated absences that relate to future services, or that are contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the District and its employees, are accounted for in the period in which such services are rendered or in which such events take place.

In governmental and similar trust funds, compensated absences that are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources are reported as an expenditure and fund liability in the fund that will pay for the compensated absences. The remainder of the compensated absences liability is reported in the District-wide Financial Statements as a Governmental Activity.

City of Linwood School District  
Notes to Financial Statements  
June 30, 2017  
(Continued)

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - CONTINUED**

**E. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AMOUNTS - CONTINUED**

**8. Interfund Activity**

Interfund activity is reported as either: loans, services provided, reimbursements, or transfers. Loans are reported as interfund receivables and payables as appropriate and are subject to elimination upon consolidation. Services provided, deemed to be at market or near market rates, are treated as revenues and expenditures/expenses. Reimbursements are when one fund incurs a cost, charges the appropriate benefiting fund and reduces its related costs as reimbursement. All other interfund transactions are treated as transfers. Transfers between governmental or proprietary funds are netted as part of the reconciliation to the government-wide financial statements.

**9. Budgets/Budgetary Control**

Annual appropriated budgets are prepared in the spring of each year for the general and special revenue funds. The budgets are submitted to the county office for approval and are approved by the board of school estimates. Budgets are prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting, except for the special revenue fund as described later. The legal level of budgetary control is established at line item accounts within each fund. Line item accounts are defined as the lowest (most specific) level of detail as established pursuant to the minimum chart of accounts referenced in N.J.A.C. 6:23-2(g). The Board of Education did not make any material supplementary appropriations during the fiscal year. Transfers of appropriations may be made by School Board resolution at any time during the fiscal year and are subject to two-thirds majority vote by the School Board and under certain circumstances require approval by the County Superintendent of Schools. The following material transfers were made to/(from) budgetary line items:

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Tuition	11-000-100-xxx	(\$15,475)
Related Services	11-000-216-xxx	\$23,310
Extraordinary Services	11-000-217-xxx	\$20,775
Guidance Services	11-000-218-xxx	\$12,200
Library Media Services	11-000-222-xxx	(\$21,950)
General Administration	11-000-230-xxx	\$38,200
Central Services	11-000-25x-xxx	\$21,470
Plant Operations and Maintenance Services	11-000-26x-xxx	(\$103,250)
Employee Benefits	11-000-291-xxx	(\$251,575)
Regular Programs	11-1xx-xxx-xxx	\$52,400
Special Education Programs	11-2xx-xxx-xxx	\$11,190
Deposit to Capital and Maintenance Reserves	12-000-400-932	\$175,000
Equipment	12-000-xxx-xxx	\$16,000
Construction Services	12-000-400-xxx	\$40,000

Formal budgetary integration into the accounting system is employed as a management control device during the year. For governmental funds there are no substantial differences between the budgetary basis of accounting and generally accepted accounting principles with the exception of the legally mandated revenue recognition of the one or more June state aid payment for budgetary purposes only and the special revenue fund as noted below. Encumbrance accounting is also employed as an extension of formal budgetary integration in the governmental fund types. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at fiscal year end.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - CONTINUED**

**E. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AMOUNTS - CONTINUED**

**9. Budgets/Budgetary Control - Continued**

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

**10. Tuition Receivable**

Tuition charges were established by the Board of Education based on estimated costs. The charges are subject to adjustment when the final costs have been determined. The Board of Education began charging tuition to district students for Preschool Regular Education services for a set rate approved by the Board annually, beginning September 1, 2008. The district also began an expanded day kindergarten program with tuition set annually by the Board of Education. Students participating in the 2016-2017 school year in the Preschool program pay a fee of \$2,750 and Expanded Day Kindergarten Program pay a fee of \$3,750 annually. Students eligible for free or reduced meals receive the programs at a reduced rate set annually by the Board. As of June 30, 2017, there was no tuition receivable.

The district also receives student in regular education grades 1-8 in a parent paid program with tuition fees set annually by the Board of Education. These fees are based on 50% certified cost per pupil fees from the most recent certification.

**11. Tuition Payable**

Tuition charges for the fiscal years 2016-2017 were based on rates established by the receiving district. These rates are subject to change when the actual costs have been determined. The district sent three students to Atlantic County Special Services in the 2015-2016 school year and anticipate notification of an adjustment in the next budget cycle.

The District also had a student attend private schools for the disabled during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. Tuition adjustment notifications are anticipated next budget cycle.

**12. Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those results.

**13. Allocation of Costs**

In the government-wide statement of activities, the District has allocated unallocated benefits to various programs based on the budgetary expenditures by program.

**F. ACCOUNTING CHANGES**

The District has implemented GASB No. 63, which modified the terminology of *net assets* to *net position*. This change did not result in any monetary restatement, but the District has restated prior years to reflect *net position* instead of *net assets*.

GASB No. 65 was also effective in the current year, but had no impact on the District.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 2. CASH**

**Custodial Credit Risk—Deposits.** Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The district's policy is based on New Jersey Statutes requiring cash be deposited only in New Jersey based banking institutions that participate in the New Jersey Governmental Depository Protection Act (GUDPA) or in qualified investments established in New Jersey Statutes 18A:20-37 that are treated as cash equivalents. As of June 30, 2017, \$0 of the government's bank balance of \$2,429,252 was exposed to custodial credit risk.

**NOTE 3. INVESTMENTS**

As of June 30, 2017, the district did not have any investments.

**Interest Rate Risk.** The district does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. However, New Jersey Statutes 18A:20-37 limits the length of time for most investments to 397 days.

**Credit Risk.** New Jersey Statutes 18A:20-37 limits district investments to those specified in the Statutes. The type of allowable investments are Bonds of the United States of America or of the district or the local units in which the district is located; obligations of federal agencies not exceeding 397 days; government money market mutual funds; the State of New Jersey Cash Management Plan; local government investment pools; or repurchase of fully collateralized securities.

**Concentration of Credit Risk.** The district places no limit on the amount the district may invest in any one issuer.

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**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 4. FIXED ASSETS**

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2017 was as follows:

	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<b>Governmental activities:</b>				
Capital assets, not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 859,382	\$	\$	\$ 859,382
Construction in Progress	150,070	267,140	(148,070.00)	269,140
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>1,009,452</u>	<u>267,140</u>	<u>(148,070.00)</u>	<u>1,128,522</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Site Improvements	-			-
Buildings and building improvements	26,465,945	178,086	(163,783)	26,480,247
Machinery & Equipment	1,840,153	18,355	(113,941)	1,744,567
Total capital assets being depreciated at historical cost	<u>28,306,098</u>	<u>196,441</u>	<u>(277,725)</u>	<u>28,224,814</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Site Improvements	-	-		-
Buildings and improvements	(11,383,659)	(696,045)	92,625	(11,987,080)
Equipment	(1,307,371)	(67,261)	111,073	(1,263,559)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(12,691,030)</u>	<u>(763,306)</u>	<u>203,698</u>	<u>(13,250,639)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>15,615,068</u>	<u>(566,865)</u>	<u>(74,027)</u>	<u>14,974,175</u>
Governmental activity capital assets, net	<u>\$ 16,624,520</u>	<u>\$ (299,725)</u>	<u>\$ (222,097)</u>	<u>\$ 16,102,697</u>

Depreciation expense as charged to governmental functions as follows:

Regular Instruction	\$ 508,871
Direct Expense of Various Functions	<u>254,435</u>
	<u>\$ 763,306</u>

**NOTE 5. GENERAL LONG-TERM DEBT**

Long-term liability activity for the year ended June 30, 2017 was as follows:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>June 30, 2016</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Retired/ Adjustment</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>June 30, 2017</u>	<u>Due in</u> <u>One Year</u>
Compensated					
Absences Payable	\$ 679,398	\$ 1,066,890	\$ 564,396	\$ 1,181,892	\$ 30,000
	<u>\$ 679,398</u>	<u>\$ 1,066,890</u>	<u>\$ 564,396</u>	<u>\$ 1,181,892</u>	<u>\$ 30,000</u>

**A. Bonds Payable** – The City of Linwood School District was a Type I School District. In the State of New Jersey, all Type I school debt is borne by the municipality rather than the school district. The District has not issued any debt as at Type II district.

**B. Bonds Authorized But Not Issued** - As of June 30, 2017, the District had no authorized but not issued bonds.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 6. OPERATING LEASES**

The District is leasing various copy machines for the schools and administrative office. The lease terms vary from three to five years. The monthly payment is \$3,178.77. The following are minimum lease payments due for the lease on an annual basis.

Future minimum lease payments are as follows:

<u>June 30,</u>	
2018	\$ 38,145
2019	19,876
2020	13,606
2021	13,606

**NOTE 7. PENSION PLANS**

*Description of Plans*

All required employees of the District are covered by either the Public Employees' Retirement System or the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plans which have been established by state statute and are administered by the New Jersey Division of Pension and Benefits (Division). According to the State of New Jersey Administrative Code, all obligations of both Systems will be assumed by the State of New Jersey should the Systems terminate. The Division issues a publicly available financial report that includes the financial statements and required supplementary information for the Public Employees Retirement System and the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund. These reports may be obtained by writing to the Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625 or the reports can be accessed on the internet at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annrprts.shtml>.

*Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund*

The Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund was established in January, 1955 under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:66 to provide retirement benefits, death, disability and medical benefits to certain qualified members. The Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund is considered a cost-sharing multiple-employer plan with a special funding situation, as under current statute, all employer contributions are made by the State of New Jersey on behalf of the District and the system's other related non-contributing employers. Membership is mandatory for substantially all teachers or members of the professional staff certified by the State Board of Examiners, and employees of the Department of Education who have titles that are unclassified, professional and certified.

*Public Employees' Retirement System*

The Public Employees' Retirement System was established in January, 1955 under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 43:15A to provide retirement, death, disability and medical benefits to certain qualified members. The Public Employees' Retirement System is a cost-sharing multiple-employer plan. Membership is mandatory for substantially all full time employees of the State or any county, municipality, school district or public agency provided the employee is not required to be a member of another State-administered retirement system or other state or local jurisdiction.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 7. PENSION PLANS - CONTINUED**

*Funding Policy*

The contribution policy is set by N.J.S.A. 43:15A, Chapter 62, P.L. of 1994, Chapter 115, P.L. of 1997 and N.J.S.A. 18:66, and requires contributions by active members and contributing employers. Plan member and employer contributions may be amended by State of New Jersey legislation. TPAF and PERS provide for employee contributions of 6.78% of employees' annual compensation, as defined. Employers are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate in both TPAF and PERS. The School District's contributions to TPAF for the years ending June 30, 2017, 2016, and 2015, were \$708,240, \$507,311, and \$384,002, respectively, and paid by the State of New Jersey on behalf of the board, equal to the required contributions for each year. The School District's contributions to PERS for the years ending June 30, 2017, 2016, and 2015, were \$154,900, \$167,374, and \$158,827, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

During the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017, 2016, and 2015, the State of New Jersey contributed \$590,125, \$604,066, and \$552,453, respectively, to the TPAF for post-retirement medical benefits and life insurance premiums on behalf of the Board. The State of New Jersey contributed \$768 to TPAF for long-term disability insurance. Also, in accordance with NJSA 18A:66-66 the State of New Jersey reimbursed the Board \$431,155, \$468,728, and \$478,657, during the same fiscal years for the employer's share of social security contributions for TPAF members as calculated on their base salaries. These amounts, which are not required to be budgeted, have been included in the financial statements, and the combining and individual fund and account group statements and schedules as revenues and expenditures in accordance in GASB 27.

Vesting and Benefit Provisions - The vesting and benefit provisions for PERS are set by N.J.S.A. 43:15A and 43.3B, and N.J.S.A. 18A:6C for TPAF. All benefits vest after eight to ten years of service, except for medical benefits that vest after 25 years of service. Retirement benefits for age and service are available at age 60 and are generally determined to be 1/60 of the final average salary for each year of service credit, as defined. Final average salary equals the average salary for the final three years of service prior to retirement (or highest three years' compensation if other than the final three years). Members may seek early retirement after achieving 25 years of service credit or they may elect deferred retirement after achieving eight to ten years of service in which case benefits would begin the first day of the month after the member attains normal retirement age. The TPAF and PERS provides for specified medical benefits for members who retire after achieving 25 years of qualified service, as defined, or under the disability provisions of the System. Members are always fully vested for their own contributions and, after three years of service credit, become vested for 2% of related interest earned on the contributions. In the case of death before retirement, members' beneficiaries are entitled to full interest credited to the members' accounts.

*Significant Legislation*

Chapter 78, P.L. 2011, effective June 28, 2011 made various changes to the manner in which the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) operate and to the benefit provisions of those systems.



**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 7. PENSION PLANS - CONTINUED**

Chapter 78's provisions impacting employee pension and health benefits include:

- New members of the PERS hired on or after June 28, 2011 (Tier 5 members) will need 30 years of creditable service and age 65 for receipt of the early retirement benefit without a reduction of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1% for each month that the member is under age 65.
- The eligibility age to qualify for a service retirement in the PERS is increased from age 63 to 65 for Tier 5 members.
- The annual benefit under special retirement for new PERS members enrolled after June 28, 2011 (Tier 3 members), will be 60% instead of 65% of the member's final compensation plus 1% for each year of creditable service over 25 years but not to exceed 30 years.
- Increases in active member contribution rates. PERS active member rates increase from 5.5% of annual compensation to 6.5% plus an additional 1% phased-in over 7 years; PFRS active member rate increase from 8.5% to 10%. For fiscal year 2012, the member contribution rates increased in October 2011. The phase-in of the additional incremental member contribution rates for PES members will take place in July of each subsequent fiscal year.
- The payment of automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) additional increases to current and future retirees and beneficiaries is suspended until reactivated as permitted by this law.
- New employee contribution requirements towards the cost of employer-provided health benefit coverage. Employees are required to contribute a certain percentage of the cost of coverage. The rate of contribution is determined based on the employee's annual salary and the selected level of coverage. The increased employee contributions will be phased in over a 4-year period for those employed prior to Chapter 78's effective date with a minimum contribution required to be at least 1.5% of salary.
- In addition, this new legislation changes the method for amortizing the pension systems' unfunded accrued liability (from a level percent of pay method to a level dollar of pay).

Chapter 1, P.L. 2010, effective May 21, 2010, made a number of changes to the State-administered retirement systems concerning eligibility, the retirement allowance formula, the definition of compensation, the positions eligible for service credit, the non-forfeitable right to a pension, the prosecutor's part of the PERS, special retirement under the PFRS, and employer contributions to the retirement systems.

Also, Chapter 1, P.L. 2010 changed the membership eligibility criteria for new members of PERS from the amount of annual compensation to the number of hours worked weekly. Also, it returned the benefit multiplier for new members of PERS to  $\frac{1}{60}$ th from  $\frac{1}{55}$ th, and it provided that new members of PERS have the retirement allowance calculated using the average annual compensation for the last five years of service instead of the last three years of service. New members of PERS will no longer receive pension service credit from more than one employer. Pension service credit will be earned for the highest paid position only. For new members of the PFRS, the law capped the maximum compensation that can be used to calculate a pension from these plans at the annual wage contribution base for social security, and requires the pension to be calculated using a three year average annual compensation instead of the last year's salary. This law also closed the Prosecutors Part of the PERS to new members and repealed the law for new members that provided a non-forfeitable right to receive a pension based on the laws of the retirement system in place at the time 5 years of pension service credit is attained. The law also requires the State to make its full pension contribution, defined a  $\frac{1}{7}$ th of the required amount, beginning in fiscal years 2012.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 7. PENSION PLANS - CONTINUED**

Chapter 3, P.L. 2010, effective May 21, 2010, replaced the accidental and ordinary disability retirement for new members of the PERS with disability insurance coverage similar to that provided by the State to individuals enrolled in the State's Defined Contribution Retirement Program.

Chapter 92, P.L. 2007 implemented certain recommendations contained in the December 1, 2006 report of the Joint Legislative Committee on Public Employee Benefits Reform; established a DCRP for elected and certain appointed officials, effective July 1, 2007; the new pension loan interest rate became 4.69% per year, and an \$8.00 processing fee per loan was charged, effective January 1, 2008. The legislation also removed language from existing law that permits the State Treasurer to reduce employer pension contributions needed to fund the Funds and Systems when excess assets are available.

**NOTE 8. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

At June 30, 2017, the District reported a liability of \$5,141,909 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2016, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2016, the District's proportion was .01736126520%, which was a decrease of 9.44% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2015.

For the year ended June 30, 2017, the District recognized pension expense of \$436,469. At June 30, 2017, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to PERS from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 95,624	
Changes of assumptions	1,065,129	
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	196,066	
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions	73,057	343,354
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	154,235	
Total	\$ 1,584,111	\$ 343,354

\$154,235 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from school district contributions subsequent to the measurement date (June 30, 2016) will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2017. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 8. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM-CONTINUED**

Year ended June 30,		
2018	\$	245,887
2019		245,887
2020		281,099
2021		235,233
2022		78,416
Total	\$	1,086,522

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2016 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation of July 1, 2015, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2016. This actuarial valuation used the following assumptions, applied to all period in the measurement:

Inflation rate	3.08%
Salary increases:	
Through 2026	1.65% - 4.15% (based on age)
Thereafter	2.65% - 5.15% (based on age)
Investment rate of return:	7.65%

Pre-retirement mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Employee Preretirement Mortality Table for male and female active participants. For State employees, mortality tables are set back 4 years for males and females. For local employees, mortality tables are set back 2 years for males and 7 years for females. In addition, the tables provide for future improvements in mortality from the base year of 2014 using a generational approach based on the plan actuary's modified MP-2014 projection scale. Post-retirement mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Male and Female Mortality Tables (set back 1 year for males and females) for service retirements and beneficiaries of former members and a one-year static projection based on mortality improvement Scale AA. In addition, the tables for service retirements and beneficiaries of former members provide for future improvements in mortality from the base year of 2013 using a generational approach based on the plan actuary's modified MP-2014 projection scale. Disability retirement rates used to value disabled retirees were based on the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table (set back 3 years for males and set forward 1 year for females).

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2015 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014. It is likely that future experience will not exactly conform to these assumptions. To the extent that actual experience deviates from these assumptions, the emerging liabilities may be higher or lower than anticipated. The more experience deviates, the larger the impact on future financial statements.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 8. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM-CONTINUED**

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7.65% at June 30, 2016) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees and the actuaries. The long term expected rate of return was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflations. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in PERS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2016 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	5.00%	0.87%
U.S. Treasuries	1.50%	1.74%
Investment Grade Credit	8.00%	1.79%
Mortgages	2.00%	1.67%
High Yield Bonds	2.00%	4.56%
Inflation-Indexed Bonds	1.50%	3.44%
Broad US Equities	26.00%	8.53%
Developed Foreign Equities	13.25%	6.83%
Emerging Market Equities	6.50%	9.95%
Private Equity	9.00%	12.40%
Hedge Funds/Absolute Return	12.50%	4.68%
Real Estate (Property)	2.00%	6.91%
Commodities	0.50%	5.45%
Global Debt (Except US)	5.00%	-0.25%
REIT	5.25%	5.63%

*Discount Rate*

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 3.98% as of June 30, 2016. This single blended discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.65%, and a municipal bond rate of 2.85% as of June 30, 2016, based on the Bond Buyer Go 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made based on the contribution rate in the most recent fiscal year. The State employer contributed 30% of the actuarially determined contributions and the local employers contributed 100% of the actuarially determined contributions. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current plan members through 2034. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to projected benefit payments through 2034 and the municipal bond rate was applied to projected benefit payments after that date in determining the total pension liability.

*Sensitivity of the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate.*

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 8. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM-CONTINUED**

The following presents the collective net pension liability of the participated employers as of June 30, 2016, calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above as well as what the collective net pension liability would be if it was calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (2.98%)	Current Discount Rate (3.98%)	1% Increase (4.98%)
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 6,162,083	5,141,909	4,300,571

*Pension plan fiduciary net position.*

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued PERS financial report.

**NOTE 9. TEACHERS PENSION AND ANNUITY FUND (TPAF)**

At June 30, 2017, the District reported a liability for its proportionate share of the net pension liability that reflected a reduction for State pension support provided to the District. The amount recognized by the District as its proportionate share of the net pension liability, the related State support, and the total portion of the net pension liability that was associated with the District were as follows:

District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ -
State's proportionate share of the net position liability associated with the District	49,845,542
Total	<u>\$ 49,845,542</u>

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2016 and the total pension liability to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating school districts and the State, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2016, the District's proportion was 0.00%, which was no change from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2015.

For the year ended June 30, 2017, the District recognized pension expense of \$3,745,199 and revenue of \$3,745,199 for support provided by the State. At June 30, 2016, the District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to TPAF from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 175,656	\$ 85,244
Changes of assumptions	9,949,768	
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	909,090	
Changes in proportion and differences between District contributions and proportionate share of contributions		1,504,990
District contributions subsequent to the measurement date		504,624
Total	<u>\$ 11,034,514</u>	<u>\$ 2,094,858</u>

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 9. TEACHERS PENSION AND ANNUITY FUND (TPAF)-CONTINUED**

\$504,624 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from district contributions subsequent to the measurement date (June 30, 2016) will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2017. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30,		
2018	\$	1,387,408
2019		1,387,408
2020		1,625,321
2021		1,520,035
2022		1,284,009
Thereafter		2,240,100
Total	\$	9,444,281

*Actuarial assumptions.* The total pension liability in the June 30, 2016 actuarial valuation was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2015, which was rolled forward to June 30, 2016. This actuarial valuation used the following assumptions, applied to all period included in the measurement:

Inflation Rate	2.50%
Salary increases	
2012-2021	Varies based on experience
Thereafter	Varies based on experience
Investment rate of return	7.65%

Pre-retirement, post-retirement and disable mortality rates were based on the experience of TPAF members reflecting mortality improvement on a generational basis based on a 60 year average of Social Security data from 1953 to 2013.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2015 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 20012 to June 30, 2015.

***Long-Term Expected Rate of Return***

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments (7.65% at June 30, 2016) is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the board of trustees and the actuaries. The long-term expected rate of return was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in TPAF's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2016 are summarized in the following table:

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 9. TEACHERS PENSION AND ANNUITY FUND (TPAF)-CONTINUED**

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return.
US Cash	5.00%	0.39%
US Government Bonds	1.50%	1.28%
US Credit Bonds	13.00%	2.76%
US Mortgages	2.00%	2.38%
US Inflation-Indexed Bonds	1.50%	1.41%
US High Yield Bonds	2.00%	4.70%
US Equity Market	26.00%	5.14%
Foreign Developed Equity	13.25%	5.91%
Emerging market equities	6.50%	8.16%
Private Real Estate Property	5.25%	3.64%
Timber	1.00%	3.86%
Farmland	1.00%	4.39%
Private equity	9.00%	8.97%
Commodities	0.50%	2.87%
Hedge Funds - Multi Strategy	5.00%	3.70%
Hedge Funds - Equity Hedge	3.75%	4.72%
Hedge Funds - Distressed	3.75%	3.49%

*Discount rate.* The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 3.22% as of June 30, 2016. This single blended discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.65%, and a municipal bond rate of 2.85% as of June 30, 2016, based on the Bond Buyer Go 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made based on the average of the last five years of employers' contributions. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current plan members through 2029. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to projected benefit payments through 2029, and the municipal bond rate was applied to projected benefit payments after that date in determining the total pension liability.

*Sensitivity of the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate.*

The following presents the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 3.22% as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower (2.22%) or 1-percentage point higher (4.22%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (2.22%)	Current Discount Rate (3.22%)	1% Increase (4.22%)
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ -	-	-

*Pension plan fiduciary net position.*

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued TPAF financial report.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 10. POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

P.L. 1987, c. 384 and P.L. 1990, c.6 required Teachers' Pensions and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), respectively, to fund post-retirement medical benefits for those state employees who retire after accumulating 25 years of credited service or on a disability retirement. P.L. 2007, c.103 amended the law to eliminate the funding of post-retirement medical benefits through the TPAF and PERS. It created separate funds outside of the pension plans for the funding and payment of post-retirement medical benefits for retired state employees and retired educational employees. As of June 30, 2015 there were 107,314 retirees eligible for post-retirement medical benefits. The cost of these benefits is funded through contributions by the state in accordance with P.L. 1994, c.62. Funding of post-retirement medical premiums changed from a pre-funding basis to a pay-as-you-go basis beginning in Fiscal Year 1994.

The state is also responsible for the cost attributable to P.L. 1992 c. 126, which provides free health benefits to members of PERS and the Alternate Benefit Program who retired from a board of education or county college with 25 years of service. The state paid \$214.1 million toward Chapter 126 benefits for 19,056 eligible retired members in Fiscal Year 2016.

**NOTE 11. COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

The District accounts for compensated absences (e.g. unused vacation, sick leave) as directed by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 16 (GASB 16), "Accounting for Compensated Absences". A liability for compensated absences attributable to services already rendered and not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the employer and employee is accrued as employees earn the rights to the benefits.

District employees are granted varying amounts of vacation and sick leave in accordance with the District's personnel policies. In the event of termination, an employee is reimbursed for accumulated vacation. Sick leave benefits provide for ordinary sick pay and begin vesting with the employee after fifteen years of service.

The liability for vested compensated absences of the governmental fund types is recorded in the entity wide statement of financial position. The current portion of the compensated absence balance is not considered material to the applicable funds total liabilities, and is therefore not shown separately from the long-term liability balance of compensated absences.

**NOTE 12. DEFERRED COMPENSATION**

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

Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc.  
Siracusa  
Equitable  
Vanguard – Existing Plans only



**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 13. RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

**Property and Liability Insurance** - The District maintains commercial insurance coverage for property, liability and surety bonds. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 the District did not incur claims in excess of their coverage and the amount of coverage did not significantly decrease.

**Worker's Compensation Fund Joint Insurance Fund** – The District is retaining risk by the established self-funded workers' compensation fund through School Alliance Insurance Fund. Premiums are paid into the fund and are available to pay claims, claim reserves and administrative costs of the program. The trust was established to pay legitimate claims against the Board, which the Board has the obligation to pay such claims. As of June 30, 2016, the amounts of any claims or settlements did not exceed insurance coverage. Excess worker's compensation insurance is carried through School Alliance Insurance Fund.

**New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance** – The District has been included in the State of New Jersey plan since January 1996.

**NOTE 14. COMMITMENTS**

The District has adopted an encumbrance policy for the fiscal year June 30, 2017 to consider significant encumbrances. All encumbrances are classified as either Assigned Fund Balance in the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund. There were no significant encumbrances outstanding at year end.

**NOTE 15. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

**Federal and State Grants**

The District participates in a number of federal and state grant programs. The grant programs are subject to program compliance audits by the grantors or their representatives. The District is potentially liable for expenditures which may be disallowed pursuant to the terms of these grant programs.

**NOTE 16. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY**

The District receives support from the federal government and from the state government in the form of aid and specific grants. A significant reduction in the level of support, if this were to occur, would have an effect on the District's programs and activities.

**NOTE 17. INTERFUND RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES**

The following interfund balances remained on the balance sheet at June 30, 2017:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Inter-fund Receivable</u>	<u>Inter-fund Payable</u>
General	\$ 41,435	\$ 289
Special Revenue		40,254
Capital Projects		
Other Funds	<u>289</u>	<u>1,181</u>
	<u><u>\$ 41,724</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 41,724</u></u>

Inter-funds were created throughout the year due to short term borrowings to cover cash flow needs in the various funds. The fund financial inter-funds were eliminated in the governmental-wide statements.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 18. RECEIVABLES**

Receivables at June 30, 2017, consisted of accounts (other), interfund, and intergovernmental. All receivables are considered collectible in full. A summary of the principal items of intergovernmental receivables follows:

	Governmental Fund Financial Statements	Government Wide Financial Statements
State Aid	\$ 160,093	160,093
Federal Aid	59,319	59,319
Interfunds	41,435	
Other	17,562	17,562
Gross Receivables	278,409	236,974
Less: Allowance for Uncollectibles		
Total Receivables, Net	<u>\$ 278,409</u>	<u>\$ 236,974</u>

**NOTE 19. FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED**

The District follows the State of New Jersey's minimum fund balance policy for New Jersey Regular Public School Districts (N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-7). Pursuant to that policy, an undesignated fund balance of 2% of the general fund budget or \$250,000, whichever is greater may be maintained.

Specific classifications of fund balance are summarized below;

Non-Spendable Fund Balance – The District had no non-spendable fund balance at June 30, 2017.

Restricted Fund Balance

Excess Surplus – At June 30, 2017, excess surplus created in FY16 of \$912,772 will be utilized for expenditures in the 2017-18 budget, while excess surplus created in FY17 of \$633,754 restricted and will be utilized for budget expenditures in 2018-19.

Committed Fund Balance

Capital Reserve Account – Of the \$525,214 balance in the capital reserve account at June 30, 2017, \$0 has been designated for utilization in the 2017-18 budget. These funds are restricted for future capital outlay expenditures for projects in the School District's long range facilities plan (LRFP).

Maintenance Reserve Account – Of the \$341,033 balance in the maintenance reserve account at June 30, 2017, \$0 has been designated for utilization in the 2017-18 budget. These funds are restricted for the required maintenance of school facilities in accordance with the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act (EFCFA) (N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-9) as amended by P.L. 2004, c. 73 (\$1701).

Assigned Fund Balance – At June 30, 2017, the Board of School Estimates has assigned \$100,000 of general fund balance to expenditures in the 2017-18 budget. \$340,033 was assigned for other purposes as of year-end. This represents encumbrances resulting from issuing purchase orders as a result of normal purchasing activities approved by District officials.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 19. FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED - CONTINUED**

Unassigned Fund Balance – At June 30, 2017, the District has \$258,582 of unassigned fund balance in the general fund.

**NOTE 20. EXCESS SURPLUS**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-7, as amended by PL 2004m c73 (S1701), the designation for Reserved Fund Balance - Excess Surplus is a required calculation pursuant to the New Jersey Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 (CEIFA). New Jersey school districts are required to reserve General Fund balance at the fiscal year end of June 30 if they did not appropriate a required minimum amount as budgeted fund balance in their subsequent years' budget. The excess fund balance calculated for the year ended June 30, 2017 is \$633,754.

**NOTE 21. LITIGATION**

From time to time, the District is a defendant in legal proceedings relating to its operations as a school district. In the best judgment of the District's management, the outcome of any legal proceedings will not have any adverse affect on the accompanying financial statements.

**NOTE 22. CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT**

A capital reserve account was established by the Linwood Board of Education by inclusion of \$250,000, June 2005 for the accumulation of funds for use as capital outlay expenditures in subsequent fiscal years. The capital reserve account is maintained in the general fund and its activity is included in the general fund annual budget.

Funds placed in the capital reserve account are restricted to capital projects in the district's approved Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP). Upon submission of the LRFP to the department, a district may increase the balance in the capital reserve by appropriating funds in the annual general fund budget certified for taxes or by transfer by board resolution at year end (June 1 to June 30) of any unanticipated revenue or unexpended line-item appropriation amounts, or both. A district may also appropriate additional amounts when the express approval of the Board of School Estimates has been obtained either by a separate proposal at budget time or by a special question authorized pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:60-2*. Pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.1(g)*, the balance in the account cannot at any time exceed the local support costs of uncompleted capital projects in its approved LRFP.

The activity of the capital reserve for the July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 fiscal year is as follows:

Beginning balance, July 1, 2016	\$ 733,114
Interest earnings	3,790
Deposits June 30, 2017	
Deposit Refund from Capital Projects	
Withdrawals:	
Budget 2016-17 (Expended)	<u>211,690</u>
Ending balance, June 30, 2017	<u><u>\$525,215</u></u>

The June 30, 2017 LRFP balance of local support costs of uncompleted capital projects at June 30, 2017 is \$4,351,000. The withdrawals from the capital reserve, if any, are for use in a DOE approved facilities project, consistent with the district's Long Range Facilities Plan.

**City of Linwood School District**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**June 30, 2017**  
**(Continued)**

**NOTE 23. MAINTENANCE RESERVE ACCOUNT**

A maintenance reserve account was established by the Linwood Board of Education by inclusion of \$50,000, June 2008 for the accumulation of funds for use as required maintenance expenditures in subsequent fiscal years. The maintenance reserve account is maintained in the general fund and its activity is included in the general fund annual budget.

The activity of the Maintenance reserve for the July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 fiscal year is as follows:

Beginning balance, July 1, 2016	\$ 317,903
Interest earnings	1,630
Withdrawals:	
Per Approved Budget (Expended):	(53,500)
Deposit Board resolution June 30, 2017	75,000
Ending balance, June 30, 2017	<u><u>\$341,034</u></u>

**NOTE 24. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management has reviewed and evaluated all events and transactions that occurred between June 30, 2017 and September 25, 2017, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued for possible disclosure and recognition in the financial statements, and no items have come to the attention of the District that would require disclosure.

## **APPENDIX C**

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

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July 3, 2018

The Board of Education of the City of Linwood,  
in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey  
51 Belhaven Avenue  
Linwood, New Jersey

**RE: \$2,560,000 THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD,  
IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY, SCHOOL BONDS,  
SERIES 2018**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have served as Bond Counsel in connection with the authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of the above-referenced obligations ("Bonds") by The Board of Education of the City of Linwood, County of Atlantic, New Jersey ("Board" when referring to the governing body and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the Board).

The School District is issuing the Bonds pursuant to: (i) Chapter 24 of Title 18A of the New Jersey ("State") Statutes, as amended and supplemented ("School Bond Act"); (ii) a resolution duly adopted by the Board on May 23, 2018 ("Resolution"); and (iii) a bond ordinance duly and finally adopted by the governing body of the City of Linwood, New Jersey ("City"), on behalf of the School District, in accordance with the New Jersey Local Bond Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq.*) and the School Bond Act (*N.J.S.A. 18A:24-10* and *N.J.S.A. 18A:24-11* in particular).

The Bonds are dated their date of delivery and mature on July 15 in each of the years and in the respective principal amounts set opposite each such year in the table below and bear interest at the rates per annum below, payable semi-annually on January 15 and July 15, commencing January 15, 2019, in each year until maturity or earlier redemption.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2019	\$140,000	2.250%	2025	\$210,000	3.000%
2020	150,000	2.500	2026	230,000	3.000
2021	160,000	2.750	2027	280,000	3.000
2022	170,000	2.750	2028	280,000	3.000
2023	180,000	3.000	2029	280,000	3.000
2024	200,000	3.000	2030	280,000	3.000

The Bonds are issued in fully registered book-entry-only form without coupons and are subject to redemption prior to their stated maturity dates on the terms and conditions set forth therein.

**COUNSEL WHEN IT MATTERS.<sup>SM</sup>**

Mount Laurel, New Jersey | Hamilton, New Jersey | Atlantic City, New Jersey



The Bonds are being issued to provide funds which will be used to: (i) permanently finance the costs of various capital improvements for the School District by the repayment at maturity of certain bond anticipation notes heretofore issued by the City on behalf of the School District; (ii) permanently finance the costs of various capital improvements for the School District, for which obligations have been authorized, but not yet issued; and (iii) pay certain costs and expenses incidental to the issuance and delivery of the Bonds.

As the basis for the opinion set forth below, we have examined such matters of law as we have deemed necessary including, *inter alia*, the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as previously amended, and as further amended pursuant to Public Law 115-97 ("Tax Cuts and Jobs Act"), signed into law on December 22, 2017 (as amended, the "Code"), and the School Bond Law. We have also examined such documents, certifications and instruments as we have deemed necessary including, without limitation, the Resolution, a certification of the officials of the School District having responsibility for issuing the Bonds given pursuant to the Code ("Non-Arbitrage Certificate"), and the other certifications, opinions and instruments listed in the closing agenda prepared in connection with the settlement for the Bonds.

In rendering the following opinion, we have relied upon the authenticity, truthfulness and completeness of all documents, certifications, instruments and opinions examined.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, we are of the following opinion:

1. The Bonds are legal, valid and binding obligations of the School District enforceable in accordance with the terms thereof, except to the extent that enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, moratorium or other laws or equitable principles affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally ("Creditors' Rights Limitations").

2. For the payment of principal of and interest on the Bonds, the School District has the power and is obligated, to the extent payment is not otherwise provided, to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all taxable real property within the School District without limitation as to rate or amount, except to the extent that enforcement thereof may be affected by Creditors' Rights Limitations.

3. Interest on the Bonds will not be includible for federal income tax purposes in the gross income of the owners thereof pursuant to Section 103 of the Code and will not constitute a tax preference item for purposes of the alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals and, for tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018, corporations.

For tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2018, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has repealed the alternative minimum tax for corporations. However, for tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018, the adjustment for "adjusted current earnings" set forth in Section 56(g) of the Code is required in determining a corporation's alternative minimum taxable income. Alternative minimum taxable income is increased by seventy-five percent (75%) of the excess, if any, of the "adjusted current earnings" of a corporation over the alternative minimum taxable income (determined without regard to this adjustment or the alternative tax net operating loss deduction). For certain corporations with tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018, interest on tax-exempt obligations, including the Bonds, is not excludable in calculating "adjusted current earnings" of





those corporations. Accordingly, a portion of the interest on the Bonds received or accrued by corporations with tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2018 that own the Bonds is included in computing such corporation's alternative minimum taxable income for such year.

Section 884 of the Code imposes on certain foreign corporations a branch profits tax equal to thirty percent (30%) of the "dividend equivalent amount" for the taxable year. Interest on the Bonds received or accrued by a foreign corporation subject to the branch profits tax may be included in computing the "dividend equivalent amount" of such corporation.

In addition, passive "investment" income, including interest on the Bonds, may be subject to federal income taxation under Section 1375 of the Code for any S corporation that has Subchapter C earnings and profits at the close of the taxable year if more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the gross receipts of such S corporation is passive investment income.

In rendering this opinion, we have assumed continuing compliance by the School District that it will comply with the applicable requirements of the Code, including requirements relating to, *inter alia*, the use and investment of proceeds of the Bonds and rebate to the United States Treasury of specified arbitrage earnings, if any, under Section 148(f) of the Code. Failure of the School District to comply with such covenants could result in the interest on the Bonds being subject to federal income tax from the date of issue. We have not undertaken to monitor compliance with such covenants or to advise any party as to changes in the law after the date hereof that may affect the tax-exempt status of the interest on the Bonds.

Ownership of the Bonds may result in collateral federal income tax consequences to certain taxpayers including, without limitation, certain holders of an interest in a financial asset securitization investment trust, property and casualty insurance companies, controlled foreign corporations, individual recipients of Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits, individuals who otherwise qualify for the earned income credit and to individuals and families that qualify for a premium assistance credit amount under Section 36B of the Code. The Code denies the earned income credit to an individual who is otherwise eligible if the aggregate amount of disqualified income of the taxpayer for the taxable year exceeds certain limits set forth in Sections 32(i) and (j) of the Code. Interest on the Bonds will constitute disqualified income for this purpose. The Code also provides that the earned income credit is phased out if the modified adjusted gross income of the taxpayer exceeds certain amounts. Interest on the Bonds is included in determining the modified adjusted gross income of the taxpayer. Section 36B of the Code provides that the amount of the premium assistance credit amount is in part determined by household income. Section 36B(d) of the Code provides that household income consists of the "modified adjusted gross income" of the taxpayer and certain other individuals. "Modified adjusted gross income" means adjusted gross income increased by certain amounts, including interest received or accrued by the taxpayer which is exempt from tax, such as the interest on the Bonds.

In addition, attention is called to the fact that Section 265(b)(1) of the Code eliminates the interest deduction otherwise allowable with respect to indebtedness deemed incurred by banks, thrift institutions and other financial institutions to purchase or to carry tax-exempt obligations acquired after August 7, 1986 other than "qualified tax-exempt obligations" as defined in Section



265(b)(3) of the Code. The School District has designated the Bonds as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code. Eighty percent (80%) of the interest expense deemed incurred by banks, thrift institutions and other financial institutions to purchase or carry "qualified tax-exempt obligations" is deductible.

Owners of the Bonds should consult their own tax advisers as to the applicability and effect on their federal income taxes of the alternative minimum tax, the branch profits tax and the tax on passive investment income of S corporations, as well as the applicability and effect of any other collateral federal income tax consequences.

4. Interest on the Bonds and any gain from the sale thereof is not included in the gross income of the owners thereof under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act, as enacted and construed on the date hereof.

We express no opinion as to any matter not set forth in the numbered paragraphs above including, without limitation, any financial or other information which has been or may be supplied to purchasers of the Bonds.

The opinions expressed in the numbered paragraphs above are being rendered on the basis of federal law and the laws of the State of New Jersey, as presently enacted and construed, and we assume no responsibility to advise any party as to any changes in law or fact subsequent to the date hereof.

This is only an opinion letter and not a warranty or guaranty of the matters discussed above.

This letter is being provided solely for the benefit of the School District and may not be relied upon by any other person, party, firm or organization without our prior written consent.

Very truly yours,

## **APPENDIX D**

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

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## CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

**THIS CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT** ("Disclosure Agreement") is made on this 3rd day of July, 2018 by and between the Board of Education of the City of Linwood, County of Atlantic, New Jersey ("Board" when referring to the governing body and "School District" when referring to the legal entity governed by the Board) and Phoenix Advisors, LLC ("Dissemination Agent"). This Disclosure Agreement is entered into in connection with the issuance and sale by the School District of its School Bonds, Series 2018, in the aggregate principal amount of \$2,560,000 ("Bonds").

**SECTION 1. Purpose of the Disclosure Agreement.** This Disclosure Agreement is being executed and delivered for the benefit of the holders and beneficial owners of the Bonds (collectively, the "Bondholders") and in compliance with the provisions of Rule 15c2-12(b)(5), promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"), as it may be amended and supplemented from time to time, including administrative or judicial interpretations thereof, as it applies to the Bonds ("Rule").

**SECTION 2. Definitions.** Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall, for purposes of this Disclosure Agreement, have the following meanings:

**"Annual Report"** shall mean the School District's Annual Report provided pursuant to, and as described in, Sections 3 and 4 of this Disclosure Agreement.

**"Business Day"** shall mean any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a day on which the School District or the Dissemination Agent is authorized by law or contract to remain closed.

**"Continuing Disclosure Information"** shall mean: (i) the Annual Report; (ii) any notice required to be filed with the National Repository pursuant to Section 5 hereof; and (iii) any notice of an event required to be filed with the National Repository pursuant to Section 3(c) hereof.

**"EMMA"** shall mean the Electronic Municipal Market Access System ("EMMA"), an internet based filing system created and maintained by the MSRB in accordance with the SEC Release, pursuant to which issuers of tax-exempt bonds, including the Bonds, and other filers on behalf of such issuers shall upload Continuing Disclosure Information to assist underwriters in complying with the Rule and to provide the general public with access to such Continuing Disclosure Information.

**"MSRB"** shall mean the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board established pursuant to Section 15B(b)(1) of the Exchange Act.

**"National Repository"** shall mean the MSRB, through the internet facilities of EMMA, or any other public or private repository or entity that shall hereafter be designated by the SEC as a repository for purposes of the Rule.

**"Opinion of Counsel"** shall mean a written opinion of counsel expert in federal securities law acceptable to the School District.

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

### **SECTION 3. Provision of Annual Report.**

(a) The School District shall not later than 210 days after the end of its fiscal year (currently June 30) during which any of the Bonds remain outstanding provide to the Dissemination Agent, the School District's Annual Report prepared for the preceding fiscal year of the School District (commencing for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018). Each Annual Report provided to the Dissemination Agent by the School District shall comply with the requirements of Section 4 of this Disclosure Agreement but may be submitted as a single document or as separate documents comprising a package and may cross-reference other information submitted to the National Repository. Any and all items that must be included in the Annual Report may be incorporated by reference from other information that is available to the public on EMMA, or that has been filed with the SEC.

(b) The Dissemination Agent, promptly (within ten (10) Business Days) after receiving the Annual Report from the School District, shall submit each Annual Report received by it to the National Repository and thereafter shall file a written report with the School District certifying that the Annual Report has been provided pursuant to this Agreement, stating the date it was provided to the National Repository.

(c) If the School District fails to provide the Annual Report to the Dissemination Agent by the dates required in subsection (a) of this Section 3, the Dissemination Agent shall send a notice to the School District advising of such failure. Whether or not such notice is given or received, if the School District thereafter fails to submit the Annual Report to the Dissemination Agent within fifteen (15) Business Days after the Annual Report was due pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this Section 3, the Dissemination Agent shall promptly send a notice to the National Repository in substantially the form attached as Exhibit "A" hereto.

**SECTION 4. Contents of Annual Report.** Annual Report shall mean: (i) the School District's annual financial statements, substantially in the form set forth in Appendix B to the Official Statement dated June 19, 2018 ("Official Statement"), audited by an independent certified public accountant, provided that the annual audited financial statements of the School District may be submitted separately from the balance of the Annual Report and later than the date required in Section 3(a) hereof for the filing of the Annual Report if the annual audited financial statements are not available by that date, but only if the unaudited financial statements of the School District are included in the Annual Report; and (ii) the general financial information and operating data of the School District consistent with the information set forth in Appendix A to the Official Statement. Each annual audited financial statement will conform to generally accepted accounting principles applicable to governmental units or will be prepared in accordance with the standards of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and requirements of the New Jersey Department of Education as such principles, standards and requirements exist at the time of the filing of the particular annual audited financial statements.

### **SECTION 5. Reporting of Significant Events.**

(a) This Section 5 shall govern the giving of notices of the occurrence of any of the following listed events ("Listed Events"):

- (1) principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (2) non-payment related defaults, if material;
- (3) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (4) unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;

- (5) substitution of credit or liquidity providers or their failure to perform;
- (6) adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the Bonds, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Bonds;
- (7) modifications to the rights of Bondholders, if material;
- (8) Bond calls (excluding mandatory sinking fund redemptions), if material, or tender offers;
- (9) defeasances;
- (10) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the Bonds, if material;
- (11) rating changes;
- (12) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the obligated person;
- (13) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving an obligated person or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the obligated person, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material; and
- (14) appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material.

(b) The School District shall within ten (10) Business Days of the occurrence of any of the Listed Events, notify the Dissemination Agent in writing to report the event pursuant to subsection (c) of this Section 5. In determining the materiality of a Listed Event specified in clauses (2), (7), (8), (10), (13) or (14) of subsection (a) of this Section 5, the School District may, but shall not be required to, rely conclusively on an Opinion of Counsel.

(c) If the Dissemination Agent has been instructed by the School District to report the occurrence of a Listed Event, the Dissemination Agent shall file a notice of such occurrence with the National Repository within five (5) Business Days of the receipt of such instruction, with a copy of such notice provided by the Dissemination Agent to the School District.

**SECTION 6. Termination of Disclosure Agreement.** This Disclosure Agreement shall terminate upon the defeasance, prior redemption or payment in full of all of the Bonds or when the School District is no longer an Obligated Person (as defined in the Rule) with respect to the Bonds.

**SECTION 7. Amendment; Waiver.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Disclosure Agreement, the School District and the Dissemination Agent may amend this Disclosure Agreement and any provision of this Disclosure Agreement may be waived, if such amendment or waiver (supported by an Opinion of Counsel) is: (a) made in connection with a change in circumstances that arises from a change in legal requirements, change in law, or change in the identity, nature, or status of the School District, or type of business conducted; (b) the undertaking, as amended or waived, would have complied with the requirements of the Rule at the time of the primary offering of the Bonds, after taking into account any amendments or interpretations of the Rule, as well as any change in circumstances; and (c) the amendment or waiver does not materially impair the interests of Bondholders. The School District shall give notice of such amendment or waiver to this Disclosure Agreement to the Dissemination Agent and the Dissemination Agent shall file such notice with the National Repository.

**SECTION 8. Additional Information.** Nothing in this Disclosure Agreement shall be deemed to prevent the School District from disseminating any other information, using the means of dissemination set forth in this Disclosure Agreement or any other means of communication, or including any other information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event, in addition to that which is required by this Disclosure Agreement. If the School District chooses to include any information in any Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event in addition to that which is specifically required by this Disclosure Agreement, it shall not have any obligation under this Disclosure Agreement to update such information or include it in any future Annual Report or notice of occurrence of a Listed Event.

**SECTION 9. Default and Remedies.** In the event of a failure of the School District to comply with any provision of this Disclosure Agreement, the Dissemination Agent or any Bondholder may (and, at the written request of Bondholders of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the outstanding Bonds and provision of indemnity and security for expenses satisfactory to it, shall) take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance by court order, to cause the School District to comply with its obligations under this Disclosure Agreement. The sole remedy under this Disclosure Agreement in the event of any failure of the School District to comply with this Disclosure Agreement shall be an action to compel performance. A failure of the School District to comply with any provision of this Disclosure Agreement shall not be deemed to be a default under the Bonds.

**SECTION 10. Notices.** All notices and other communications required or permitted under this Disclosure Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given, made and received only when delivered (personally, by recognized national or regional courier service, or by other messenger, for delivery to the intended addressee) or when deposited in the United States mail, registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed as set forth below:

(i) If to the School District:

The Board of Education of the City of Linwood,  
in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey  
51 Belhaven Avenue  
Linwood, New Jersey 08221  
Attention: Teri J. Weeks,  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

(ii) If to the Dissemination Agent:

Phoenix Advisors, LLC  
4 West Park Street  
Bordentown, New Jersey 08505  
Attention: Sherry L. Tracey, Senior Managing Director

Any party may alter the address to which communications are to be sent by giving notice of such change of address in conformity with the provision of this Section 11 for the giving of notice.

**SECTION 11. Beneficiaries.** This Disclosure Agreement shall inure solely to the benefit of the School District, the Dissemination Agent and the Bondholders, and nothing herein contained shall confer any right upon any other person.



**SECTION 12. Submission of Information to MSRB.** Any Continuing Disclosure Information filed with the MSRB in accordance with this Disclosure Agreement shall be in electronic format as shall be prescribed by the MSRB or such other format as the Rule may require or permit, and shall be accompanied by such identifying information as shall be prescribed by the MSRB or as may otherwise be required by the Rule.

**SECTION 13. Compensation.** The School District shall pay the Dissemination Agent from time to time reasonable compensation for all services rendered under this Disclosure Agreement, and also all reasonable expenses, charges, counsel fees and other disbursements, including those of its attorneys, agents and employees, incurred in and about the performance of its powers and duties under this Disclosure Agreement.

**SECTION 14. Successors and Assigns.** All of the covenants, promises and agreements contained in this Disclosure Agreement by or on behalf of the School District or by or on behalf of the Dissemination Agent shall bind and inure to the benefit of their respective successors and assigns, whether so expressed or not.

**SECTION 15. Headings for Convenience Only.** The descriptive headings in this Disclosure Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not control or affect the meaning or construction of any of the provisions hereof.

**SECTION 16. Counterparts.** This Disclosure Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

**SECTION 17. Severability.** If any provision of this Disclosure Agreement, or the application of any such provision in any jurisdiction or to any person or circumstance, shall be held invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Disclosure Agreement, or the application of such provision as is held invalid or unenforceable in jurisdictions or to persons or circumstances other than those in or as to which it is held invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 18. Governing Law.** This Disclosure Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have executed this Disclosure Agreement as of the date first above written.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF  
LINWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW  
JERSEY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**TERI J. WEEKS,**  
**Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC,**  
**as Dissemination Agent**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**SHERRY L. TRACEY, Senior Managing Director**

**EXHIBIT A**  
**NOTICE TO THE NATIONAL REPOSITORY OF**  
**FAILURE TO FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT**

Name of Issuer: The Board of Education of the City of Linwood, in the County of Atlantic,  
New Jersey

Name of Bond Issues Affected: \$2,560,000 The Board of Education of the City of Linwood,  
in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey, School Bonds, Series 2018

Date of Issuance of the Affected Bond issue: July 3, 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Issuer has not provided an Annual Report with respect to the above named Bond issue as required by Section 3 of the Continuing Disclosure Agreement dated July 3, 2018 between the School District and the Dissemination Agent. [TO BE INCLUDED ONLY IF THE DISSEMINATION AGENT HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE EXPECTED FILING DATE - The Issuer anticipates that such Annual Report will be filed by \_\_\_\_\_.]

Dated:

**PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC,**  
Dissemination Agent

cc: School District

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## **APPENDIX E**

### **Specimen Municipal Bond Insurance Policy**

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# MUNICIPAL ASSURANCE CORP.

AN ASSURED GUARANTY COMPANY

## MUNICIPAL BOND INSURANCE POLICY

ISSUER:

Policy No: -N

BONDS: \$ in aggregate principal amount of

Effective Date:

Premium: \$

MUNICIPAL ASSURANCE CORP. ("MAC"), for consideration received, hereby UNCONDITIONALLY AND IRREVOCABLY agrees to pay to the trustee (the "Trustee") or paying agent (the "Paying Agent") (as set forth in the documentation providing for the issuance of and securing the Bonds) for the Bonds, for the benefit of the Owners or, at the election of MAC, directly to each Owner, subject only to the terms of this Policy (which includes each endorsement hereto), that portion of the principal of and interest on the Bonds that shall become Due for Payment but shall be unpaid by reason of Nonpayment by the Issuer.

On the later of the day on which such principal and interest becomes Due for Payment or the Business Day next following the Business Day on which MAC shall have received Notice of Nonpayment, MAC will disburse to or for the benefit of each Owner of a Bond the face amount of principal of and interest on the Bond that is then Due for Payment but is then unpaid by reason of Nonpayment by the Issuer, but only upon receipt by MAC, in a form reasonably satisfactory to it, of (a) evidence of the Owner's right to receive payment of the principal or interest then Due for Payment and (b) evidence, including any appropriate instruments of assignment, that all of the Owner's rights with respect to payment of such principal or interest that is Due for Payment shall thereupon vest in MAC. A Notice of Nonpayment will be deemed received on a given Business Day if it is received prior to 1:00 p.m. (New York time) on such Business Day; otherwise, it will be deemed received on the next Business Day. If any Notice of Nonpayment received by MAC is incomplete, it shall be deemed not to have been received by MAC for purposes of the preceding sentence and MAC shall promptly so advise the Trustee, Paying Agent or Owner, as appropriate, who may submit an amended Notice of Nonpayment. Upon disbursement in respect of a Bond, MAC shall become the owner of the Bond, any appurtenant coupon to the Bond or right to receipt of payment of principal of or interest on the Bond and shall be fully subrogated to the rights of the Owner, including the Owner's right to receive payments under the Bond, to the extent of any payment by MAC hereunder. Payment by MAC to the Trustee or Paying Agent for the benefit of the Owners shall, to the extent thereof, discharge the obligation of MAC under this Policy.

Except to the extent expressly modified by an endorsement hereto, the following terms shall have the meanings specified for all purposes of this Policy. "Business Day" means any day other than (a) a Saturday or Sunday or (b) a day on which banking institutions in the State of New York or the Insurer's Fiscal Agent are authorized or required by law or executive order to remain closed. "Due for Payment" means (a) when referring to the principal of a Bond, payable on the stated maturity date thereof or the date on which the same shall have been duly called for mandatory sinking fund redemption and does not refer to any earlier date on which payment is due by reason of call for redemption (other than by mandatory sinking fund redemption), acceleration or other advancement of maturity unless MAC shall elect, in its sole discretion, to pay such principal due upon such acceleration together with any accrued interest to the date of acceleration and (b) when referring to interest on a Bond, payable on the stated date for payment of interest. "Nonpayment" means, in respect of a Bond, the failure of the Issuer to have provided sufficient funds to the Trustee or, if there is no Trustee, to the Paying Agent for payment in full of all principal and interest that is Due for Payment on such Bond. "Nonpayment" shall also include, in respect of a Bond, any payment of principal or interest that is Due for Payment made to an Owner by or on behalf of the Issuer which has been recovered from such Owner pursuant to the

United States Bankruptcy Code by a trustee in bankruptcy in accordance with a final, nonappealable order of a court having competent jurisdiction. "Notice" means telephonic or telecopied notice, subsequently confirmed in a signed writing, or written notice by registered or certified mail, from an Owner, the Trustee or the Paying Agent to MAC which notice shall specify (a) the person or entity making the claim, (b) the Policy Number, (c) the claimed amount and (d) the date such claimed amount became Due for Payment. "Owner" means, in respect of a Bond, the person or entity who, at the time of Nonpayment, is entitled under the terms of such Bond to payment thereof, except that "Owner" shall not include the Issuer or any person or entity whose direct or indirect obligation constitutes the underlying security for the Bonds.

MAC may appoint a fiscal agent (the "Insurer's Fiscal Agent") for purposes of this Policy by giving written notice to the Trustee and the Paying Agent specifying the name and notice address of the Insurer's Fiscal Agent. From and after the date of receipt of such notice by the Trustee and the Paying Agent, (a) copies of all notices required to be delivered to MAC pursuant to this Policy shall be simultaneously delivered to the Insurer's Fiscal Agent and to MAC and shall not be deemed received until received by both and (b) all payments required to be made by MAC under this Policy may be made directly by MAC or by the Insurer's Fiscal Agent on behalf of MAC. The Insurer's Fiscal Agent is the agent of MAC only and the Insurer's Fiscal Agent shall in no event be liable to any Owner for any act of the Insurer's Fiscal Agent or any failure of MAC to deposit or cause to be deposited sufficient funds to make payments due under this Policy.

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, MAC agrees not to assert, and hereby waives, only for the benefit of each Owner, all rights (whether by counterclaim, setoff or otherwise) and defenses (including, without limitation, the defense of fraud), whether acquired by subrogation, assignment or otherwise, to the extent that such rights and defenses may be available to MAC to avoid payment of its obligations under this Policy in accordance with the express provisions of this Policy.

This Policy sets forth in full the undertaking of MAC, and shall not be modified, altered or affected by any other agreement or instrument, including any modification or amendment thereto. Except to the extent expressly modified by an endorsement hereto, (a) any premium paid in respect of this Policy is nonrefundable for any reason whatsoever, including payment, or provision being made for payment, of the Bonds prior to maturity and (b) this Policy may not be canceled or revoked. THIS POLICY IS NOT COVERED BY THE PROPERTY/CASUALTY INSURANCE SECURITY FUND SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 76 OF THE NEW YORK INSURANCE LAW.

In witness whereof, MUNICIPAL ASSURANCE CORP. has caused this Policy to be executed on its behalf by its Authorized Officer.

MUNICIPAL ASSURANCE CORP.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Officer

A subsidiary of Assured Guaranty Ltd.  
1633 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019  
(212) 974-0100

Form 500NY (5/13) (MAC)