



March 25, 2026

Board of Education and Management
St Croix Preparatory
Stillwater, Minnesota

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide the St Croix Preparatory (the Charter School) for the year ended June 30, 2026.

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information, and the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the Charter School as of and for the year ended June 30, 2026. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the Charter 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, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the Charter School's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). 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 appropriate evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis
- Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability and Employer's Contributions
- Budgetary Comparison Schedules

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the Charter School's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information 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 to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS, 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:

- Combining and Individual Fund Financial Statements
- Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards Table

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, we will read the following other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

- Introductory Section

Edina Office

5201 Eden Avenue, Ste 250
Edina, MN 55436
P 952.835.9090

Mankato Office

100 Warren Street, Ste 600
Mankato, MN 56001
P 507.625.2727

Scottsdale Office

14500 N Northsight Blvd, Ste 233
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
P 480.864.5579

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP, and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

The objectives also include 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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of your accounting records of the Charter School and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable 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 government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, Government Auditing Standards do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or 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 an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS 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. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes 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. 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.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Charter School's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of certain assets, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.



We may, from time to time, and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

Our audit of financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

Audit Procedures - Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including the system of internal control, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. 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. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. 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 and Government Auditing Standards.

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 Charter School's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit 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.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, establishing and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and 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 and all accompanying information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.



Management is responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records and related information available to us; for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers); and for the evaluation of whether there are any conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Charter School's ability to continue as a going concern for the 12 months after the financial statements date or shortly thereafter (for example, within an additional three months if currently known). 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, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and Government Auditing Standards.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written 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 of each opinion unit 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 government 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 Charter School received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, or contracts or grant agreements that we report.

With regard to including the auditor's report in an exempt offering document, you agree that the aforementioned auditor's report, or reference to Abdo, will not be included in any such offering document without our prior permission or consent. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including an agreement to provide permission or consent, will be a separate engagement.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). 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.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. You are 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 Scope and 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 other 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.



Other Services

We will prepare a general ledger trial balance for use during the audit. Our preparation of the trial balance will be limited to formatting information in the general ledger into a working trial balance. As part of the audit, we will assist with preparation of your financial statements and related notes. You will be required to acknowledge in the written representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. We will also assist with entries to convert from the modified accrual basis of accounting to the full accrual basis of accounting for long-term assets, long-term liabilities, and related deferred inflows of resources, deferred outflows of resources, revenues and expenses from information provided by management.

Our engagement does not include any procedures designed to detect errors, fraud, theft, or other wrongdoing. Therefore, our engagement cannot be relied upon to disclose such matters. In addition, we are not responsible for identifying or communicating deficiencies in your internal controls. You are responsible for developing and implementing internal controls applicable to your operations.

You may request that we perform additional services not contemplated in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you regarding the scope and estimated cost of these additional services. Engagements for additional services may necessitate that we amend the Agreement or issue a separate agreement to reflect the obligations of all parties. In the absence of any other written communications from us documenting additional services, our services will be limited to and governed by the terms of this Agreement.

If we become aware of any other filing requirement, we will tell you of the obligation and may prepare the appropriate return(s) at your request.

CPA Firm Responsibilities

It is our duty to prepare your returns based on the same standard of care that a reasonable tax return preparer would exercise in this type of engagement. Unless otherwise noted, the applicable standard of care for a "reasonable tax return preparer" shall be based upon the following pronouncements:

- the Statements on Standards for Tax Services ("SSTS") issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA");
- U.S. Treasury Department Circular 230 ("Circular 230"); and
- the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations, and any applicable state/local corollaries (collectively, "the Code").

As tax return preparers, these pronouncements restrict our ability to sign a tax return when the tax positions you report do not comply with tax law. We will be unable to sign your return and may terminate this Agreement if you:

- request that we report a tax position on your return which we feel is contrary to published guidance, frivolous, or a willful attempt to evade tax;
- request that we include a deduction, credit or refund on your return that we believe you do not qualify for; or
- decline to disclose a position where in our professional judgment tax law requires disclosure.

Abdo will not make any management decisions or perform management functions on your behalf.

Bookkeeping Assistance

We may deem it necessary to provide you with limited accounting or bookkeeping assistance solely for the purpose of helping you organize your information. This assistance is intended to be nominal and is not a separate accounting or bookkeeping service. In the event we conclude that bookkeeping or accounting assistance is necessary to prepare your tax returns, we will advise you in writing before proceeding. Any assistance will be billed at our standard hourly rates and will be subject to the terms of this Agreement.



Government Inquiries

This engagement does not include responding to inquiries by any governmental agency or tax authority. If you are contacted by a tax authority, either for an examination or other inquiry, you may request our assistance in responding.

Reliance on Others

There may be times when you engage another advisor to assist you.

If you wish to take a tax position based upon the advice of another advisor, before we are able to sign your tax return, we must comply with the applicable provisions of the Code and the SSTS.

We will review the other advisor's work and may require a written statement from the advisor describing the statutory basis for the position and the suggested disclosure needed to appropriately report the position. If we believe additional research is required, we will discuss the matter with you. You agree to pay for the additional charges necessary to complete the disclosure or research as this is not included in the scope of our service.

Moreover, you understand that the IRS, state or local tax authority may disagree with the position taken on the return. If this occurs, you will be responsible for any additional tax, penalties and interest, as well as any related professional fees, you may incur.

If, after review of the work prepared by your other advisor, we determine that we are unable to sign the tax return, we will be unable to proceed and may terminate this Agreement.

The firm may, from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers to assist in preparing your return, but these preparers will not make substantive decisions concerning your return. We may share your tax return information with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information, and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, the firm will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers. However, we will not disclose any tax return information to third parties without your express written consent.



The IRS permits you to authorize us to discuss, on a limited basis, aspects of your return for one year after the due date of the return. Your consent to such a discussion is evidenced by checking a box on the return. Unless you tell us otherwise, we will check that box authorizing the IRS to discuss your return with us.

It is our policy to keep records related to this engagement for seven years. However, we do not keep any of your original records and will return those to you upon the completion of the engagement. When records are returned to you, it is your responsibility to retain and protect the records for possible future use, including potential examination by governmental or regulatory agencies.

By signing this engagement letter, you acknowledge and agree that upon the expiration of the seven-year period, we are free to destroy our records related to this engagement.

Client Responsibilities

If you fail to comply with the responsibilities as described in this Agreement, your actions or your inactions may result in economic or other loss to you, such as disallowance of tax deductions or credits claimed, additional tax, penalties or interest assessed against you, loss of administrative rights, or criminal punishment. You will be responsible for any loss suffered by you as a result of your failure to comply with your responsibilities, including any professional fees required to defend or correct changes made to your tax returns or prepare previously unfiled or amend previously filed tax returns.

The responsibilities detailed in this section are not exhaustive, and our services to you may require additional responsibilities not listed.

Tax Information

You agree to provide us with a trial balance and other supporting data we may request to prepare your tax returns. You are responsible for providing us with accurate and complete information, including income and activities outside of the U.S. or your home state. We will rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information and representations you provide to us.

We will not audit or otherwise verify the data you submit to us, although we may ask you to clarify certain information.

Unrelated Business Taxable Income

Entities that have received tax-exempt status from the IRS may still owe tax if they have unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI"). An entity which has taxable income from a trade or business activity not substantially related to its tax-exempt purpose, or from debt-financed property (or receives a K-1 with similar activity) may have UBTI that must be reported separately. You are responsible for informing us of any potential UBTI or activities which you conduct that are not directly related to your tax-exempt purpose.

Management Responsibilities for Tax-exempt Organizations

As a tax-exempt organization under IRC §501(c), you are subject to additional requirements to maintain your status. These requirements include:

- Restrictions on use of the non-profit's assets for personal use (inurement);
- Restrictions on lobbying;
- Restrictions on political activity;
- Restrictions on UBTI;
- Operating in accordance with your stated purpose;
- Maintaining state registrations related to solicitations with state charitable divisions;
- Meeting the public support test; and
- Timely filing your tax returns.



By signing this Agreement, you acknowledge and agree that: 1) failure to adhere to IRS regulations may have adverse impacts, including and up to the revocation of your tax-exempt status; 2) we have no obligation to advise you regarding the implications of management responsibilities; and 3) you will inform us of any transaction into which you may be prohibited from entering.

Substantiation Requirements

You are responsible for providing a donor who makes a charitable contribution of \$250 or more with a written acknowledgement of the contribution. The donor must **receive** the acknowledgement by the earlier of the date on which the donor files a tax return for the tax year in which the contribution was made (April 15th for most individual donors) or the due date, including extensions (October 15th for most individual donors), for that return. In addition, you should retain a copy of this acknowledgement for your records. You agree to hold our firm harmless with respect to any liability, including but not limited to, additional tax, penalties, interest, and professional fees resulting from the disallowance of tax deductions due to inadequate substantiation.

Documentation

You are responsible for maintaining adequate documentation to substantiate the accuracy and completeness of your tax returns. Our workpapers do not satisfy your documentation responsibility. You should retain all documents that provide evidence and support for reported income, credits, deductions, and other information on your returns, as required under applicable tax laws and regulations. The IRS recommends that you maintain this documentation for as long as it may be relevant to your taxes.

You represent that you have such documentation and can produce it, if necessary, to respond to any examination or inquiry by tax authorities. You will be responsible for any liability, including but not limited to, additional tax, penalties, interest and related professional fees, resulting from the disallowance of tax deductions due to inadequate documentation.

Personal Expenses

In general, personal expenses are not deductible for income tax purposes. You are responsible for ensuring that personal expenses, if any, are separated from business expenses and that expenses such as meals, travel, vehicle use, gifts, and related expenses are supported by documentation and records required by the IRS and other tax authorities.

State and Local Filing Obligations

The preparation of any state or local tax return not listed in Engagement Objective and Scope above is not within the scope of our engagement. You are responsible for fulfilling your filing obligations with any state or local tax authorities, including, but not limited to income, franchise, sales, use, and property taxes or abandoned and unclaimed property. However, if upon review of the information you have provided to us, including information that comes to our attention, we believe that you may have additional filing obligations, we will notify you.

If you are unsure if you have any other filing obligation with other state or local tax authorities, you are responsible for alerting us and requesting assistance. If you do not alert us or request assistance, we will infer that you do not have other state or local filing obligations. You will be responsible for tax due and penalties associated with the failure to file or untimely filing of any form for which we were not engaged to prepare.



U.S. Filing Obligations Related to Foreign Investments and Activities

U.S. persons generally must report income and activities related to both domestic and foreign assets (worldwide income). You are responsible for fulfilling your filing obligations related to foreign activity where required. U.S. reporting requirements related to foreign activity are very complex. **Contact us immediately** if you have:

- Ownership of, investment in, or officer responsibilities for a corporation, partnership, or other business entity formed under the laws of another country;
- Fiduciary, grantor, or beneficiary relationships in connection with an entity formed under the laws of another country;
- Ownership of, signature authority over, or control over any financial account held in a financial institution located in another country;
- Citizenship or government-approved employment/visa status with a country other than the U.S. (including anyone in your immediate household, or your parents who live outside the U.S.);
- Transferred property, including cash, offshore either directly or through the purchase of or investment in an entity formed under the laws of another country;
- Received or have legally-recognizable rights to receive property, including cash, from a trust, business, or investment formed under the laws of another country or individual residing in another country;
- Conducted business with any entity or person physically located in another country, regardless of whether such business is for-profit, not for-profit, or informal/irregular;
- Received property, including cash, or income from a source outside of the U.S. which is not reported on a brokerage statement (such as a 1099-B or similar report); or
- Any other activity or economic arrangement which takes place outside of the U.S.

Failure to timely file the required forms may result in substantial civil and/or criminal penalties. You agree to provide us with complete and accurate information regarding any foreign activity in which you have a direct or indirect interest, or over which you have signature authority, during the above referenced tax year.

If you are unsure if you have any other filing obligation related to foreign activity, you are responsible for alerting us and requesting assistance. If you do not alert us or request assistance, we will infer that you do not have foreign activity absent information you provide to us. In any event, you will be responsible for tax due, penalties, and interest associated with the failure to file or untimely filing of any form for which we were not engaged to prepare.

Digital Assets

There are specific tax implications of investing in digital assets (e.g., virtual currencies, non-fungible tokens, virtual real estate and similar assets). The IRS considers these to be property for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As such, any transactions in, or transactions that use, digital assets are subject to the same general tax principles that apply to other property transactions.

If you transacted in digital assets during the tax year, you may have tax consequences and/or additional reporting obligations associated with such transactions. Depending on the nature or volume of these transactions, a change to the scope of our services may be required. You are responsible for providing us with complete and accurate information, including basis, regarding any transactions in, or transactions that have used, digital assets during the applicable tax year.

Ultimate Responsibility

You are ultimately responsible for complying with any substantive or procedural tax law which applies to you, and for ensuring your tax returns and any required tax payments are timely received by the appropriate tax authority. Notwithstanding any term of this Agreement, this responsibility cannot be delegated to us.

Our assistance related to your tax return is based upon tax reference materials, facts, assumptions, and representations that are subject to change. We will not update your return after the conclusion of the engagement for any reason. To the extent we provide written advice concerning federal tax matters, we will follow the applicable guidance contained in our professional standards.



You have final responsibility for the accuracy of your tax returns. We will provide you with a copy of your draft tax returns and accompanying schedules and statements for review. You agree to review and examine them carefully for accuracy and completeness. Tax authorities impose various penalties and interest charges for non-compliance with tax laws and regulations, including failure to file or late filing of returns, and underpayment of taxes. You will be responsible for the payment of any additional tax, penalties, and interest charges imposed by tax authorities.

You have final responsibility for the payment of your taxes in whatever amount ultimately determined. You may choose to have funds automatically withdrawn from a designated account and transmitted when your tax return is electronically filed. We will not transmit partial payments. It is your responsibility to provide us with correct account and routing numbers, to review this information for accuracy prior to submission of your return, and to ensure that sufficient funds are available at the time of payment. We shall have no liability for any tax due, penalties, interest, or overdraft charges which may result from your failure to ensure sufficient funds are available at the time of payment.

Tax Return Extensions

It may become necessary to apply for an extension of the filing due dates if there are unresolved issues or delays in processing or if we do not receive all of the necessary information from you on a timely basis. Applying for an extension of time to file may limit your ability to make certain elections, extend the time available for a government agency to undertake an examination of your return and/or extend the statute of limitations to file a legal action. Although we may assist you in the preparation of an extension to file your return(s), you have sole responsibility for the filing of any extension, and you agree to hold our firm harmless from any consequences, including waived elections, where the extension is not timely filed. All taxes owed are due by the original filing due date. Additionally, extensions may affect your liability for penalties and interest or compliance with governmental or other deadlines.

If you wish to engage our firm to apply for extensions of time to file tax returns on your behalf, we will not file these extensions unless and until we receive both an executed copy of this Agreement and your express written authorization to file an extension. In some cases, your signature may be required on such applications prior to filing. Failure to timely request an extension of time to file can result in penalties for failure to file tax returns, which accrue from the original due date of the returns, and can be substantial.

E-filing

In addition to being a return preparer, we are an Electronic Return Originator (ERO) and may prepare your return(s) and/or extension(s) in a format that permits us to electronically transmit ("e-file") those forms to the appropriate tax authority on your behalf. The e-filing of any form is a separate service from the preparation of that form.

If you request that we e-file any form on your behalf, including requests for extensions of time to file, the IRS and states require you to sign and return to us the appropriate governmental form(s) before your returns can be filed electronically. **If you fail to timely sign and return e-file authorization, we cannot and will not e-file any form on your behalf. In those situations, you will be solely responsible for any penalties or interest assessed against you.**

If your return(s) or extension(s) cannot be e-filed, we will deliver to you a paper copy suitable for mailing to the taxing authorities. Once delivered to you, you bear full responsibility for reviewing the paper returns for accuracy, and either signing and timely filing them, along with any payments due, or notifying us of any issue which may need to be addressed prior to filing.

Once our services have concluded, we shall have no obligation to notify you of future tax law developments affecting your return(s) except as may be required by Circular 230 or the SSTS related to errors we identify.

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. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.



You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with the preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements 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, Fees, 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.

We will provide electronic copies of our reports to the Charter 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 Abdo 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 any Regulator or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for the 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 Abdo 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 seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the Regulator. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency 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.

Justin Nilson, CPA is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. We expect to begin our audit in October 2026, and to issue our reports no later than December 31, 2026.

Our fee for these services will be as follows:

Audit	\$26,850.00
990 Tax Return	\$3,900.00
Audit - Building Company	\$6,400.00
990 Tax Return - Building Company	<u>\$3,900.00</u>
Total	<u><u>\$41,050.00</u></u>

Our invoices for these fees will be rendered as follows: 25% at fiscal year-end, 50% once fieldwork is complete, and 25% at report delivery.

Abdo is offering a discount of \$500 should the school elect to have a pre-recorded audit presentation sent to them in replacement of a live virtual or in-person presentation at a school board meeting.

There have been several new accounting standards issued in recent years which will begin taking effect in the current and following years. These new standards may require substantial changes to your financial statements. We will review with you during the planning stage and if changes are substantial and you would like our firm to complete this work we will agree at that time to a separate fee and engagement to complete that work.



To assist with the post-implementation accounting for GASB statement numbers 87 - Leases and 96 - Subscription Based Information Technology Agreements (SBITA's), Abdo has partnered with an accounting software known as Crunchafi (formerly known as LeaseCrunch) to ensure you are in compliance with the standards. The cost of this service is a discounted price of \$81.90 per lease/SBITA that is in the Crunchafi system and is billed directly to Abdo from Crunchafi on an annual basis. Abdo will bill you the same amount charged from Crunchafi based on the number of leases/SBITA's in your account. Abdo plans to utilize this software as part of our procedures and Abdo can either enter information into the system for you to review or we can give you access to the system to input your own data for which we will review and ensure it is correct. We will discuss this with you as part of our planning procedures.

In an effort to reduce environmental impact, you will receive printable, downloadable PDFs of your report. To receive one (1) paper report, you will be charged \$150 for a set-up fee. Additional paper copies will be charged at the rate of \$50 per report.

You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you regarding the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

You may also be billed for travel and other out-of-pocket costs such as report production, typing, postage, etc. if not included in the fee listed above. The fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee before we incur the additional costs. Amounts not paid within 30 days from the invoice date will be subject to a late payment charge of .66 percent per month (8 percent per year). If for any reason the account is turned over to collections, additional fees will be added to cover collections cost. In accordance with our Firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is 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 fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

We will schedule the engagement based in part on deadlines, working conditions, and the availability of your key personnel. We will plan the engagement based on the assumption that your personnel will cooperate and provide assistance by performing tasks such as preparing requested schedules, retrieving supporting documents, and preparing confirmations. If, for whatever reason, your personnel are unavailable to provide the necessary assistance in a timely manner, it may substantially increase the work we have to do to complete the engagement within the established deadlines, resulting in an increase in fees over our original fee estimate.

Except in the event of your failure to make a payment when due, in the event of a dispute related in any way to our services, our Firm and you agree to discuss the dispute and, if necessary, to promptly mediate in a good faith effort to resolve. We will agree on a mediator, but if we cannot, either of us may apply to a court having personal jurisdiction over the parties for appointment of a mediator. We will share the mediator's fees and expenses equally, but otherwise will bear our own attorneys' fees and mediation cost. Participation in such mediation shall be a condition to either of us initiating litigation. In order to allow time for the mediation, any applicable statute of limitations shall be tolled for a period not to exceed 120 days from the date either of us first requests in writing to mediate the dispute. The mediation shall be confidential in all respects, as allowed or required by law, except our final settlement positions at mediation shall be admissible in litigation solely to determine the prevailing party's identify for purposes of the award of attorneys' fees. In the event you fail to make a payment for services or to reimburse for costs advanced by the Firm on your behalf, the Firm reserves the right to take all legally permissible action, including commencement of litigation in lieu of mediation, and shall have the right to collect its costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred in any such collection or litigation activities.

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email transmission. As emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that emails from us will be properly delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure of emails transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, or special damages, such as loss of revenues or anticipated profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.



We will utilize a portal which is a collaborative, virtual workspace in a protected, online environment. The portal permits real-time collaboration across geographic boundaries and time zones and allows us and you to share data, engagement information, knowledge, and deliverables in a protected environment. In order to use the portal, you may be required by the provider of the portal to execute a client portal agreement and agree to be bound by the terms, conditions, and limitations of such agreement. You agree that we have no responsibility for the activities of the portal and agree to indemnify and hold us harmless with respect to any and all claims arising from your misuse of the portal.

We are not a host for any of your information. You are responsible for maintaining your own copy of this information. We do not provide back-up services for any of your data or records, including information we provide to you. Portals are utilized solely as a method of transferring data and are not intended for the storage of your information. Information on a portal may be deleted by us.

If you decide to transmit your confidential information to us in a manner other than a secure portal, you accept responsibility for any and all unauthorized access to your confidential information. If you request that we transmit confidential information to you in a manner other than a secure portal, you agree that we are not responsible for any liability, including but not limited to, (a) any loss or damage of any nature, whether direct or indirect, that may arise as a result of our sending confidential information in a manner other than a secure portal, and (b) any damages arising as a result of any virus being passed on or with, or arising from any alteration of, any email message.

State, federal and foreign regulators may request access to or copies of certain workpapers pursuant to applicable legal or regulatory requirements. Requests also may arise with respect to peer review, an ethics investigation, the sale of your organization, or the sale of our accounting practice. If requested, access to such workpapers will be provided under the supervision of firm personnel. Regulators may request copies of selected workpapers to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

If we receive a request for copies of selected workpapers, provided that we are not prohibited from doing so by applicable laws or regulations, we agree to inform you of such request as soon as practicable. You may, within the time permitted for our firm to respond to any request, initiate such legal action as you deem appropriate, at your sole expense, to attempt to limit the disclosure of information. If you take no action within the time permitted for us to respond, or if your action does not result in a judicial order protecting us from supplying requested information, we may construe your inaction or failure as consent to comply with the request.

We have the right to withdraw from this engagement, at our discretion, if you do not provide us with any information we request in a timely manner; refuse to cooperate with our reasonable requests or misrepresent any facts; we have reason to believe you may have engaged, or may be planning to engage, in conduct that is unethical and/or unlawful; you engage in conduct directed toward or affecting firm personnel that is disrespectful, inappropriate, and/or potentially unlawful; or we determine that continuing the engagement is not in the best interests of the firm or threatens legal or reputational harm to the firm. In the event of withdrawal under any of these circumstances, such withdrawal will release us from any obligation to complete your report and will constitute completion of our engagement.

Abdo, LLP and its subsidiary companies are committed to providing equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to any legally-recognized basis "protected class" including but not limited to: veteran status, uniform service member status, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or marital preference, genetic information or any other protected class under federal, state, or local law.

Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Charter School's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Board of Education and Management of the Charter School. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be rendered. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our 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 we may withdraw from this engagement. You agree to include our audit report in any document containing financial statements that indicate that such financial statements have been audited by us and, prior to inclusion of our audit report, to ask our permission to do so.



We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by Government Auditing Standards. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will state (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 Charter School's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Charter School's internal control and compliance. The report will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the Charter School is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, and any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comment received during the period of the contract. Our 2023 Peer Review Report accompanies this letter.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Charter School 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 electronically sign this letter.

Sincerely,



Abdo





REPORT ON THE FIRM'S SYSTEM OF QUALITY CONTROL

November 6, 2023

To the Partners of
Abdo, LLP
and the Peer Review Committee of the Minnesota Society
of Certified Public Accountants

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Abdo, LLP (the firm) in effect for the year ended May 31, 2023. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including a compliance audit under the Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans, and an audit performed under FDICIA.

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Abdo, LLP in effect for the year ended May 31, 2023, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. Abdo, LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.



Brady Martz and Associates, P.C.
Grand Forks, North Dakota

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the St Croix Preparatory.

Signature and Title: Jonathan Fische




Abdo Engagement Letter

Final Audit Report

March 25, 2026

Created:	March 25, 2026
By:	Abdo Engagements(engagements@abdosolutions.com)
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-  Document e-signed by (jennfuchs@stcroixprep.org)
Signature Date: 3/25/2026 15:53:44 PM Central Daylight Time - IP address: 209.237.102.74
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