State audits for Greece charter school, Pittsford

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The Pittsford Central School District and Renaissance Academy Charter School for the Arts both faced mild criticism from New York Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's office in audits released this week.

The Pittsford audit found deficiencies in how the district safeguards private data on its computers. No breaches were discovered, but the auditors recommended the district adopt a more rigorous set of IT procedures, including better defining the storage of personal information.

Separately, the auditors found the district did not always deposit cash from extracurricular activities within a few days of receiving it, and did not always have proper receipts for cash. In its response, the district parried several of the specific accusations but included a "high-level corrective action plan" meant to resolve any problems.

The audit of Renaissance Academy, in Greece, focused more generally on the school's financial practices. It called them "adequate" in general, but found instances where better conflict of interest policies were needed.

The school's CEO wrote four checks to herself, for a total of $322. They "appeared to be for legitimate school purposes," but lacked a required second signature.

In two instances, a school trustee had a financial interest in a school contract — one loaned the school $50,000 at 6 percent interest, and one belongs to a law firm that provided $5,000 worth of legal services. In both cases, the trustees did not vote on the contracts ,and they cleared the decisions with an outside lawyer ahead of time, but the auditors recommended a reworking of the school's code of ethics to be more clear. Renaissance Academy generally agreed with the findings and agreed to correct the problems. A slew of Rochesterarea schools and districts are receiving the results of their state audits this year after a scheduled tour by auditors.

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State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli

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