



November 21, 2022

Katonah-Lewisboro School District Committed to Best Practices

Katonah Lewisboro School District recently strengthened its procurement procedures. The revised procedures already in place align with feedback from a NYS Comptroller's audit, released on November 18, 2022.

"The feedback came at a good time, in advance of the work the district will be doing for the recently approved capital improvement project," said Katonah-Lewisboro Superintendent Andrew Selesnick. "We have already implemented procedural changes to ensure that best practices are in place moving forward."

The audit covered a period of time overlapping with the COVID-19 pandemic, a time when KLSD prioritized the health and safety of students and staff. A significant amount of work on HVAC systems was completed much more quickly than it would have been in non-emergency times. "It is important to note that competitive bidding processes were used for all work completed in our district by outside vendors," Selesnick said. The comptroller has noted that certain work should have been bid separately, and that doing so had the potential to result in savings for the district. Prior to the release of the audit, the district had already taken steps to address these findings.

Business Office and Operations and Maintenance staff involved in the procurement process received additional training to ensure that all bidding will occur in the manner prescribed by the Audit and by General Municipal Law. An attorney regarded as a regional expert in the procurement process provided this training and will continue to work with both offices to ensure best practices.

The attorney will meet regularly with the district's Assistant Superintendent for Business to review all current and upcoming construction and maintenance projects to ensure they are proposed, bid, and overseen appropriately.

Other aspects of the audit addressed sign-in procedures for vendors, the level of detail in project proposals and documentation of project oversight. Most of these findings coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic and have been addressed through training and a return to normal operations.

All school districts in New York State are subject to periodic audits by the State Comptroller's Office. These reviews serve to ensure transparency and accountability in the conduct of district business.