



EDUCATION
EQUALITY
EXCELLENCE

EAST RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

105 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977

Telephone: (845) 577-6000

Facsimile: (845) 577-6038

BOARD OF EDUCATION

YEHUDA WEISSMANDL

President

YONAH ROTHMAN

Vice President

Members

BERNARD L. CHARLES, JR.

MARALUZ CORADO

PIERRE GERMAIN

MOSHE HOPSTEIN

JACOB LEFKOWITZ

ELIYAHU SOLOMON

DAVID WANOUNOU

DR. JOEL M. KLEIN

Superintendent of Schools

CATHERINE RUSSELL

District Clerk

ISRAEL BIER

Treasurer

July 19, 2013

Statement re: Office of the State Comptroller Audit Report

The findings reached in the Comptroller's report are fair and appropriate, and we are pleased that the Comptroller's audit team was able to work so cooperatively with ERCSD's financial team. We accept the report's findings, and are working to address the few areas where the Comptroller suggests more vigilance and proactive planning by our Board.

The Comptroller's audit team had complete and open access to all relevant documents, contracts, payment records, and accounts, and conducted a full, independent review of ERCSD's books. ERCSD also made its staff available to answer all questions, and the Comptroller's team interviewed key financial decision makers. The report indicates that most of the discrepancies found were the result of changed circumstances – some actually involving more money coming into the District or less money being spent than anticipated -- **and there is absolutely no suggestion of improper financial activity by any member or employee of ERCSD. And none of the specific recommendations of the report calls for a dramatic change to how the District conducts its business.**

The report contains five specific recommendations. Each one makes sense, and we are working to implement them. At the same time, we continue to recognize that many of the financial challenges faced by our District are the result of a state funding formula that does not work for the unique demographics of East Ramapo. We are committed to doing what we can to change that formula, and to develop a more coherent funding approach for our District. The additional revenues that will be generated from a more appropriate funding calculation will go a long way toward enabling the District to provide for the various enhanced financial protective measures and procedures suggested by the Comptroller.

Yehuda Weissmandl
President, Board of Education