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For Immediate Release
August 15, 2017

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State Auditor Tim Keller Statement on Replacement of Superintendent of Dora Consolidated Schools Following Special Audit

Audit highlighted probable violations of good government regulations

SANTA FE, NM – Today, State Auditor Tim Keller confirmed that the Superintendent of Dora Consolidated Schools was placed on administrative leave and will be replaced by the Dora School Board following the Office of the State Auditor’s (OSA) Special Audit. School board members voted unanimously last night to place the Superintendent on leave and begin seeking applicants for the job.

The OSA initiated the audit after it received several complaints from concerned citizens in the small town south of Portales and revealed over \$100,000 in potentially mismanaged funds. The audit resulted in thirteen findings including probable violations of the State Procurement Code, Anti-Donation Clause, Public Money Act, and Governmental Conduct Act.

“While the school district has an excellent academic record, our audit revealed that some financial procedures unfortunately were failing,” stated State Auditor Tim Keller. “Being a small school district doesn’t mean standard financial regulations don’t apply. Our audit found significant areas of concern and worrisome fears of retaliation against employees. We appreciate the school board for stepping up and using the audit to bring accountability to the school for the sake of students and educators.”

The audit was referred to the Ninth Judicial District Attorney’s Office for further investigation pursuant to OSA’s reporting obligations under state law. The full report is available here: https://www.saonm.org/audit_reports/detail/11055

The Office of the State Auditor helps government work better by providing transparency and accountability for government spending; informing policy choices; and tackling fraud, waste and abuse. OSA is an independently elected executive agency responsible for examining the use of public dollars in New Mexico.

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