

South Orangetown Central School District Revised Audit Committee Charter September 19, 2011 (originally adopted July 5, 2006)

Audit Committee Authority

The requirement to create an audit committee was established by Education Law §2116-c. According to §2116-c (4), the role of an audit committee shall be advisory and any recommendations it provides to the Board shall not be substituted for any required review and acceptance by the Board of Education.

BE IT RESOLVED: That on June 7, 2006, the South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education is hereby establishing the Internal Audit Function, to be performed by staff personnel or independent contractors in accordance with Section 170.12 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, and this function will be operational on or before December 31, 2006. Furthermore, the Internal Audit Function shall include:

1. Development of a risk assessment of School District operations;
2. Review of financial policies, procedures, and practices;
3. Testing and evaluation of one or more areas of the School District's internal controls
4. An annual review and update of such risk assessment
5. Preparation of reports, at least annually, which analyze significant risk assessment findings, recommend changes for strengthening controls and reducing identified risks, and specify time-frames for implementation of such recommendations.

The Internal Auditor shall report directly to the South Orangetown Central School District Board of Education.

Mission

The Board of Education of the South Orangetown Central School District has established an audit committee to provide independent assistance to the Board in the oversight of the following matters:

1. Assist the Board in providing oversight of the external and internal audit functions, including the appointment of the external and internal auditors.
2. Oversee the competitive Request for Proposal Process (RFP) used to solicit quotations for the District's annual external and internal audit.
3. Review the scope, plan and coordination of the external and internal audit.

4. Review corrective action plans and necessary improvement based on audit findings and recommendations received from external and internal auditors.
5. Provide a communications link between the external and internal auditors and the Board.

Composition and Requisite Skills

The South Orangetown Central School District Audit Committee is comprised of five members with staggered 3-year terms as appointed by the Board of Education. The committee must consist of at least one Board of Education Trustee member and the remaining four members from the community. Effective July 1, 2011 the terms will be as follows:

Leon Jacobs – Board of Education Trustee, Three year term July 2011 through June 30, 2014

Michael Reilly – Community member three year term July 2009 through June 30, 2012

John Mathew – Community member three year term July 2009 through June 30, 2012

Kevin Cunningham - Community member three year term October 7, 2010 through June 30, 2013

Dan Lamadrid - Community member three year term October 7, 2010 through June 30, 2013

Audit Committee Chair shall be elected each year for a 1 Yr. Term.

The Committee members collectively should possess the expertise and experience in accounting, auditing, financial reporting and school district finances needed to understand and evaluate the school district's financial statements, the external audit of those statements and the district's internal audit activities. Accordingly, the Audit Committee's members collectively should:

- Possess the requisite skills and experience necessary to understand technical and complex financial reporting issues.
- Have the ability to communicate with, and offer advice and assistance to, public finance officers and auditors.
- Be knowledgeable about internal controls, financial statement audits and management/operational audits.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the South Orangetown Central School District Audit Committee include the following:

External Audit Focus:

1. Recommend selection of the external auditor to the Board of Education.
2. Meet with the external auditor prior to commencement of the audit to review the engagement letter.
3. Review and discuss with the external auditor any risk assessment of the district's fiscal operations developed as part of the auditor's responsibilities under governmental auditing standards for a financial statement audit and federal single audit standards, if applicable.
4. Review the external auditor's assessment of the district's system of internal controls.
5. Receive and review the draft annual audit report and accompanying draft management letter and, working directly with the external auditor, assist the Board of Education in interpreting such documents.
6. Make a recommendation to the Board of Education on accepting the annual audit report.
7. Review any corrective action plan developed by the school district and assist the Board of Education in the implementation of such plans.

Internal Audit Focus:

1. Make recommendations to the Board of Education regarding the appointment of the internal auditor.
2. Assist in the oversight of the internal audit function.
3. Review the annual internal audit plan to ensure that high-risk areas and key control activities are periodically evaluated and tested.
4. Review the results of internal audit activities and significant recommendations and findings of the internal auditor.
5. Monitor implementation of the internal auditor's recommendations by management.
6. Provide input on the performance evaluation of the internal auditor.

Administrative Matters:

1. Hold regularly scheduled meetings.
2. Administer other related duties as prescribed by the Board of Education.
3. Review and revise the Audit Committee Charter.

Membership

The membership duties of the South Orangetown Central School District Audit Committee include the following:

Good Faith – Members of the Committee shall perform their duties in good faith, in a manner they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the

Committee and the District with such care as a generally prudent person in a similar position would use under similar circumstances.

Independence (applicable to non-Board of Education members) – The following individuals would be precluded from being an Audit Committee member:

1. Someone currently or previously employed by the District during the past two years.
2. Someone currently or previously providing services contractually to the District during the past two years.
3. Someone of the immediate family (husband, wife & any children and their spouses) or close family member (parent, sibling or nondependent child) of an individual who is, or has been in any of the past two years, employed by the district, providing services contractually to the District or contractually related to the District as a board member or an administrator.
4. Someone who is a partner in, a controlling owner or an executive of, any for-profit business to which the district made, or from which the district received, payments that are or have been significant (>\$5000) to the district or the for-profit business entity in any of the past five years.

Confidentiality:

- During the exercise of duties and responsibilities, the Committee members may have access to confidential information. The Committee shall have an obligation to the district to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

Oath of Office:

- All non-board members, who are members of the Audit Committee, should be administered the district's oath of office by the District Clerk.

Meetings and Notification

The South Orangetown Central School District Audit Committee shall meet a minimum of four times each year. An agenda of each meeting should be clearly determined in advance and the Audit Committee should receive supporting documents in advance, for reasonable review and consideration. Any member of the Board of Education, who is not a member of the Audit Committee, may attend audit committee meetings if authorized by a resolution of the Board.

The Audit Committee shall prepare minutes of each meeting. At a minimum, the minutes will include the following:

1. Copies of the meeting agenda
2. Date, attendance and location of the meeting
3. Brief summary of the topics discussed

4. Copies of materials discussed or presented at the meeting
5. A record of all actions or recommendations agreed to by the committee

Decision-Making Process

All decisions shall be reached by consensus of those members present at the meeting. Consensus is defined as an acceptable solution that all can agree to support. If consensus cannot be reached, polling of the voting membership will take place and simple majority will rule. A quorum constitutes a simple majority of the total membership and meetings will not be conducted unless a quorum is present.

Reporting and Review Requirements

The South Orangetown Central School District Audit Committee has the duty and responsibility to report its activities to the Board of Education. Periodic written reports of Audit Committee activities are an important communication link between the Audit Committee and the Board on key decisions and responsibilities. The Audit Committee's reporting requirements are to:

1. Report on the scope and breadth of committee activities so that the Board of Education is kept informed of its work.
2. Provide minutes of meetings and work sessions, which clearly record the actions, and recommendations of the Committee.
3. Report on their review of the District's draft annual audit report and accompanying management letter and their review of significant findings and recommendations of the internal auditor.
4. Review Reports issued by Auditors on suspected fraud or abuse or material defects in the internal control systems and discuss with the Board of Education.
5. Review Reports issued by the Auditors on material or significant non-compliances with laws or District policies and regulations and discuss with the Board of Education.
6. Report on any other matters that should be disclosed to the Board of Education.

Review of Charter

The South Orangetown Central School District Audit Committee shall assess and report to the Board of Education on the adequacy of this Charter no less than an annual basis or as necessary. Charter modifications, as recommended by the Audit Committee, should be presented to the Board of Education in writing for their review and action.