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January 15, 2018

Syringa Mountain School  
4021 Glenbrook  
Hailey, ID 83333

***RE: FY18, FY19, & FY20 Independent Audits***

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide Syringa Mountain School (the School) for the years ended June 30, 2018, 2019, and 2020. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of the School as of and for the years ended June 30, 2018, 2019, and 2020. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), to supplement the School's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, and historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the School's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. As in prior years, management's discussion & analysis (MD&A) will be excluded. If supplementary information other than RSI accompanies the basic financial statements, we will subject it to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole, in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements. Provisions described in this engagement letter relating to a Single Audit, the Uniform Guidance, or the schedule of expenditures of federal awards only apply when the School is subject to a Single Audit.

## **Audit Objectives**

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to above when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. The objective also includes reporting on:

- Internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Internal control over compliance related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)*.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, and will include tests of the accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue written reports upon completion of our Single Audit. Our reports will be addressed to the governing board of the School. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the financial statements or the single audit compliance opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or may withdraw from this engagement.

## **Audit Procedures—General**

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or major programs. However, we will inform appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; schedule of expenditures of federal awards; federal award programs; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

## **Audit Procedures—Internal Control**

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and

detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

#### **Audit Procedures—Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the School's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the School's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the School's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

#### **Other Services**

We will also assist with preparing the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes of the School in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and the Uniform Guidance based on the information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Management Responsibilities**

Management is responsible for (a) designing, implementing, and maintaining effective internal controls, including internal controls over federal awards, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; (b) following laws and regulations; (c) ensuring that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements; and (d) ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations (including federal statutes) and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements (including award agreements). Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance, (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the School involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud, affecting the School received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. Management is also responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, or abuse that we report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified

including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings; and prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan and make them ready for our review.

You are responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in conformity with the Uniform Guidance. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is stated fairly in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, related notes, and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with

preparation of the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

### **Engagement Administration, Prices, and Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form (when applicable) that summarizes our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditor's reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report for you to include with the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the School; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Quest CPAs PLLC and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to Legislative Services Office or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Quest CPAs PLLC personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by Legislative Services Office. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

We expect to begin our audits in May and to issue our reports no later than September 30th. Kurt R. Folke or Daniel T. Coleman will be the engagement partner and will be responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them.

We agree that our prices for these services will not exceed:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>
Financial Audit	<i>Financial audit required by Idaho Code</i>	\$5,150	\$5,400	\$5,650
Form 990 Prep	<i>Preparation of Form 990 which is required by IRS to maintain tax-exempt status</i>	\$750	\$800	\$850
Additional Services	<i>Additional services - only if needed/requested - see Appendix A</i>			

Our invoices will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. The above prices are based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new price estimate before we incur the additional costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign one copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,

**Quest CPAs PLLC**

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the School.

Management signature: *Ngel Whittington*  
 Title: *Director* Date: *2/22/2018*  
 Governance signature\*: *[Signature]*  
 Title: *Board Chair* Date: *2/21/2018*

*\*If the governing body has delegated this responsibility to management, the governance signature is not required.*



## APPENDIX A – ADDITIONAL SERVICES

The following additional services are available as needed. Please contact us if you think your School will be needing assistance with any of them.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>
Single Audit	<i>Additional compliance audit needed if the School spends over \$750K in federal funds</i>	\$1,500	\$1,575	\$1,650
AFRA for new bond, loan, & capital lease <u>issuances</u>	<i>For new bond, loan, and capital lease <u>issuances</u>, providing assistance with proper accounting (i.e. preparing appropriate journal entries, using correct funds), financial reporting (i.e. note disclosures, amortization tables, and changes in LT debt tables), and auditing.</i>	\$750	\$800	\$850
AFRA for bond & loan <u>refinances</u>	<i>For bond, loan, and capital lease <u>refinances</u>, providing assistance with proper accounting (i.e. preparing appropriate journal entries), financial reporting (i.e. note disclosures, amortization tables, and changes in LT debt tables), and auditing.</i>	\$750	\$800	\$850
AFRA for bond <u>advance refundings</u> - (these are the most common and complex refundings)	<i>For bond <u>advance refundings</u>, providing assistance with proper accounting (i.e. preparing appropriate journal entries), financial reporting (i.e. note disclosures, amortization tables, and changes in LT debt tables), and auditing.</i>	\$1,500	\$1,550	\$1,600
AFRA for bond <u>current refundings</u> - (these are the less common and simpler refundings)	<i>For bond <u>current refundings</u>, providing assistance with proper accounting (i.e. preparing appropriate journal entries), financial reporting (i.e. note disclosures, amortization tables, and changes in LT debt tables), and auditing.</i>	\$750	\$800	\$850

## APPENDIX A – ADDITIONAL SERVICES

The following additional services are available as needed. Please contact us if you think your School will be needing assistance with any of them.

Service	Description	FY18	FY19	FY20
AFRA for GASB 75 OPEB (only if school implements this GASB)	For <u>GASB 75 OPEB</u> , providing assistance with proper accounting (i.e. preparing appropriate journal entries), financial reporting (i.e. note disclosures and RSI), and auditing.	\$1,500	\$1,550	\$1,600

The following additional services, if needed, are billed at our standard hourly rate of \$150 / hour. Note: Email/phone questions from clients are still very welcome and free of charge.

Assistance with preparing yearend accrual entries	Assistance with preparing yearend accrual entries to ensure books are recorded in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and therefore are ready to audit. <u>Note:</u> Minor adjustments (up to 5) are provided free of charge and instructions on how to prepare accrual adjustments (so business managers can do this themselves) is provided free of charge.	Billed at standard hourly rates	Billed at standard hourly rates	Billed at standard hourly rates
Written responses for technical inquiries regarding GASBs or consent disclosures for bond issuances to third parties (i.e. S&P, bond underwriters)	Written responses for technical inquiries regarding GASBs (i.e. 68/75) to third parties (S&P) or consent disclosures for bond issuances for third parties (underwriters) all require documentation and procedures on part of the auditor. <u>Note:</u> Email and phone questions from clients are still very welcome and free of charge.	Billed at standard hourly rates	Billed at standard hourly rates	Billed at standard hourly rates
Other school finance services	We provide a variety of other school finance related services including accounting and financial training (board, business manager, school), agreed-upon procedures (for detailed matters outside the scope of the regular audits), networking / mentoring, etc. - some services are charged and some are not - depending on the service and time expended.	Billed at standard hourly rates	Billed at standard hourly rates	Billed at standard hourly rates