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November 3, 2009

### CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Anthony Falco
Board of Education
Sachem Central School District
245 Union Avenue
Holbrook, New York 11741

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the fiduciary funds of the Sachem Central School District (the "District") for the year ended June 30, 2009. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and OMB Circular A-133), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated May 12, 2008. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

## Significant Audit Findings

# Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the District are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the District's financial statements was:

• <u>Useful Life of Capital Assets</u> – Management's estimate of the useful life of capital assets is based on the historical asset life information for the District's capital assets and industry standards, in order to determine the value and period of time over which individual capital assets are to be depreciated.

- <u>Compensated Absences Liability</u> Management's estimate of the liability for compensated absences is based on historical information regarding employees who have separated from the District and their terminal payout amounts, in order to determine the probability and amount of future payouts to employees for vested accumulated sick, vacation and/or leave terminal payouts.
- Other Post-Retirement Benefits Obligation Management's estimate of the liability for other post-retirement benefits is based on an actuarial valuation report prepared by a third party. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Workers Compensation Claims Payable Management's estimate of the liability for workers compensation payable is provided by a third party. The liability is based on incurred claims and claim adjustments from various actuarial reports and claim payments during the year ending June 30, 2009.

## Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

#### Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

### Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreement arose during the course of our audit.

#### Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated November 3, 2009.

## Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves

application of an accounting principle to the District's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

### Other Audit Finding or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the District's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Education and management of the District and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

R.S. Abrams & Co. LLP

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