



Office of the District of Columbia Auditor

For Immediate Release
September 7, 2012

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Office of the District of Columbia Auditor Releases Report on the Closure and Consolidation of 23 D.C. Public Schools

Washington, DC – The Office of the District of Columbia Auditor (ODCA) released a report on the closure and consolidation of 23 District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). The audit was conducted to determine the cost of the closure and consolidation of the schools, which was managed by the former Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization (OPEFM), now the Department of General Services (DGS).

OPEFM reported to the District of Columbia Council that capital costs to facilitate the closure and consolidation of the 23 schools were \$9.7 million. However, the Auditor found that the total cost was actually \$17.7 million, plus an additional \$21.8 million in capital asset “impairment losses.” OPEFM did not properly manage the closure and consolidation of the 23 D.C. Public Schools. Some of the key audit findings include: (1) OPEFM paid contractors \$5.8 million without the required documentation to verify that work was actually performed; (2) OPEFM made improper reimbursements to contractors; and (3) OPEFM improperly awarded a contractor an incentive bonus.

The Auditor recommends that DGS develop and implement a training program that provides instructions on the monitoring/documenting of contract deliverables, monitoring/documenting of contractor performance, and the certification and authorization of contractor invoices. “The closure and consolidation process exposed the resources of the District of Columbia to waste and malfeasance,” says Yolanda Branche, District of Columbia Auditor.

Please visit www.dcauditor.org and click on the Reports tab to view the report in its entirety. For more information about this report or the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, call 202-727-3600.

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