



COMPTROLLER'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Glenn Martin Elementary School Winter Basketball League

November 12, 2024

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury



DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS



JASON E. MUMPOWER
Comptroller

November 12, 2024

Cumberland County Director of Schools
William Stepp
368 4th Street
Crossville, TN 38555

Cumberland County Director of Schools:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the Glenn Martin Elementary School Winter Basketball League, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General of the 13th Judicial District, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy of the report is available for public inspection in our Office and may be viewed at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason E. Mumpower", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury

JEM/MLC

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

GLENN MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to the Glenn Martin Elementary School Winter Basketball League. The investigation was limited to selected records for the period January 2023 through February 2024. The results of the investigation were communicated with the Office of the District Attorney General of the 13th Judicial District.

BACKGROUND



Glenn Martin Elementary School (school), located in Crossville, Tennessee, is part of the Cumberland County School District (CCSD) and serves approximately 700 students in Grades PreK - 8. Students in second grade through fifth grade may participate in a winter basketball league (league). The league is intended to instruct students on the fundamentals of basketball. The league is

organized by the school's basketball coach (coach), a non-faculty member who receives some compensation for basketball-related activities. The league runs for four consecutive Saturdays, usually during January of each year. The league began in 2019. The league is funded through ticket sales, concessions, team registrations, donations, and sponsorships.

Tennessee Code Ann. § 49-2-110 provides authorization criteria for student activity fund collections and establishes requirements for the regulation, standards, procedures, accounting, handling, safekeeping, and responsibility for those funds. This section requires local school systems to adopt and comply with the requirements set forth in the *Internal School Funds Manual (Manual)*. The *Manual* requires teachers and others who collect money to prepare a collection record for each separate activity.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

1. THE GLENN MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACH FAILED TO TIMELY REMIT LEAGUE FUNDS TOTALING \$16,052.50 OR TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL RECORDS

The school coach failed to timely remit league funds totaling \$16,052.50 to the school and did not maintain financial records. Tennessee Code Ann. § 5-8-207 and the *Manual* require that every official handling public funds shall deposit collected funds into the official bank account within

three days. The coach’s failure to remit the collected funds prevented the school’s bookkeeper from timely depositing the funds into the official school account.

Prior to 2023, the coach remitted collections from the league to the school. However, no collections were remitted for the 2023 and 2024 leagues until the coach was questioned about the funding. After being questioned about the funding, the coach disclosed that the money was at his residence. He subsequently remitted two cash deposits to the school bookkeeper on two different dates. On January 31, 2024, he remitted \$10,601.00, and on February 5, 2024, he remitted \$5,451.50.

Summary of Remittance	
Date	Amount
1/31/2024	\$ 10,601.00
2/5/2024	\$ 5,451.50
Total	\$ 16,052.50

The coach did not comply with the *Manual* and the following Cumberland County Board of Education Schools policy:

- 2.900 Student Activity Funds Management
 - This policy states, “The activity funds of each school shall include athletic and student organization funds...” and “...shall be deposited in respective school activity accounts. Proper records of receipts and disbursements shall be maintained in accordance with the *Tennessee Internal School Uniform Accounting Policy Manual*.”

In accordance with state statute, the *Manual*, and CCSD policies, the coach failed to maintain any financial records for any of the funds he collected. As a result, investigators could not determine if all collections from ticket sales, concessions, team registrations, donations, or sponsorships were properly remitted for deposit.

INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCY

Our investigation revealed an internal control deficiency that resulted in the above investigative finding.

Deficiency 1: Glenn Martin Elementary School officials failed to provide adequate oversight or separate financial duties

School officials failed to provide adequate oversight of the league or separate financial duties. State statute, the *Manual*, and CCSD policies require school officials to provide adequate oversight of the league and to ensure financial duties are adequately separated. The coach was solely responsible for receipting collections and remitting the money to the school for deposit within

three days of receipt. School officials failed to ensure that the coach maintained accounting records and that funds were remitted to the school for deposit within three days of receipt. School officials should provide adequate oversight of collections to ensure all collections are accounted for and used to further the goals and objectives of the league.

School officials indicated that they have corrected or intend to correct this deficiency.
