

**SOUTH OTAGO HIGH SCHOOL  
AUDIT COMPLETION REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2019**



4 June 2020

Jules Witt  
Chairperson  
South Otago High School  
46 Frances Street  
Rosebank  
Balclutha 9230

cc: Mike Wright  
Principal

Dear Jules

We have pleasure in presenting our Audit Completion Report for our audit of South Otago High School's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019.

We would like to emphasise that our audit work involves the review of only those systems and controls in your organisation upon which we rely on for audit purposes. Our examination may not have identified, and should not be relied upon to identify, all control weaknesses that may exist.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance and co-operation provided by the School's staff during the audit. We have received full and frank cooperation. There is nothing we wish to raise solely with the Board.

Yours faithfully,  
**BDO Invercargill**



**Aaron Higham**  
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### STATUS OF THE AUDIT AND THE AUDIT OPINION

BDO Invercargill ('BDO') is the Appointed Audit Firm of South Otago High School (the "School").

BDO's responsibilities include a requirement to express an opinion on the School's financial statements arising from our audit conducted in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards which incorporate International Standards on Auditing (NZ).

This report details the processes, findings and recommendations from our audit of the School in accordance with the Auditor General's Auditing Standards, and the terms of our engagement as set out in our audit engagement letter.

Our audit of the School's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 is complete.

We have issued an unqualified audit opinion, with an emphasis of matter directing the reader's attention to the 'Events After Balance Date' note to the accounts, which describes the effects of Covid-19 on the school.

We welcome your feedback on the effectiveness of the audit process and are available to discuss our performance.

### AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

Our audit objectives are to:

- report on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, and
- report to Management about control environment issues that should be addressed by the school.

A strong control environment would feature adequate segregation of duties over important financial processes, and independent reviews as compensating controls should it not always be practicable for the duties to be separated.

We have documented, tested and assessed the controls supporting the school's key transaction streams, and there are no significant weaknesses to report. Control weaknesses identified during the audit have been included in the Internal Control and Other Findings section of this report.

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT RISK AND AUDIT EMPHASIS

Our audit approach considered the inherent risks in your business, their potential impact on the financial statements and the associated risk mitigations and controls in place. The significant matters arising from our audit work are:

- Locally raised funds
- Payroll not approved or checked
- Cyclical maintenance provision
- Management Override

We were able to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence in respect to these items and have no significant findings to bring to your attention. Refer to Section 2 for our comments in respect to each significant risk and area of audit emphasis.

## SUMMARY OF UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

There were no errors left uncorrected at the conclusion of our audit.

## INTERNAL CONTROLS

Our audit approach requires us to obtain an understanding of an entity's internal controls in order to identify assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error but is not designed to provide assurance over the overall effectiveness of controls operating within the School.

We have not identified any material weaknesses in internal controls relating to the prevention and detection of fraud and error that have impacted on our ability to provide an opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019.

## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Good governance and accountability need and support each other and, if done well, enhance the public's trust in our public sector. Good governance encourages and can result in good accountability. In turn, accountability is a vital element of good governance.

The Auditor-General has published a report, Reflections from our audits: Governance and accountability. This report reflects on common issues, and highlights examples of good and emerging practise, which public entities can use to help improve their governance and accountability arrangements. It also identifies eight elements of good governance and looks at some trends that present new challenges and opportunities for enhancing accountability.

We encourage you to use the findings and examples in this report to consider the School's governance and accountability arrangements. This report is available on the OAG website at [www.oag.govt.nz/2016/reflections](http://www.oag.govt.nz/2016/reflections)

## 2. KEY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT RISKS AND AREAS OF AUDIT EMPHASIS

Our audit procedures were focused on those areas of the School's activities that are considered to represent the key audit risks identified during the risk assessment process undertaken and communicated with you through the audit arrangements letter at the planning phase of the audit. Below we present a summary of the identified key areas of risk and audit emphasis and our conclusions in relation to each matter. We are satisfied that these areas have been satisfactorily addressed through our audit processes.

### Locally Raised Funds

#### Area of Audit Emphasis

Due to the nature of locally raised funds (often being cash), there is a risk of material misstatement around the completeness of locally raised funds income.

#### Conclusion/Response

From our audit work performed we found no issues regarding locally raised funds income or expense balances in the financial statements.

### Payroll not approved or checked

#### Area of Audit Emphasis

Payroll is processed by Novopay. The accuracy of payroll processing is dependent on appropriate approval of payroll changes and checking of the fortnightly SUE report.

#### Conclusion/Response

From our audit work performed we found no issues regarding payroll balances included in the financial statements.

### Cyclical Maintenance Provision

#### Area of Audit Emphasis

Cyclical Maintenance is an area of judgment and could lead to material misstatement in the financial statements. For Schools to be able to calculate the appropriate cyclical maintenance provision a 10 Year Property Plan (10YPP) needs to be prepared and/or reviewed by an expert.

#### Conclusion/Response

From our audit work performed, there were no issues regarding the provision for Cyclical Maintenance in the Financial Statements.

## Management Override

### Area of Audit Emphasis

There is a rebuttable presumption under the International Auditing Standards that there is a risk of management override.

### Conclusion/Response

We have assessed the segregation of duties and risk of management override as part of our planning process, and concluded that the risk of fraud from management override of controls is primarily through the processing of manual journals. We have used a risk based approach to testing manual journals, and focused on any areas where a risk of judgement, estimation or cut-off risk exists with management override in mind. No issues with management override we noted.

## COVID 19- Subsequent Event

### Area of Audit Emphasis

During March 2020, the country was placed in lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic. As part of this lockdown all schools were closed. Subsequently all schools and kura reopened on the 18th of May 2020. All salaries continue to be paid through the MOE as many classes are being taught remotely, school holidays were brought forward and at the time of audit, there has been no indication that operational funding will change.

This is a key subsequent event for which audit will need to request specific disclosure within the financial statements.

### Conclusion/Response

The Ministry of Education and the OAG has advised that all schools are required to include a subsequent event disclosure in the financial statement to highlight the potential impact COVID 19 may have on the school. The financial statements of the school have been updated to include this detail in the notes.

We have also included an emphasis of matter paragraph in the audit report drawing attention to the disclosure about COVID-19 as a subsequent event.

During our audit we noted that the school has not been significantly impacted by COVID 19.

### 3. INTERNAL CONTROL AND OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS

This section of the report sets out the key internal control findings we have identified during the course of the audit and highlights control deficiencies requiring management attention. Our work has been limited to those controls relevant to the audit of your statutory financial statements. The purpose of our audit work on controls is not to provide assurance in its own right on the internal controls and therefore we may not necessarily disclose all matters that might be significant deficiencies or deficiencies that heighten the risk of a fraud being perpetrated.

The findings and recommendations have been discussed and agreed with the School's Management.

#### GOOD ADMINISTRATION/ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

##### Finding

We take this opportunity to comment on the efficient and well-controlled nature of your team's administration and accounting function. This is a credit to the people involved as well as the disciplines put in place by your Board.

##### Conclusion

As your auditors, we appreciate your openness to external advice and congratulate your school for your good efforts in ensuring the efficient and effective operation of this important part of your school.

#### ONGOING DEFICIT BUDGETING WHERE SURPLUSES ACHIEVED

##### Finding

As in previous years, your school had budgeted for deficit results but has been able to return a surplus. We would like to congratulate the school on being able to achieve continued surpluses.

We note that the Board has again prepared and approved a deficit budget for the coming financial year.

In our view, budgeting for deficits where in fact surpluses are expected or likely does not lend itself to accurate monitoring and optimal management of the income and expenditure during the year.

##### Conclusion

We recommend that the Board review its budget-setting approach so that its estimates for income and expenditure take into account past performance and the best realistic estimates for the coming year.



## SIGNING OF BOARD MINUTES

### Finding

Not all of the minutes of the Board's meetings were signed by the chairperson to indicate that they had subsequently been approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### Conclusion

To achieve best practice, we suggest that you keep an official copy of the minutes in a minute book, together with other key supporting documents. These should be signed by the chairperson when approved at the following meeting.

## ACTION TAKEN ON PRIOR YEAR MANAGEMENT LETTER POINTS

### Finding

We always appreciate the efforts made by Boards in implementing the recommendations in our previous year's management letter.

### Conclusion

We acknowledge and say thanks for the proactive manner in which the matters from the previous year's management letter have been addressed by your school.

## 4. REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS WITH GOVERNANCE

| Matter  | How the matter was addressed  |
|---|---|
| Auditors responsibility under generally accepted auditing standards | We are responsible for completing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand. The detailed terms of which are set out in our audit engagement letter.   |
| Confirmation of Audit Independence                                  | <p>In conducting our audit, we are required to comply with the independence requirements of PES-1 Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners issued by the External Reporting Board.</p> <p>Our own internal policies and procedures are put in place to identify any threats to our independence, and to appropriately deal with and, if relevant, mitigate those risks.</p> <p>For the comfort of the Board, we note that the following processes assist in maintaining our independence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No other work is permitted to be undertaken by any BDO office without the express approval of the audit engagement partner.</li> <li>• All services performed by any national BDO office will be reported to the governing body.</li> </ul> <p>Audit fees billed for the 2019 audit were \$6,068.</p> <p>There were no other services provided by our firm for the financial year.</p> |
| Management Judgements and Estimates                                 | Under International Standards on Auditing (NZ), we have a responsibility to ensure that you have been informed about the process used by the School in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates, assumptions or valuation judgements. Overall we note that the judgements and estimates by management in preparing the results for the year ended 31 December 2019 appear reasonable. Key matters impacting on our audit have been raised in sections 2 and 3 of this report if applicable.  |
| Matters requiring Board of Trustee input                            | <p>We have placed reliance on the Board’s review and approval of the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of the Board meetings;</li> <li>• Implementation of such controls as is needed to ensure that financial statements are presented fairly;</li> <li>• Review and approval of management accounts;</li> <li>• Review and approval of annual budget;</li> <li>• Review and approval of 10 Year Property Plan</li> <li>• Notification of fraud; and</li> <li>• Review and approval of the financial statements.</li> </ul>  |

| Matter   | How the matter was addressed  |
|--|---|
| Accounting policies                              | <p>Auditing standards require us to discuss with you the qualitative aspects of the School’s accounting practices and financial reporting. We reviewed the financial statements of the School against the Kiwi Park Model and noted no material departures from the requirements.</p>   |
| Materiality and adjusted/ unadjusted differences | <p>Materiality means, in the context of an audit or review, if financial information is omitted, misstated or not disclosed it has the potential to affect the decisions of users of the financial statements. Materiality is used by auditors in making judgements on the amount of work to be performed, which balances require work and for evaluating the financial report. Materiality is initially calculated at the planning stage and has an influence on the amount of work we do, as well as where we direct our audit efforts. Materiality is not only based on a numeric quantification but is assessed qualitatively for some balances and disclosures.</p> <p>There were no errors left uncorrected at the conclusion of the audit.</p> <p>During the course of our audit, we identified misstatements which have been corrected in the financial statements. These have been detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.</p> <p>It should be noted that the auditing standards do not require us to communicate misstatements that are considered “clearly trivial” and as such, if we identify such misstatements we will not communicate these to you. We consider “clearly trivial” to be 5% or less of our planned materiality.</p> |
| Going concern                                    | <p>We have undertaken a review of management and those charged with governance’ assessment of the ability of the School to continue as a going concern for 12 months from the date of signing the audit report and therefore whether the going concern basis for the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.</p> <p>We identified no issues or concerns that lead us to conclude the going concern assumption cannot be relied upon.</p>  |
| Fraud  | <p>During the audit, no matters relating to fraud, concerning either employees or management, have come to our attention. It should be noted that our audit is not designed to detect fraud, however, should instances of fraud come to our attention, we will report them to you.</p>  |
| Compliance with laws and regulations             | <p>We have made enquiries in relation to compliance with laws and regulations during the course of our audit. We have not become aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations which has materially impacted the financial position or performance of the School.</p>  |

| Matter  | How the matter was addressed   |
|---|--|
| <b>Significant findings from the audit</b>                  | Other than those documented in the executive summary and sections 2 and 3 of this report, there were no significant matters arising from the audit.  |
| <b>Disagreements with management</b>                        | There have been no disagreements with management over matters of significance to the audit.  |
| <b>Difficulties encountered during the audit</b>            | There have been no significant difficulties encountered during the audit.  |
| <b>Consultations with other accountants and consultants</b> | We have considered the need for other accounting specialists during our work and determined, due to the nature of the engagement and experience and knowledge of the engagement team, that no specialists were necessary for the current period.   |
| <b>Management representation letter</b>                     | We have not requested specific representation from management in addition to those areas normally covered by our standard representation letter.   |
| <b>Probity, waste and performance</b>                       | We are required to consider whether any approved payments could be considered extravagant or wasteful, or show a lack of probity or financial prudence. We did not identify any issues of concern with respect to probity, waste and performance.  |
| <b>Publishing Annual Report on the School's Website</b>     | <p>The Education Act 1989 requires you to publish your Annual Report online. Your Annual Report contains your audited annual financial statements including our audit opinion, analysis of variance, list of trustees and Kiwisport statement.</p> <p>Making your Annual Report accessible to the school community is important for transparency and accountability. The expectation is that your Annual Report is published as soon as possible after your audit is completed, as the value of good accountability lessens over time. We note that you did publish your 2018 Annual Report on your website.</p> |

## APPENDIX 1 - ADJUSTED AND UNADJUSTED DIFFERENCES

### AUDIT ADJUSTMENTS

The following misstatements have been identified during the course of our audit, and *have* been adjusted:

| Details  | Statement of Comprehensive |       | Statement of Financial |         | Total |
|--|----------------------------|-------|------------------------|---------|-------|
|  | Income effect              |       | Position Effect        |         |       |
|  | DR                         | CR    | DR                     | CR      |       |
| Dr Adjustment to the Provision   | 6,206                      |       |                        |         | -     |
| Cr Non Current Portion Cyclical Maintenance  |                            |       |                        | 6,206   |       |
| Being to increase the provision for cyclical maintenance as per recalculation  |                            |       |                        |         |       |
| Dr Teachers Salaries Receivable  |                            |       | 9,346                  |         | -     |
| Cr Teachers Salaries Payable   |                            |       |                        | 9,346   |       |
| Being adjustment to teachers salaries as per PP222020 info   |                            |       |                        |         |       |
| Dr Learning Resources - Employee Benefits  | 9,346                      |       |                        |         | -     |
| Cr Teachers Salaries Grant   |                            | 9,346 |                        |         |       |
| Being adjustment to teachers salaries as per PP222020 info   |                            |       |                        |         |       |
| Dr Cyclical Maintenance - Current portion  |                            |       | 216,128                |         | -     |
| Cr Cyclical Maintenance - Non-Current portion  |                            |       |                        | 216,128 |       |
| Adjustment required from Current portion to Non-Current portion, as confirmed with school, minimal painting is expected to be performed in 2020, hence a majority has been deferred until at least 2021. Largely due to Covid-19 delays and large scale capital works on Pomahaka block. |                            |       |                        |         |       |
| Total  | 15,552                     | 9,346 | 225,474                | 231,680 | -     |

### UNADJUSTED DIFFERENCES

There were no errors left uncorrected at the conclusion of our audit.

## APPENDIX 2 - UPDATE ON FINDINGS FROM PRIOR YEAR

### DEFICIT BUDGET

#### Finding

Noted in the prior year a deficit budget was approved by the board.

#### Update

Carried forward. Note another deficit budget approved by the board for the 2020 year.

### ALLIS CLUSTER FUND

#### Finding

Noted in the prior year additional audit work was required to investigate ALLIS cluster expenditures.

#### Update

Resolved. As per discussions with the school, we noted some funds still in this cluster to be spent in 2020 year.

### LOCALLY RAISED FUNDS CODING

#### Finding

Noted in the prior year additional amendments to draft financial statements were required due to coding of locally raised funds

#### Update

Resolved. No issues highlighted in 2019 year