# 2017 Bond Performance Audit

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Performance Audit – Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Final Report: 2017 Bond Cost Estimates



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# Introduction and Background

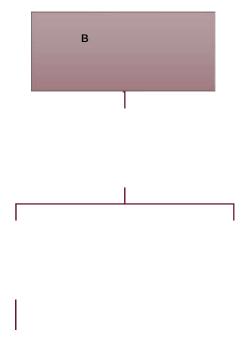
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#### **EXHIBIT 5 KEY BOND PARTNERS**



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# Scope and Methodology

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# Section 1: \$790 Million Bond was Partially Supported by Independent Professional Estimates

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### **Ехныт 11. R**

EXHIBIT 12 COMBINED SOFT COST AND FF&E COST FACTORS USED BY PPS, JANUARY 2017

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PPS
Assumptions

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# Section 2: Additional Cost Information could have Aided Decision Making and Transparency

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No Rationale was Found Supporting Various Health and Safety Project Options

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## Section 3: Although Project Estimates Have Increased, PPS Has Been Working on Cost Containment

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PPS Response: PPS agrees with this recommendation. As noted on page 29 of the Report, OSM operational staff stressed the importance of a bond cost estimation methodology that is understandable and traceable to underlying assumptions and records. OSM staff understands the value of providing cost data that is founded in professional support, reviewed and vetted prior to being developed into a recommendation. Future bond planning efforts will include professionally developed cost estimates and robust review of all cost assumptions.

**SEC Recommendation #3**: Establish a central location to retain final estimates at each project phase (master planning, schematic design, design document, construction document), including any supporting documentation used to develop each estimate.

PPS Response: PPS agrees with this recommendation. Currently OSM utilizes a "design phase approval" process that captures specific detailed project data at the end of each design phase including the current building plans (floor plans, elevations, etc), cost estimates, available contingency, current schedule status, stakeholder engagement plans, etc. All of this information is reviewed and stored electronically in OSM's project management software system for future use and reference. All 2017 bond modernization projects have, or will, complete a design phase approval at the end of each design phase including master planning, schematic design, design development, and construction documents.

**SEC Recommendation #4:** Discuss comparison of cost estimation methodology used with past PPS experiences, current market conditions, and estimates developed by peer districts when presenting cost estimates to the Board and public stakeholders.

**PPS Response:** PPS agrees with this recommendation. Similar to Recommendation #2, OSM understands the value of developing informed and vetted cost data. Future bond planning efforts will include robust review of all cost assumptions and comparisons to other relevant and comparable projects and programs.

**SEC Recommendation #5:** Categorize the reasons for variances in project costs, and aggregate those changes to the program level to provide information on why costs varied from original bond, as well as report this information to the Board and public stakeholders.

PPS Response: PPS agrees with this recommendation. In November 2018 OSM prepared two documents for the Bond Accountability Committee's review. One document compared PPS project costs to other relevant K 12 projects nationally; the second document provided a detailed cost breakdown of Madison and Lincoln, broken down by individual Construction Specification Institute (CSI) division and compared each division of work to recently PPS projects: Roosevelt, Franklin and Grant. Additionally, OSM staff highlighted individual cost variances between the projects and provided a division by division analysis of the costs and provided reasons for the variances. In an effort to provide additional outside review of PPS project costs, in January 2019 OSM hired professional construction cost estimating firm, Rider Levell Bucknall, to compare

**PPS Response:** PPS agrees with this recommendation. Similar to Recommendation #5, over the last 12 months OSM has provided detailed project cost comparison data and continues to develop and provide cost information as necessary and requested.

**SEC Recommendation #7:** Analyze results of variances to make adjustments to future estimation models and methodology as well as to analyze whether changes are needed in the delivery of projects to ensure stronger cost containment.

**PPS Response**: PPS agrees with this recommendation. Future bond planning efforts will include robust review of all cost assumptions and comparisons to other relevant and comparable projects and programs.

**SEC Recommendation #8**: Ensure project milestone reports use consistent data across all projects and clearly identify deviations.

**PPS Response:** PPS agrees with this recommendation. OSM utilizes standard operating procedures to ensure consistency between projects. Each project utilizes a project update template each month to report on project status. Similarly, regular reporting structures are utilized for the Bond Accountability Committee and quarterly project updates to the Board of Education. PPS and OSM will continue to incorporate feedback to improve on processes and procedures.