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Wheeling, WV 26003
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Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

**MARION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MERCER COUNTY
Regular Audit
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017**

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...“bringing more to the table”

Tax – Accounting – Audit – Review – Compilation – Agreed Upon Procedure – Consultation – Bookkeeping – Payroll
Litigation Support – Financial Investigations

Members: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

- Ohio Society of CPAs • West Virginia Society of CPAs • Association of Certified Fraud Examiners •
- Association of Certified Anti - Money Laundering Specialists •



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Education
Marion Local School District
7956 State Route 119
Maria Stein, Ohio 45860

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Marion Local School District, Mercer County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C. for the audit period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Marion Local School District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

December 17, 2017

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MARION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MERCER COUNTY

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

October 27, 2017

Marion Local School District
Mercer County
7956 State Route 119
Maria Stein, Ohio 45860

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of **Marion Local School District**, Mercer County, Ohio (the School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with cash accounting basis Note 2 describes. This responsibility includes determining that the cash accounting basis is acceptable for the circumstances. Management is also responsible for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the School District's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control. Accordingly, we express no opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinions.

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Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Marion Local School District, Mercer County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in cash financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting basis described in Note 2.

Accounting Basis

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the School District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis applied to these statements. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis other than generally accepted accounting principles. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 27, 2017, on our consideration of the School District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine 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 the School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

Marion Local School District
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
June 30, 2017

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 7,398,850</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u><u>\$ 7,398,850</u></u>
Net Position	
Restricted for:	
Capital Projects	\$ 496,331
Debt Service	470,486
Other Purposes	700,779
Unrestricted	<u>5,731,254</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$ 7,398,850</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Marion Local School District
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

	Cash Disbursements	Program Cash Receipts		Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	Total Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities:				
Instruction				
Regular	\$ 3,989,484	\$ 455,996	\$ 34,987	\$ (3,498,501)
Special	1,112,313	-	586,866	(525,447)
Vocational	100,578	-	92,910	(7,668)
Other	149,054	-	-	(149,054)
Support Services				
Pupil	260,144	-	-	(260,144)
Instructional Staff	338,659	-	-	(338,659)
Board of Education	33,265	-	-	(33,265)
Administration	582,051	34,028	37	(547,986)
Fiscal	272,711	-	-	(272,711)
Business	6,358	-	-	(6,358)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	623,497	9,940	-	(613,557)
Pupil Transportation	275,417	-	17,668	(257,749)
Central	2,027	-	-	(2,027)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	373,761	288,712	53,334	(31,715)
Extracurricular Activities	465,732	250,926	408	(214,398)
Capital Outlay	72,872	3,169	-	(69,703)
Debt Service	345,022	-	-	(345,022)
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	<u>\$ 9,002,945</u>	<u>\$ 1,042,771</u>	<u>\$ 786,210</u>	<u>\$ (7,173,964)</u>

General Receipts

Property Taxes Levied for:	
General Purposes	3,176,355
Capital Outlay	105,828
Debt Service	263,197
Classroom Facilities & Maintenance	33,214
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	5,211,723
Gifts and Donations not Restricted to Specific Programs	2,400
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	300
Interest	52,380
Miscellaneous	105,517
<i>Total General Receipts</i>	<u>8,950,914</u>
Change in Net Position	1,776,950
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>5,621,900</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 7,398,850</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Marion Local School District
Statement of Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2017

	General Fund	Facility Project	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,731,423	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,667,427	\$ 7,398,850
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 4,731,423</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,667,427</u>	<u>\$ 7,398,850</u>
 Fund Balances				
Nonspendable	\$ 169	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 169
Restricted	-	-	1,667,427	1,667,427
Committed	93,139	1,000,000	-	1,093,139
Assigned	185,171	-	-	185,171
Unassigned	4,452,944	-	-	4,452,944
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 4,731,423</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,667,427</u>	<u>\$ 7,398,850</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Marion Local School District
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Cash Basis Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

	General Fund	Facility Project	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts				
Property Taxes	\$ 3,176,355	\$ -	\$ 402,239	\$ 3,578,594
Intergovernmental	5,564,930	-	431,880	5,996,810
Interest	52,417	-	786	53,203
Tuition and Fees	458,784	-	-	458,784
Rent	9,940	-	-	9,940
Extracurricular Activities	41,384	-	237,292	278,676
Gifts and Donations	2,400	-	300	2,700
Charges for Services	-	-	288,712	288,712
Miscellaneous	68,176	-	44,000	112,176
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>9,374,386</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,405,209</u>	<u>10,779,595</u>
Disbursements				
Current:				
Instruction				
Regular	3,951,832	-	37,652	3,989,484
Special	862,121	-	250,192	1,112,313
Vocational	96,319	-	4,259	100,578
Other	149,054	-	-	149,054
Support Services				
Pupil	260,144	-	-	260,144
Instructional Staff	338,659	-	-	338,659
Board of Education	33,265	-	-	33,265
Administration	582,051	-	-	582,051
Fiscal	262,600	-	10,111	272,711
Business	6,358	-	-	6,358
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	603,155	-	20,342	623,497
Pupil Transportation	275,417	-	-	275,417
Central	2,027	-	-	2,027
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	15,390	-	358,371	373,761
Extracurricular Activities	257,817	-	207,915	465,732
Capital Outlay	46,619	-	26,253	72,872
Debt Service				
Principal Retirement	-	-	132,756	132,756
Interest	-	-	212,266	212,266
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>7,742,828</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,260,117</u>	<u>9,002,945</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over / (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>1,631,558</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>145,092</u>	<u>1,776,650</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Operating Transfers - In	3,460	500,000	-	503,460
Advances - In	18,000	-	18,000	36,000
Operating Transfers - Out	(503,460)	-	-	(503,460)
Advances - Out	(18,000)	-	(18,000)	(36,000)
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	300	-	-	300
<i>Total Other Financing (Uses) Sources</i>	<u>(499,700)</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	1,131,858	500,000	145,092	1,776,950
<i>Fund Balances Beginning</i>	<u>3,599,565</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>1,522,335</u>	<u>5,621,900</u>
<i>Fund Balances End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 4,731,423</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,667,427</u>	<u>\$ 7,398,850</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Marion Local School District
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual - Budget Basis
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Over (Under)
	Original	Final		
Receipts				
Property Taxes	\$ 3,223,492	\$ 3,176,481	\$ 3,176,355	\$ (126)
Intergovernmental	5,595,846	5,570,287	5,564,930	(5,357)
Interest	36,422	51,270	52,380	1,110
Tuition and Fees	342,500	395,786	411,768	15,982
Rent	12,000	12,000	9,940	(2,060)
Gifts and Donations	-	2,400	2,400	-
Extracurricular Activities	14,200	13,510	13,405	(105)
Miscellaneous	12,000	17,500	24,667	7,167
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>9,236,460</u>	<u>9,239,234</u>	<u>9,255,845</u>	<u>16,611</u>
Disbursements				
Current:				
Instruction				
Regular	4,244,618	3,934,546	3,879,735	54,811
Special	998,815	872,375	862,226	10,149
Vocational	102,285	103,808	98,585	5,223
Other	82,000	149,065	149,054	11
Support Services				
Pupil	280,113	276,931	260,144	16,787
Instructional Staff	351,021	392,623	380,178	12,445
Board of Education	46,134	42,634	33,265	9,369
Administration	580,842	567,517	549,134	18,383
Fiscal	319,707	285,017	262,893	22,124
Business	6,000	6,500	6,438	62
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	686,949	654,182	605,034	49,148
Pupil Transportation	312,668	317,703	275,417	42,286
Central	4,200	3,200	2,027	1,173
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	16,265	16,315	15,390	925
Extracurricular Activities	262,373	274,928	257,817	17,111
Capital Outlay	601,000	140,500	127,975	12,525
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>8,894,990</u>	<u>8,037,844</u>	<u>7,765,312</u>	<u>272,532</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>341,470</u>	<u>1,201,390</u>	<u>1,490,533</u>	<u>289,143</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Proceeds of Sale of Capital Assets	-	300	300	-
Advances - In	20,000	20,000	18,000	(2,000)
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	5,000	12,000	36,850	24,850
Operating Transfers - Out	(20,000)	(503,460)	(503,460)	-
Advances - Out	(20,000)	(20,000)	(18,000)	2,000
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(15,000)</u>	<u>(491,160)</u>	<u>(466,310)</u>	<u>24,850</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	326,470	710,230	1,024,223	313,993
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	3,372,727	3,372,727	3,372,727	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	55,985	55,985	55,985	-
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 3,755,182</u>	<u>\$ 4,138,942</u>	<u>\$ 4,452,935</u>	<u>\$ 313,993</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Marion Local School District
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis
Fiduciary Funds
June 30, 2017

	<u>Agency</u>
Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 94,034</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u><u>\$ 94,034</u></u>
Liabilities	
Due to Students	<u>\$ 94,034</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>\$ 94,034</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 1 – Description of the School District and Reporting Entity

Marion Local School District (the "School District") is organized under Article VI, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The School District operates under a locally-elected Board form of government and provides educational services as authorized by State and federal agencies. The legislative power of the School District is vested in the Board of Education, consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four year terms. The School District is located in Mercer, Auglaize and Darke counties.

The reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to insure the financial statements are not misleading.

A. Primary Government

The primary government of the School District consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the School District. For Marion Local School District, this includes general operations, food service, and student related activities of the School District.

B. Component Units

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the School District is financially accountable. The School District is financially accountable for an organization if the School District appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the School District is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the School District is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the School District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the School District is obligated for the debt of the organization. The School District is also financially accountable for any organizations that are fiscally dependent on the School District in that the School District approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes. Component units also include legally separate, tax-exempt entities whose resources are for the direct benefit of the School District, are accessible to the School District and are significant in amount to the School District. The School District does not have any component units.

The School District participates in three jointly governed organizations and three insurance purchasing pools. These organizations are discussed in Note 13 to the basic financial statements. These organizations are:

Jointly Governed Organizations:

Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative
Mercer County Local Professional Development Committee
State Support Team Region 6

Insurance Purchasing Pools:

Ohio Association of School Business Officials Workers' Compensation Group
Rating Plan
Mercer Auglaize Employee Benefit Trust
Ohio School Plan

The School District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the School District is financially accountable.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

As discussed further in Note 2.C, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the School District's accounting policies.

A. Basis of Presentation

The School District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the School District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. These statements distinguish between those activities of the School District that are governmental in nature and those that are considered business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts or other non-exchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. The School District does not have any business-type activities.

The statement of net position presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the School District at fiscal year-end. The statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each function or program of the School District's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the government is responsible.

Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services, grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and receipts of interest earned on grants that are required to be used to support a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the School District's general receipts.

Fund Financial Statements

During the fiscal year, the School District segregates transactions related to certain School District functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the School District at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

B. Fund Accounting

The School District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the School District are divided as governmental or fiduciary.

Governmental Funds

The School District classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants), and other nonexchange transactions as governmental funds. The following are the School District's major governmental funds:

General Fund - The General Fund is used to account for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the School District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Facility Project – This fund is used to account for transfers from the General Fund that will be used for a facility project including an Ag education suite, gymnasium, locker rooms and auditorium.

The other governmental funds of the School District account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

Fiduciary Funds

The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and agency funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the School District under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are not available to support the School District's own programs. Agency funds are custodial in nature. The School District only maintains agency funds that account for the Section 125 plan, OHSAA Tournament Funds and those student activity programs that have student participation in the activities and have students involved in the management of the program. This fund typically includes those student activities which consist of a student body, student president, student treasurer, and faculty advisor.

C. Basis of Accounting

The School District's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Except for modifications having substantial support, receipts are recorded in the School District's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Any such modifications made by the School District are described in the appropriate section in this note.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements. If the School District utilized the basis of accounting recognized as generally accepted, the fund financial statements for governmental funds would use the modified accrual basis of accounting. All government-wide financials would be presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

D. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the School District is pooled and invested. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through School District records. Interest in the pool is presented as “Cash and Cash Equivalents” on the financial statements.

Investments of the School District’s cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that were not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts (contra revenue), respectively.

During fiscal year 2017, the School District invested in STAR Ohio. STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer’s Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, “Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants.” The School District measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

For the fiscal year 2017, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, notice must be given 24 hours in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$25 million. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$50 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$50 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2017 was \$52,417 which included \$17,674 assigned from other School District funds.

E. Inventory and Prepaid Items

On a cash basis of accounting, inventories of supplies and prepaid items are reported as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

F. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

G. Interfund Receivables/Payables

The School District reports advances in and advances out for interfund loans. These items are not reflected as assets and liabilities in the accompanying financial statements.

H. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the School District's cash basis of accounting.

I. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The School District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 7 and 8, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension systems report investments at fair value.

J. Long-Term Obligations

The School District's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid.

Since recording a capital asset when entering into a capital lease is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor capital outlay expenditure are reported at inception. Lease payments are reported when paid.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

K. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the School District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments or laws through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Net position restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for music and athletic programs, and federal and state grants restricted to cash disbursement for specified purposes. The School District's policy is to first apply restricted resources when a cash disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available. The School District did not have any assets restricted by enabling legislation at June 30, 2017.

L. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the School District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Non-spendable – The non-spendable classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The 'not in spendable form' includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted – Fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed – The committed classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (resolution) of the Board of Education. The committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned – Amounts in the assigned classification are intended to be used by the School District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds, other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Board of Education.

Unassigned – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit fund balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed or assigned.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

The School District first applies restricted resources when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within restricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned and unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amount in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications can be used.

M. Interfund Transactions

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchasing funds. Non-exchange flows of cash from one fund to another fund are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements.

N. Budgetary Process

All funds, except agency funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriations resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the Board of Education may appropriate.

The appropriations resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on cash disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level for all funds, except the General Fund. The School District legal level of control for the general fund is the object level. The Treasurer makes budgetary allocations at the function and object level within all funds.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the fiscal year if the School District Treasurer projects increases or decreases in receipts. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificate of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by the Board.

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment throughout the fiscal year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation resolution for that fund that covered the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior fiscal years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board during the fiscal year.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 3 - Budgetary Basis of Accounting

While the School District is reporting financial position, results of operations and changes in fund balance on the cash basis, the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budget Basis presented for the General is prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The differences between the budgetary basis and cash basis are

- 1.) Outstanding year-end encumbrances are treated as cash disbursements (budgetary) rather than as a reservation of fund balance (cash basis) and
- 2.) Perspective differences resulting from differences in fund structure.

Cash Basis	\$ 1,131,858
Encumbrances	(132,846)
Perspective Differences **	<u>25,211</u>
Budgetary Basis	<u><u>\$ 1,024,223</u></u>

Note 3 - Budgetary Basis of Accounting (continued)

**As part of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 “Fund Balance Reporting”, certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the General Fund on a cash basis. This includes the public school support funds, uniform school supplies funds, termination benefits funds, and the underground storage tank fund.

Note 4 - Deposits and Investments

Monies held by the School District are classified by State statute into three categories.

Active monies are public monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the School District treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the School District treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Board has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 4 - Deposits and Investments (continued)

Interim monies held by the School District can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio or Ohio local governments;
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio);
7. Certain bankers' acceptances and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days from the purchase date in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time; and
8. Under limited circumstances, corporate debt interests rated in either of the two highest rating classifications by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited.

An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the School District, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of securities representing the investment to the treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 4 - Deposits and Investments (continued)

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the School District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party. The School District has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits be either insured or be protected by eligible securities pledged to and deposited with either the School District or a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of deposits being secured.

At fiscal year-end, the carrying amount of the School District's deposits was \$7,298,156 and the bank balance was \$7,452,749. \$600,000 of the School District's deposits was insured by federal depository insurance. As of June 30, 2017, \$6,852,749 of the School District's bank balance was exposed to custodial risk and was uninsured and uncollateralized with securities held by pledging institution's trust department not in the School District's name.

Investments

As of June 30, 2017, the School District had the following investments:

	<u>Measurement Value</u>	<u>Maturity</u>
STAR Ohio	\$ 194,728	Average 45.5 Days
Total Portfolio	<u>\$ 194,728</u>	

Interest Rate Risk – Interest rate risk arises because the potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase. The Ohio Revised Code generally limits security purchases to those that mature within five years of the settlement date. The School District's investment policy addresses interest rate risk by requiring that the School District's investment portfolio be structured so that securities mature to meet cash requirements of ongoing operations.

Credit Risk – State law limits investments in commercial paper and corporate bonds to the top two ratings issued by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. The School District's policy allows the Treasurer to invest in those investments authorized by the Ohio Revised Code, and places additional limitations with amounts authorized for investment in certain types.

STAR Ohio is an investment pool operated by the Ohio State Treasurer. It is unclassified since it is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. Ohio law requires STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The weighted average maturity of the portfolio held by STAR Ohio as of June 30, 2017, is 45.5 days and carries a rating of AAA by Standard and Poor's.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 4 - Deposits and Investments (continued)

Custodial Credit Risk - Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the School District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The School District has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirements of ORC 135.14(M)(2) which states, "Payment for investments shall be made only upon the delivery of securities representing such investments to the treasurer, investing authority, or qualified trustee. If the securities transferred are not represented by a certificate, payment shall be made only upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian by the treasurer, governing board, or qualified trustee." However, all of the School District's investments are either insured and registered in the name of the School District, or at least registered in the name of the school district.

Concentration of Credit Risk - The School District places no limits on the amount the School District may invest in any one issuer; however, State statute limits investments in commercial paper and bankers' acceptances to 25 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time. 100 percent of the School District's investments are in STAR Ohio.

Note 5 - Property Taxes

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real property and public utility property located in the School District.

Real property tax receipts received in calendar year 2017 represent the collection of calendar year 2016 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2017 were levied after April 1, 2016, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2016, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised market value.

Public utilities subject to taxation on their tangible personal property include electric, rural electric, natural gas, pipeline, water works, water transportation, heating and telegraph companies. The tax rates vary according to the type of public utility. Public utility taxes are levied on all tangible personal property owned and located in Ohio on December 31 of the preceding year.

Real property and public utility taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Amounts paid by multi-county taxpayers are due September 20. Single county taxpayers may pay annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due April 30; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due April 30, with the remainder payable by September 20.

The School District receives property taxes from Mercer, Auglaize and Darke Counties. The County Auditors periodically advance to the School District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2017, are available to finance fiscal year 2017 operations. The amount available to be advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 5 - Property Taxes (Continued)

The assessed values upon which fiscal year 2017 taxes were collected are:

	2016 Second- Half Collections		2017 First- Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Agricultural/Residential and Other Real Estate	\$115,798,190	98.10%	\$117,899,140	98.09%
Public Utility Personal	2,206,600	1.90%	2,300,610	1.91%
Total	<u>\$118,004,790</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$120,199,750</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	\$35.20		\$34.80	

Note 6 - Risk Management

A. Property and Liability

The School 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. During fiscal year 2017, Ohio School Plan provided the School District's insurance. Coverage provided include:

Building and Business Personal	
Property Coverage	\$35,932,080
Automobile Liability	5,000,000
Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists	1,000,000
General Liability:	
Each Occurrence	5,000,000
General Aggregate Limit	7,000,000
Violence Coverage	1,000,000
Pollution	1,000,000
Cyber	1,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 6 - Risk Management (Continued)

B. Workers' Compensation

The School District participates in the Ohio School Board Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 13). The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the School District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participating school districts is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the GRP rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings percentage of the GRP. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "equity pooling fund." This "equity pooling" arrangement insures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the GRP. Participation in the GRP is limited to school districts that can meet the GRP's selection criteria. Comp Management, Inc. provides the administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP.

C. Health Care Benefits

The School District participates in the Mercer Auglaize Employee Trust (Trust), a public entity shared risk pool consisting of eleven local districts and two educational service centers. The School District pays monthly premiums to the Trust for employee medical, dental, and vision insurance coverage. The Trust is responsible for the management and operations of the program. Upon withdrawal from the Trust, a participant is responsible for the payment of all Trust liabilities to its employees, dependents, and designated beneficiaries accruing as a result of withdrawal.

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability is not reported in the accompanying financial statements. The net pension liability has been disclosed below.

Pensions are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension liability represents the School District's proportionate share of each pension plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

Ohio Revised Code limits the School District’s obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The School District cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions are financed; however, the School District does receive the benefit of employees’ services in exchange for compensation including pension.

GASB 68 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan’s board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – School District non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS’ fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire on or after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

* Members with 25 years of service credit as of August 1, 2017, will be included in this plan.

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on year of service; 2.2 percent for the first thirty years of service and 2.5 percent for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

One year after an effective benefit date, a benefit recipient is entitled to a three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This same COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the School District is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14 percent. For fiscal year 2017, no amount was allocated to the Health Care Fund.

The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$119,121 for fiscal year 2017.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – School District licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Web site at www.strsoh.org.

New members have a choice of three retirement plans; a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307. The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation will be 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service.

With certain exceptions, the basic benefit is increased each year by two percent of the original base benefit. For members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, the first two percent is paid on the fifth anniversary of the retirement benefit. Members are eligible to retire at age 60 with five years of qualifying service credit, or age 55 with 26 years of service, or 31 years of service regardless of age. Age and service requirements for retirement will increase effective August 1, 2015, and will continue to increase periodically until they reach age 60 with 35 years of service or age 65 with five years of service on August 1, 2026.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.5 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.5 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, member contributions are allocated among investment choices by the member, and employer contributions are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of services. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age 50.

New members who choose the DC plan or Combined Plan will have another opportunity to reselect a permanent plan during their fifth year of membership. Members may remain in the same plan or transfer to another STRS plan. The optional annuitization of a member's defined contribution account or the defined contribution portion of a member's Combined Plan account to a lifetime benefit results in STRS bearing the risk of investment gain or loss on the account. STRS has therefore included all three plan options as one defined benefit plan for GASB 68 reporting purposes.

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service who is determined to be disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. New members on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit that apply for disability benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. If a member of the DC Plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member's account balance.

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, the employer rate was 14% and the member rate was 14% of covered payroll. The School District was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The fiscal year 2017 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The School District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$450,598 fiscal year 2017.

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 School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the School District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$1,953,264	\$11,269,885	\$13,223,149
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.0266873%	0.03366857%	

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

SERS' total pension liability was determined by their actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each defined benefit retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment termination). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2016, are presented below:

Wage Inflation	3.0 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.5 percent to 18.2 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	3 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.0 percent net of investments expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal

For mortality assumptions, the table used in evaluating allowances to be paid is the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females. Special mortality tables are used for the period after disability retirement.

The most recent experience study was completed June 30, 2015.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted averaged of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major assets class are summarized in the following table:

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	1.00 %	0.50 %
US Stocks	22.50	4.75
Non-US Stocks	22.50	0.70
Fixed Income	19.00	1.50
Private Equity	10.00	8.00
Real Assets	15.00	5.00
Multi-Asset Strategies	10.00	3.00
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.5 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earning were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.5 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.5 percent, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.5 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.5 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.5%)	Current Discount Rate (7.5%)	1% Increase (8.5%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$2,586,000	\$1,953,264	\$1,423,638

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2016, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.75 percent
Projected salary increases	2.75 percent at age 70 to 12.25 percent at age 20
Investment Rate of Return	7.75 percent, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, 2 percent COLA paid on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males’ ages are set-back two years through age 89 and no set-back for age 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one year set back from age 80 through 89 and not set back from age 90 and above.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2016, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study, effective July 1, 2012.

The 10-year expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined by STRS’ investment consultant by developing best estimates of expected future real rates of return for each major asset class. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	31.00 %	8.00 %
International Equity	26.00	7.85
Alternatives	14.00	8.00
Fixed Income	18.00	3.75
Real Estate	10.00	6.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	3.00
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75 percent as of June 30, 2016. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries, as well as projected contributions from future plan members, are not included. Based on those assumptions, STRS’ fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2016.

Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.75 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2016.

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate The following table presents the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.75 percent, as well as what the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (6.75 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate:

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$14,976,762	\$11,269,885	\$8,142,916

Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits

A. School Employees Retirement System

Health Care Plan – ORC 3309.375 and 2209.69 permit SERS to offer health care benefits to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. SERS offers several types of health plans from various vendors, including HMOs, PPOs, Medicare Advantage and traditional indemnity plans. A prescription drug program is also available to those who elect health coverage. SERS employs two third-party administrators and a pharmacy benefit manager to manage the self-insurance and prescription drug plans, respectively.

The ORC provides the statutory authority to fund SERS' postemployment benefits through employer contributions. Active members do not make contributions to the postemployment benefit plans.

The Health Care Fund was established under, and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code 105(e). Each year after the allocation for statutorily required benefits, the Retirement Board allocates the remainder of the employer 14 percent contribution to the Health Care Fund. For the year ended June 30, 2017, the health care allocation is 0 percent. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated according to service credit earned. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS covered payroll for health care surcharge.

For fiscal year 2017, the minimum compensation level was established at \$23,500. The surcharge, added to the unallocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund.

The School District's contributions for health care for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017, 2016, and 2015 were \$13,414, \$20,585, and \$20,585, respectively; 0 percent has been contributed for fiscal year 2017 and 100 percent for fiscal years 2016 and 2015.

The SERS Retirement Board establishes the rules for the premiums paid by the retirees for health care coverage for themselves and their dependents or for their surviving beneficiaries. Premiums vary depending on the plan selected, qualified years of service, Medicare eligibility, and retirement status.

The financial reports of both Plans are included in the SERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which is available by contacting SERS at 300 East Broad St., Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3746 or by calling toll free (800) 878-5853. It is also posted on the SERS' at www.ohsers.org under employers/audit resources.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits (continued)

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio) administers a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS Ohio. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians’ fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. The Plan is included in the report of STRS Ohio which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS Ohio to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS Ohio. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions. For the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2015, STRS Ohio did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Note 9 – Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Clerical, Technical, and Maintenance and Operation employees are entitled to vacation ranging from 0 to 20 days upon hiring. Employees are permitted to carry over 3 days vacation leave earned for 90 days into the new-year. After the 90-day period, all vacation days are cleared and the allocation is reset.

All employees earn sick leave at the rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Upon retirement, employees who meet the State requirement of 10 years of service will receive payment for twenty-five percent of accrued, but unused sick leave credit to a maximum of 55 days. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of 225 days; however, the additional 5 days are not used in the calculation of sick leave pay-out.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 10 – Debt

The changes in the School District’s long-term obligations during fiscal year 2017 were as follows:

	Amount Outstanding 6/30/16	Additions	Deletions	Amount Outstanding 6/30/17	Amount Due in One Year
Governmental Activities					
2006 Refunding Bonds:					
Serial and Term Bonds 4 - 4.13%	\$ 1,110,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,110,000	\$ 270,000
Capital Appreciation Bonds 4.3 - 4.35%	106,166	-	(106,166)	-	-
Capital Bonds Accretion	158,834	-	(158,834)	-	-
HB 264 Energy Conservation Loan 4.21%	212,700	-	(26,590)	186,110	26,590
Total	\$ 1,587,700	\$ -	\$ (291,590)	\$ 1,296,110	\$ 296,590

2006 Refunding Bonds – On August 29, 2006, the School District refinanced \$2,664,996 in prior bond issues; \$730,000 of the 2000 issue was refinanced and \$1,934,996 of the 1997 issue was refinanced. The bond refunding bonds includes serial, term, and capital appreciation bonds in the amount of \$1,695,000, \$620,000 and \$349,995, respectively. The bonds are being retired from the Bond Retirement debt service fund.

The term bonds maturing on or after December 1, 2017, are subject to optional redemption, in whole or in part, on any date or any order of maturity at the option of the School District on or after December 1, 2016, at the redemption price of 100 percent.

The term bonds maturing on or after December 1, 2022, are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption price equal to 100 percent of the principal amount redeemed plus accrued interest to the date of redemption on December 1, 2020 and each December 1 thereafter. Unless previously redeemed, the remaining principal amount of bonds (\$100,000) is to be paid at stated maturity on December 1, 2022.

The capital appreciation bonds matured in fiscal year 2017.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 10 – Debt (continued)

HB 264 Energy Conservation Loan – On June 15, 2009, the School District issued \$398,830 unvoted general obligation loan from the St. Henry Bank for the purpose of providing energy conservation measures for the School District under HB 264. Semi-annual payments of \$13,295 plus interest of 4.21% will be made throughout the term of the loan. The loan is being repaid from the Bond Retirement debt service fund.

The School District's overall legal debt margin was \$10,178,463 the un-voted debt margin was \$120,200 and the energy conservation debt margin was \$895,688 at June 30, 2017.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the general obligation bonds outstanding at June 30, 2017, are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	General Obligation Bonds		Energy Conservation Bonds		Totals		
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	Total
2018	\$270,000	\$39,356	\$26,590	\$7,556	\$296,590	\$46,912	\$343,502
2019	275,000	28,456	26,590	6,437	301,590	34,893	336,483
2020	280,000	17,356	26,590	5,331	306,590	22,687	329,277
2021	90,000	9,900	26,590	4,198	116,590	14,098	130,688
2022	95,000	6,084	26,590	3,078	121,590	9,162	130,752
2023-2024	100,000	2,875	53,160	2,800	153,160	5,675	158,835
Grand Total	<u>\$1,110,000</u>	<u>\$104,027</u>	<u>\$186,110</u>	<u>\$29,400</u>	<u>\$1,296,110</u>	<u>\$133,427</u>	<u>\$1,429,537</u>

Note 11 – Fund Balance

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the School District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in governmental funds.

The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 11 – Fund Balance (continued)

Fund Balance	General	Facility Project	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Nonspendable	\$ 169	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 169
Restricted:				
Classroom Maintenance	-	-	386,966	386,966
Athletics	-	-	166,528	166,528
Local Grants	-	-	3,558	3,558
Food Service	-	-	139,647	139,647
Debt Service	-	-	470,486	470,486
Capital Improvements	-	-	496,331	496,331
State and Federal Grants	-	-	3,911	3,911
Total Restricted	-	-	1,667,427	1,667,427
Committed to:				
Capital Improvements	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Underground Storage Tank	3,143	-	-	3,143
Termination Benefits	89,996	-	-	89,996
Total Committed	93,139	1,000,000	-	1,093,139
Assigned for:				
Unpaid Obligations	132,846	-	-	132,846
Public School Support	27,097	-	-	27,097
Uniform School Supplies	25,228	-	-	25,228
Total Assigned	185,171	-	-	185,171
Unassigned	4,452,944	-	-	4,452,944
Total Fund Balance	\$ 4,731,423	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,667,427	\$ 7,398,850

Note 12 – Set-Aside Requirements

The School District is required by State statute to annually set aside, in the General Fund, an amount based on a statutory formula for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by the end of the fiscal year or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the fiscal year must be held in cash at fiscal year-end. These amounts must be carried forward and used for the same purposes in future years.

The following cash basis information identifies the changes in the fund balance reserves capital improvements during fiscal year 2017.

	Capital Improvements
Set-aside Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2016	\$0
Current Year Set-aside Requirement	147,241
Offsets	
Proceeds from tax levy for maintenance of capital facilities	(68,393)
Tax levy for permanent improvements	(121,330)
Total	(\$42,482)
Balance Carried Forward to Fiscal Year 2018	\$0
Set-aside Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2017	\$0

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 13 - Jointly Governed Organizations, Insurance Purchasing Pools and Related Organization

A. Jointly Governed Organizations

Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative - The Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative (NOACSC) is a jointly governed organization among school districts in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca, Van Wert, Wood and Wyandot counties. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member districts. Each of the governments of these school supports NOACSC based upon a per pupil charge dependent upon the software package utilized.

The NOACSC Assembly consists of a representative from each participating school district and the superintendent from the fiscal agent. The Board of Directors consists of two Assembly members from Hancock, Paulding, Allen, Mercer, Putnam and Van Wert Counties and two at large members. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Board. During fiscal year 2017, the School District contributed \$29,166 to NOACSC. Financial information can be obtained by contacting Ray Burden, who serves as Director, at 4227 East Road, Lima OH 45807.

Mercer County Local Professional Development Committee - The School District is a participant in the Mercer County Local Professional Development Committee (Committee), which is a regional council of governments established to provide professional education license renewal standards and procedures. The Committee is governed by an eleven member board made up of six teachers, two principals, once superintendent, and two members employed by the Mercer County Educational Service Center. Board members serve terms of two years. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Board. Financial information can be obtained from Mary Brandon, Treasurer of the Mercer County Educational Service Center at 441 East Market Street, Celina, Ohio 45822.

State Support Team Region 6 – The State Support Team Region 6 (“SST6”) is a special educational service center, which selects its own board, adopts its own budget and receives direct Federal and State grants for its operations. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of initiating, expanding, and improving special education programs and services for children with disabilities and their parents. A board of 52 members made up of the 50 superintendents of the participating school districts, one non-public school, and Wright State University, whose terms rotate every year, governs the SST6. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Board. Financial information can be obtained by contacting Marlene Graf, Director, at 1045 Dearbaugh, Suite #1, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895.

B. Insurance Purchasing Pools

Ohio Association of School Business Officials Workers’ Compensation Group Rating Plan - The School District participates in a group rating plan for workers’ compensation as established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Ohio Association of School Business Officials Workers’ Compensation Group Rating Plan (Plan) was established through the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) as an insurance purchasing pool. A five member OASBO Board of Directors conducts the Plan’s business and affairs. Each year, the participants pay an enrollment fee to the Plan to cover the costs of administering the program.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 13 - Jointly Governed Organizations, Insurance Purchasing Pools and Related Organization
(continued)

Mercer Auglaize Employee Benefit Trust – The Mercer Auglaize Employee Benefit Trust (Trust) is a insurance pool consisting of eleven local school districts and two educational service centers. The Trust is organized as a Voluntary Employee Benefit Association under Section 50(C)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code and provides medical, dental and vision benefits to the employees of the participants. Each participant’s appointee is appointed to an Administrative Committee, which advises the Trustee, Huntington, concerning aspects of the administration of the Trust. Each participant decides which plan offered by the Administrative Committee will be extended to its employees. Participation in the Trust is by written application subject to acceptance by the Administrative Committee and payment of the monthly premiums. Financial information can be obtained from Steve Dandurand, Corporate One Benefits, 1650 N. County Line Street, Fostoria, OH 44830.

Ohio School Insurance Plan (Plan) – The School District participates in the Ohio School Insurance Plan, an insurance purchasing pool established under Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Plan is an unincorporated nonprofit association of its members, which enables the participants to provide for a formalized joint insurance purchasing program for maintaining adequate insurance protection, and provides risk management programs and other administrative services. A board composed of officials from various member entities conducts the Plan’s business and affairs. The Hylant Administrative Services, LLC is the Plan’s administrator and is responsible for processing claims. Financial information can be obtained from Ohio School Plan, c/o Hylant Administrative Services, LLC 811 Madison Avenue, P.O. Box 2083, Toledo, Ohio 43606-2083.

Note 14 - Interfund Balances

During fiscal year 2017, the School District advanced \$18,000 to non-major special revenue funds from the General Fund. These advances were necessary due to the timing of the receipt of grants and were repaid during fiscal year 2017.

During fiscal year 2017, the School District transferred \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Facility Capital Projects Fund. The transfer was to provide for capital facilities including but not limited to the Ag Education Suite, Gymnasium/Locker Rooms and Auditorium.

Also during 2017, the School District transferred \$3,460 to the Terminations Benefits Fund from the General Fund. The transfer will set aside money for termination benefits that are anticipated due to changes in the retirement guidelines. The Termination Benefits Fund and General Fund have been combined in this report.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 15 – Contractual Commitments

As of June 30, 2017, the School District had the following outstanding contractual commitments:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Purchase Order Amount</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Remaining Amount</u>
Garmann/Miller	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000
Cotterman & Company, Inc.	88,475	22,119	66,356
Sterling Computers Corporation	40,180	-	40,180
St. Mary's Sporting Goods, Inc.	12,816	-	12,816

Note 16 – Compliance

Ohio Administrative Code, Section 117-2-03 (B), requires the School District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the School District prepared its financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying financial statements omit assets, liabilities, Net position/fund balances, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The School District can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the School District.

Note 17 – Contingent Liabilities

A. Grants

The School District receives financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. Disbursing grant funds generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the general fund or other applicable funds. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the School District at June 30, 2017.

B. Litigation

There are currently no matters in litigation with the School District as defendant.

C. Foundation Funding

School District Foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. Effective for the 2014-2015 school year, traditional School Districts must comply with minimum hours of instructions, instead of a minimum number of school days each year. The funding formula the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to follow will continue to adjust as enrollment information is updated by the School District, which can extend past the fiscal year-end. As of the date of this report, ODE has not finalized the impact of enrollment adjustments to the June 30, 2017 Foundation funding for the School District.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 18 – Tax Abatements

Pursuant to Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 77, Tax Abatement Disclosures, the County is required to disclose certain information about tax abatements as defined in the Statement. For purposes of GASB Statement 77, a tax abatement is a reduction in tax revenues that results from an agreement between one or more governments and an individual or entity in which (a) one or more governments promise to forgo tax revenues to which they are otherwise entitled and (b) the individual or entity promises to take a specific action after the agreement has been entered into that contributes to economic development or otherwise benefits the local government or its citizens.

Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Program

The Ohio Community Reinvestment Area program is an economic development tool administered by municipal and county governments that provides real property tax exemptions for property owners who renovate existing or construct new buildings. Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA) are areas of land in which property owners can receive tax incentives for investing in real property improvements. In order to use the Community Reinvestment program, a city, village, or county petitions to the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) for confirmation of a geographical area in which investment in housing has traditionally been discouraged. Once the area is confirmed by the Director of ODSA, communities may offer real property tax exemptions to taxpayers that invest in that area.

The type of development is determined by specifying the eligibility of residential, commercial and/or industrial projects. The local governments negotiate property tax exemptions on new property tax from investment for up to one hundred percent for up to fifteen years based on the amount of investments made to renovate or construct buildings within a CRA. Taxes are abated as the increase in assessed value resulting from the investment is not included (or included at a lesser amount) in the assessed value used for property tax computation for the taxpayer. For commercial projects, job retention and/or creation is also required. Agreements must be in place before the project begins. Provisions for recapturing property tax exemptions, which can be used at the discretions of the local governments, are pursuant to ORC Section 9.66(C)(1) and 9.66(C)(2).

Marion Township entered into agreements with Ohio Recycling Inc. The property taxes foregone by the School District for the abatement program for the year ended December 31, 2016, was \$552.

Note 19 – Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2017, the School District has implemented Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Statement No. 74, “Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans.” This statement improves the usefulness of information about postemployment benefits other than pensions (other postemployment benefits or OPEB). This statement provides guidance for the pension plans. The implementation of this statement had no effect on the financial statements of the School District.

For fiscal year 2017, the School District has implemented Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Statement No. 77, “Tax Abatement Disclosures.” This statement requires governments that enter into tax abatement agreements to disclose information to make these transactions more transparent to the financial statement users. See Note 18.

Marion Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Note 19 – Change in Accounting Principles (continued)

For fiscal year 2017, the School District has implemented Governmental Accounting Standard Board Statement No. 80, “Requirements for Certain Component Units-An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 14.” This statement amends the blending requirements for financial statement presentation of component units. The implementation of this statement had no effect on the financial statements of the School District.

For fiscal year 2017, the School District has implemented Governmental Accounting Standard Board Statement No. 81, “Irrevocable Split-Interest Agreements.” This statement improves the accounting and financial reporting for irrevocable split-interest agreements by providing recognition and measurement guidance for situations in which a government is a beneficiary of the agreement. The implementation of this statement had no effect on the financial statements of the School District.



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Wheeling, WV 26003
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

October 27, 2017

Marion Local School District
Mercer County
7956 State Route 119
Maria Stein, Ohio 45860

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of **Marion Local School District**, Mercer County, (the School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated October 27, 2017 wherein we noted the School District uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the School District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinions on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

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Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the School District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matter we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2017-001.

We also noted a certain matter not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the School District's management in a separate letter dated October 27, 2017.

School District's Response to Findings

The School District's responses to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings. We did not audit the School District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

**MARION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MERCER COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
--

FINDING NUMBER 2017-001

Noncompliance

Ohio Revised Code, § 117.38, provides that each public office shall file a financial report for each fiscal year. The Auditor of State may prescribe forms by rule or may issue guidelines, or both, for such reports. If the Auditor of State has not prescribed a rule regarding the form for the report, the public office shall submit its report on the form utilized by the public office. Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03 further clarifies the requirements of Ohio Revised Code § 117.38. Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the School District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The School District prepares its financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting in a report format similar to the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34, Basic Financial Statements – and Management’s Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments. This presentation differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). There would be variances on the financial statements between this accounting practice and GAAP that, while presumably material, cannot be reasonably determined at this time. The School District can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the School District. The School District should take the necessary steps to ensure that the financial report is prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Management’s Response – The board has determined that preparing the GAAP report is not only inefficient as a management tool, but also is very costly to prepare and audit.

**MARION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MERCER COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2016-001	Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 – Filing of Annual Financial Report on GAAP Basis	No	Not Corrected; Repeated as Finding 2017-001

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

MARION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MERCER COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
DECEMBER 28, 2017**