

DATE: April 14, 2020

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Cheryl Johner, Audit Committee Chair

SUBJECT: Appointment of Auditors for the August 31, 2020 Year End

ORIGINATOR: Todd Burnstad, Chief Financial Officer

RESOURCE STAFF: Ariff Asaria, Doris Tambasco, Amanda Wong

REFERENCE: [Board Policy CO.BP, Fiscal Oversight and Responsibility](#)

ISSUE

Board Policy CO.BP, Fiscal Oversight and Responsibility, requires the Board of Trustees to appoint auditors on a yearly basis and to request proposals from qualified firms at intervals not exceeding five years.

BACKGROUND

For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the requirement for re-tendering the audit every five years was extended to six, as a one-time exception due to changes in Financial Services management personnel. It was felt that the continuity of the auditors during this transitional period would be beneficial.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) Chartered Accountants, were appointed as the Division's auditors in April 2014. As of August 31, 2019, they had completed a six-year term. Administration began the process of tendering the audit in January 2020. Based on the results of the evaluation criteria and interview, the Audit Committee is recommending the re-appointment of PwC.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Board appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) as the external auditors for the August 31, 2020 year end.**

CONSIDERATION & ANALYSIS

PwC is being recommended due to the knowledge base of their team and their broad range of experience in the public sector with similar clients of size and scope to Edmonton Public Schools. In addition, the PwC Edmonton Office has specific audit experience with the education sector including other Alberta school jurisdictions and university clients.

TB:ja