

Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, April 17, 2023
Meeting 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. The meeting was live on Spectrum Cable Channel 21 and The Gaston County Board of Education YouTube page. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Josh Crisp, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Tod Kinlaw, Robbie Lovelace, Brent Moore, and A.M. Stephens III.

Additional attendees include: Superintendent Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Melissa Balknight and Gary Hoskins, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Technology Officer Aaron Slutsky and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

Superintendent Booker led the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Booker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Adoption - Action

The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Brent Moore; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Good News – Information

Superintendent Booker recognized Taylon Singleton, physical education teacher at Lingerfeldt Elementary. Mr. Singleton has been nominated by the First Tee – Greater Charlotte Chapter as the organization's Teacher of the Year. Mr. Singleton saw the benefits of the First Tee golf program and secured a grant to bring the curriculum to the school. Through the First Tee program, students learn how to play golf and they also learn about life skills and character education. LIV professional golfer and Forestview High School graduate Harold Varner visited Lingerfeldt to talk with the students about the importance of doing well in school, and he gave the children a few expert golf tips.

Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented a Certificate of Recognition plaque to Mr. Singleton.

Superintendent Booker recognized students from W.B. Beam Intermediate that recently won first place nationwide in the American Radio Relay League competition. The following members of the Falcon Radio Club were recognized:

Kaydence Price
Jacob Greene
Madelyn Canipe

Levi Reep
Ava Shelton
Kayla Mull
Anya Tonkonog
Isabela Berryann
Bristol Clinton

In February, the school's amateur radio club made 281 contacts or "QSOs" as they're referred to in amateur radio and scored 41,307 points. This achievement earned the students recognition from the national association for amateur radio. Through a generous donation from the Donald and Carla Beam Family Foundation, the Falcon Radio Club was created several years ago to promote an interest in the amateur radio hobby among students and community members.

Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented a Certificate of Recognition Certificate to all students and a Recognition Plaque to the school.

Superintendent Booker recognized Samantha Franke, an eighth grader at Stanley Middle. Samantha's project titled "Rain, Rain, Come Our Way" placed second in the engineering category at the North Carolina State Science and Engineering Fair. In addition, she was nominated for the Thermos Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Award. Her project also placed third in the engineering category at the North Carolina Student Academy of Science state competition held at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.

Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented a Certificate of Recognition Certificate to Samantha.

Superintendent Booker recognized students who qualified to represent Stanley Middle at the Carowinds Engineering Day. Last month, Stanley Middle held a Roller Coaster Engineering Fair with the top three teams advancing. Students who earned the opportunity to compete at Carowinds on Friday, April 28, 2023 are:

Evan Murphy
Jack Scholz
Dillon Castro
Payton Lennox
Diksha Sharma
Lillyan Wall
Martha Arana

The students were tasked with designing a roller coaster and were judged based on technical merit, theme, creativity and most exciting to ride. Carowinds will award a \$250 prize to the winning design.

Mr. A.M. Stephens III presented a Certificate of Recognition Certificate to all students.

Public Expression – Information

Bryan Hoffman
704 S. 15th Street
Bessemer City, NC 28016
RE: Payroll

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes – Action

Motion to adopt minutes of March 20, 2023 (Regular Meeting) and March 28, 2023 (Joint BOE/BOC Meeting) as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Operations Committee Report – Information

Brent Moore is chair of the committee and members are Dot Cherry, Lee Dedmon and A.M. Stephens III. Chairman Ramsey recognized Ms. Dot Cherry of the Operations Committee who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting.

(View report)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Report – Information

Dot Guthrie is chair of the committee and members are Josh Crisp, Tod Kinlaw and Robbie Lovelace. Chairman Ramsey recognized Mrs. Robbie Lovelace of the Curriculum & Instruction Committee who provided a summary of topics considered and discussed at the most recent meeting.

(View report)

Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation - Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation for consideration.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. Josh Crisp; seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw that the Board

Approve Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation

(View Proclamation)

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

Mr. Steven Loudon, W.C. Friday Middle, 2022-2023 Gaston County Teacher of the Year accepted the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation.

Chairman Jeff Ramsey presented the Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation to Mr. Loudon.

National School Library Month Proclamation – Action

Chairman Moore recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who presented the National School Library Month Proclamation for consideration.

Pepie Jones, Director of Library/Media Services; Leah Ammons, New Hope Elementary the current Library Media Specialist of the Year and Leslie Mitchell Library/Media Specialist at Woodhill Elementary accepted the National School Library Month Proclamation. Ms. Mitchell designed a quilt made from book covers that she shared with the Board of Education.

Motion

The Motion was made by Mrs. Dot Guthrie; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board
Approve National School Library Month Proclamation

(View Proclamation)

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

Mrs. Dot Guthrie presented the National School Library Month Proclamation to Ms. Jones, Ms. Ammons and Ms. Mitchell.

Acceptance of the June 30, 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who introduced Mr. Vince Quinn with Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC, Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Quinn reviewed the June 30, 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports. Discussion followed.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. Brent Moore; seconded by Ms. Dot Cherry that the Board
Approve the Acceptance of the June 30, 2022 Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR)

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

Acceptance of the June 30, 2022 Compliance Report – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who introduced Mr. Vince Quinn with Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC, Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Quinn reviewed the June 30, 2022 Compliance Report. Discussion followed.

(View Compliance Report)

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp that the Board
Approve the Acceptance of the June 30, 2022 Compliance Reports

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

Annual Engagement Letter with Independent Auditors - Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who gave an update on the Annual Engagement Letter from Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC.

Motion

Motion was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III that the Board
Approve Contract and Annual Engagement Letter with Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC to perform audit services for the fiscal year 2023-2024

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

2023-2024 Gaston County Schools Budget Request – Action

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on Gaston County Schools Budget Request FY 2023-2024.

(View PowerPoint)

Motion

The Motion was made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp that the Board
Approve the 2023-2024 Gaston County Schools Budget Request

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

School Business Systems Modernization Update – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on School Business Systems Modernization Update. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Consent Agenda - Action

The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. Contracts
 - Academic Services – Instructional Resources 2023-2024
 - Microsoft Software Agreement
 - Transportation Department – CalAmp/Synovia Services
 - North Gaston High School – Stadium Drainage Project
 - Ida Rankin Elementary School – Retaining Wall
 - East Gaston High School – Boiler and Chiller Replacement
 - Cisco DNA Center Network Management and Automation Purchase
 - Cisco Next-Generation Firewall Purchase

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker reported we want to focus on the last six weeks of school that will include getting ready for end-of-year tests, awards day and other recognition programs and celebrating the Class of 2023.

Superintendent Booker mentioned several upcoming recognition programs:

“Do The Right Thing” recognition ceremony is Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. Following the “Do The Right Thing” ceremony at 6:00 p.m., we will have our Star Teacher Star Student Awards that features high school seniors recognizing a teacher that had a significant influence on their academic career.

Our springtime Job Fair will be held Friday, April 28, 2023 at Catawba Heights Baptist Church in Belmont. The event runs from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and we are seeking employees in both teaching and non-teaching positions. Applicants interested in attending the job fair may visit the Gaston County Schools website and complete the online registration form.

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 we will have our annual Evening of Excellence Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. at the Gaston Country Club. The Evening of Excellence dinner and program is sponsored by Truist Bank.

Highland School of Technology will present "Grease: The School Edition" on Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

The annual "Through An Artist's Eyes" art exhibit runs April 23 through May 20 at Loray Mill. The opening reception is Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. and the exhibits features the most outstanding artwork by students in Gaston Count Schools.

Superintendent Booker reminded parents that registration for kindergarten continues and parents can register on the Gaston County Schools website. While kindergarten registration continues throughout the summer, registration for pre-kindergarten ends on Monday, May 1, 2023.

Superintendent Booker announced we are offering a variety of academic and extracurricular activities through our "Camp Gaston" summer enrichment program. Parents are encouraged to register their child as soon as possible for "Camp Gaston".

Chairman Ramsey wished a "Happy Birthday" to Mr. Brent Moore.

Closed Session

Chairman Ramsey asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:52 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:47 p.m.

Adjournment

All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

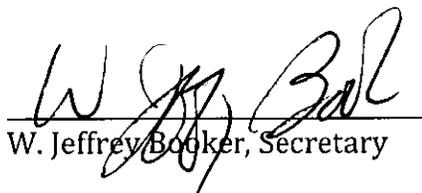
The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Approved:


Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman

[Corporate Seal]

Date Approved: 5/15/2023


W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Gaston County Schools Operations Committee Report - April 17, 2023

The Operations Committee met on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 8:30am. Our committee consists of Chairman Brent Moore, Lee Dedmon, Dot Cherry, and A. M. Stephens III.

Our agenda and discussions included the following:

1. Our independent auditor has completed the annual audit of our financial statements and issued their opinion and compliance reports for the fiscal year that ended June 2022. The financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects.
2. Angela Calamia, Director of School Nutrition gave an update on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. Currently, we have 19 schools that are eligible for the program. With the updated criteria, we will be eligible to have 40 schools that can participate for the 2023 – 2024 school year.
3. An update was given by staff on the Grier Middle School construction project. A contract with Beam Construction is being worked on at this time with a planned start of mid-May 2023.
4. Current Capital projects were discussed with an update on the progress being made with county leadership for securing funding.
5. We have been asked for a temporary construction easement by Beacon Partners and the Orsborn Engineering Group at Lowell Elementary School.
6. Truist Bank now requires dual authentication if an updated signature card is needed. Currently, only Dr. Booker and Mr. Hoskins are the only two authorized to sign. Assistant Finance Director, James Beckford, has also been authorized to sign.
7. Freshdesk is working to load existing payroll issues. Tickets are being created and analyzed so that the respective departments are able to update, change, and fix problems more effectively.
8. The Committee reviewed and is recommending approval of the following contracts on the consent agenda:
 - a. Microsoft Software Agreement
 - b. North Gaston High School – Stadium Drainage Project
 - c. Ida Rankin Elementary School – Retaining Wall
 - d. East Gaston High School – Boiler and Chiller
 - e. Cisco DNA Center Network Mgmt./Automation Purchase
 - f. Cisco Next-Generation Firewall Purchase

Our next meeting is Monday, May 1, 2023 at 8:30am in the Board Room.

Gaston County Schools
BOE Curriculum & Instruction Committee
Report for April 3, 2023

Members Present:

Robbie Lovelace, Josh Crisp, Tod Kinlaw, Dot Cherry, Jeff Ramsey

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.

Gary Hoskins, Chief Financial Officer, and Vince Quinn, Auditor for Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC, provided an update about the 2021-2022 audit and compliance report.

Chad Duncan provided an athletic update on cheerleading. Mr. Duncan met with middle and high school cheer coaches and athletic directors. The group discussed uniforms, tryouts, summer workouts, and summer practice. July 31, 2023, is the official day summer practice can begin for all fall sports.

Cynthia Reynolds shared information about the ASPIRE+ afterschool program. This extension of the 21st Century ASPIRE program will be located at Pinewood Elementary for students who attend the school. There will be a monthly fee for afterschool care. The Pinewood Elementary site is scheduled to open on August 16, 2023.

Cristi Bostic and Rebekka Powers shared the high school junior marshal selection process. Junior Marshals are selected at the end of the 3rd nine weeks based on grade point average (GPA). GPA is calculated by Powerschool. Based on size, each high school will select between 10 and 16 Junior Marshals. In addition, the valedictorian and salutatorian for the graduating class are also based on GPA.

The Executive Directors gave the committee information on the instructional resources planned for the 2023-2024 school year that will continue supporting teachers and students. This item will be on the consent agenda on the Board of Education agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm.

PRIDE



PROCLAMATION

Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 8-12, 2023

WHEREAS, Gaston County Schools is pleased to join school districts across the United States in celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week; and

WHEREAS, Teacher Appreciation Week is one of the most important annual observances in education because it brings attention to the teaching profession, which is worthy of respect, honor, and praise; and

WHEREAS, our teachers in Gaston County Schools are the superstars of public education, and they go beyond expectations every day to ensure that children learn, grow, and thrive in a school environment that is safe, welcoming, nurturing, and productive; and

WHEREAS, we know that our teachers are the people responsible for inspiring student success both inside and outside the classroom, and they are the ones who instill a lifelong love for learning in students; and

WHEREAS, during Teacher Appreciation Week, people across the United States are encouraged to use #ThankATeacher on social media to show appreciation for teachers and to express their thoughts about how a teacher made a significant difference in their life.

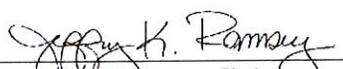
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to honor all teachers for their important contributions to our schools and outstanding efforts to positively influence the leaders of tomorrow, the Gaston County Board of Education is proud to proclaim the week of

MAY 8-12, 2023

Teacher Appreciation Week

in Gaston County Schools and encourages students, parents, alumni, and others in the community to express their appreciation for our teachers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this proclamation be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the seventeenth day of April, 2023.


Jeffrey K. Ramsey, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Education


W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent
Gaston County Schools

Gaston
COUNTY SCHOOLS

shaping our future

PRIDE



Gaston
COUNTY SCHOOLS

PROCLAMATION

National School Library Month

WHEREAS, each year since 1985, the month of April is designated “National School Library Month” in an effort to celebrate school libraries and media centers and bring attention to the important role they play in public education in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the library/media center enhances a school’s academic program by serving as the heart of a school and providing valuable resources and materials for students, teachers, and others; and

WHEREAS, the libraries in Gaston County Schools offer books, technology, and many other important tools that connect students with information, give teachers what they need to encourage discovery, and foster an engaging and collaborative learning environment; and

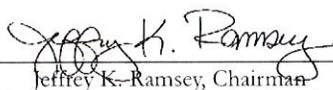
WHEREAS, we are proud of our school librarians and media center coordinators in Gaston County Schools, who work diligently to make the library a fun, welcoming, and special place for reading, knowledge, understanding, collaboration, and personal growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Education is pleased to join other Boards of Education across the country in proclaiming April 2023 as

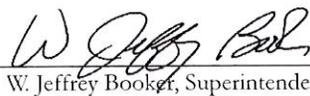
National School Library Month

and encourages the citizens of Gaston County to celebrate “National School Library Month” by thanking our school librarians and media center coordinators for their outstanding work, engaging in activities that bring positive attention to school libraries, and recognizing the significance of libraries to our schools and to our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this proclamation be made a part of the minutes of the Board of Education, adopted this the seventeenth day of April, 2023.


Jeffrey K. Ramsey, Chairman

Gaston County Board of Education


W. Jeffrey Bookert, Superintendent

Gaston County Schools

shaping our future

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

Compliance Report

Year Ended June 30, 2022

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance and Other Matters Based On An Audit Of
Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With
Government Auditing Standards**

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Chairman and
Members of the Gaston County Board of Education
Gastonia, North Carolina

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Gaston County Board of Education, North Carolina, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 27, 2023.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Gaston County Board of Education's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Gaston County Board of Education's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of the internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses /schedule of findings and questioned costs we identified certain deficiencies as items 2022-1, 2022-2, 2022-3, 2022-4, and 2022-5 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As a part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Gaston County Board of Education's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Anderson Smith & Wika PLLC

Gastonia, North Carolina
March 27, 2023

Report on Compliance With Requirements Applicable to Each Major Federal Program and Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133 and the State Single Audit Implementation Act

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Chairman and
Members of the Gaston County Board of Education
Gastonia, North Carolina

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Gaston County Board of Education, North Carolina, compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* and the *Audit Manual for Governmental Auditors in North Carolina*, issued by the Local Government Commission, that could have a direct and material effect on each of Gaston County Board of Education's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2022. The Gaston County Board of Education's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Gaston County Board of Education complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report. We are required to be independent of Gaston County Board of Education and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Gaston County Board of Education's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Gaston County Board of Education's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Gaston County Board of Education's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Gaston County Board of Education's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Gaston County Board of Education's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of Gaston County Board of Education's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Gaston County Board of Education's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards Required by Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Gaston County Board of Education as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Gaston County Board of Education's basic financial statements. We issued our report thereon dated March 27, 2023, which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Gaston County Board of Education's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC

Gastonia, North Carolina
March 27, 2023

Report on Compliance With Requirements Applicable To Each Major State Program and Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance with the OMB Circular Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Chairman and
Members of the Gaston County Board of Education
Gastonia, North Carolina

**Report on Compliance for Each Major State Program
Opinion on Each Major State Program**

We have audited the Gaston County Board of Education, North Carolina, compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *Audit Manual for Governmental Auditors in North Carolina*, issued by the Local Government Commission, that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Gaston County Board of Education's major State programs for the year ended June 30, 2022. The Gaston County Board of Education's major State programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Gaston County Board of Education complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major State programs for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major State Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Gaston County Board of Education and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major State program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Gaston County Board of Education's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Gaston County Board of Education's State programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on Gaston County Board of Education's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Gaston County Board of Education's compliance with the requirements of each major State program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Gaston County Board of Education's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of Gaston County Board of Education's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Gaston County Board of Education's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters.

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed instances of noncompliance, which are required to be reported in accordance with Uniform Guidance and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as items 2022-6, 2022-7 and 2022-8. Our opinion on each major State program is not modified with respect to these matters.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Example Entity's response to the noncompliance findings identified in our audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. Gaston County Board of Education's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a State program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a State program will not be prevented, detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a state program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of the internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control over compliance, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2022-6, 2022-7 and 2022-8 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

The Gaston County Board of Education's response to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs and the corrective action plan. The Gaston County Board of Education's response was not subject to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Gaston County Board of Education as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Gaston County Board of Education's basic financial statements. We issued our report thereon dated March 27, 2023, which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Gaston County Board of Education's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Implementation Act and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC

Gastonia, North Carolina
March 27, 2023

**Gaston County Board of Education
 Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Section I. Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? X yes ___no
- Significant Deficiency(s) identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses: ___yes X none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted ___yes X no

Federal Awards

Internal control over major federal programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? ___yes X no
- Significant Deficiency(s) identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses: ___yes X none reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major federal programs: Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a) ___yes X no

Identification of major federal programs:

<u>CFDA Numbers</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster</u>
32.009	COVID-19 Emergency Connectivity Fund
10.555	Child Nutrition Cluster
21.027	COVID-19 Coronavirus Relief Fund
84.425	COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund

**Gaston County Board of Education
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between
Type A and Type B Programs

\$ 2,509,731

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

yes no

State Awards

Internal control over major State programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? yes no

- Significant Deficiency(s) identified
that are not considered to be
material weakness yes none reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major State programs: Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required
to be reported in accordance with the State
Single Audit Implementation Act

yes no

Identification of major State programs:

Program Name
State Public School Fund
Career and Technical Education – Program Support Funds

**Gaston County Board of Education
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Section II. Financial Statement Findings

Material Weakness

- 2022-1 Criteria: The school system should reconcile bank accounts and compare to general ledger balances to provide assurance transactions are handled properly.
- Condition: The bank accounts were not reconciled and compared to the general ledger for agreement on a timely basis.
- Effect: Without proper reconciliations there could be transactions could be mishandled due errors or fraud that could lead to loss of assets or reporting of incorrect financial information.
- Cause: There was a new software implemented during the year and this complicated the reconciliation process and agreement to the general ledger.
- Recommendation: We recommend that the Board implement procedures to determine the reconciliations are performed on a timely basis and agreed to the general ledger balances.

Management Response: The Board of Education agrees with this finding. See the corrective action plan on page 16 in this report.

Material Weakness

- 2022-2 Criteria: The school system should develop procedures to properly update fixed assets during the year that provides a correct detail of changes in fixed assets during the year.
- Condition: The school system does update the fixed asset system during the year but there is no reconciliation performed of those fixed asset balances until year end.
- Effect: Without periodic reconciliations during the year there is a possibility of asset additions and deletion reports could omit certain items.
- Cause: There was a new software implemented during the year and this complicated the reconciliation process and the processing of additions and deletions.
- Recommendation: We recommend that the Board implement procedures to reconcile the fixed assets added and deleted to detail fixed asset report.

Management Response: The Board of Education agrees with this finding. See the corrective action plan on page 16 in this report.

Material Weakness

- 2022-3 Criteria: The school system is required to deposit retirement payments to the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) the following month for which employee withholding and the school system's matching relates.
- Condition: The school system had not deposited the required amounts to the TSERS
- Effect: The school system had not deposited the required amounts for the months of May 31, 2022 and June 30, 2022 as required as of June 30, 2022.
- Cause: There was a new software implemented during the year and this complicated the process for TSERS accepting the data file with deposited amounts.
- Recommendation: We recommend that the Board implement procedures to provide an acceptable file in the require time frame.

Management Response: The Board of Education agrees with this finding. See the corrective action plan on page 16 in this report.

**Gaston County Board of Education
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Section II. Financial Statement Findings

Material Weakness

2022-4 Criteria: The school system should develop sufficient procedures to insure payroll is properly calculated and all amounts deducted from payroll are accurate and approved.

Condition: The school system has significant problems processing correct payroll and deduction amounts, including issues with longevity pay, over and under payments of salary amounts, incorrect health insurance escrow amounts, excess deductions, and certain employees receiving compensatory time instead of being paid.

Effect: The school system experienced numerous problems processing payroll which has caused incorrect payroll amounts from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

Cause: There was a new software implemented during the year and this complicated reviewing of appropriated amounts to actual expenditures.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Board implement procedures to correct issues related to calculating payroll and corresponding deductions.

Management Response: The Board of Education agrees with this finding. See the corrective action plan on page 16 in this report.

**Gaston County Board of Education
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Section II. Financial Statement Findings

Material Weakness

2022-5 Criteria: State law requires that expenditures not exceed amounts appropriated.

The General Fund had the following purpose codes where expenditures exceeded the appropriations, Regular, Special populations, Alternative programs, Co-curricular and School-based support Instructional Services, and Special population, Alternative programs, Technology support and Policy System-wide Support Services. See page 20.

The State Public School Fund had the following purpose codes where expenditures exceeded the appropriations, School leadership and School based support for Instructional Services, Support and development, Financial and human resource, Accountability and Policy for System-wide Support Services. See page 21.

The Other Specific Revenue Fund had the following purpose codes where expenditures exceeded the appropriations, School leadership for the Instructional Services, Support and development, Alternative programs for System-wide pupil Support and Ancillary Services. See page 22.

The Federal Grants Fund had the following purpose codes where expenditures exceeded the appropriations, School leadership for the Instructional services, Special population, Technology support, Financial and human resource, Accountability, System-wide pupil support and Policy for the System-wide Support Services, and Ancillary services. See page 23.

Condition: The school system did exceed the amounts appropriated.

Effect: Funds were spent that were not properly appropriated.

Cause: There was a new software implemented during the year and this complicated the process of comparing appropriated amounts to actual expenditures.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Board implement procedures to allow easier comparisons of appropriated amounts and actual expenditures.

Management Response: The Board of Education agrees with this finding. See the corrective action plan on page 16 in this report.

**Gaston County Board of Education
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Section III. Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

None

Section IV. State Award Findings and Questioned Costs

N.C. Department of Public Instruction
Program Name: State Public School Fund

2022-6 **Criteria:** The school system cannot exceed the number of positions or months of employment allotted by the Department of Public Instruction.

Condition: The school system did exceed the number of months allotted by the Department of Public Instruction.

Effect: The school system exceeded the months allotted by 65.66 months out of 11464 allotted for classroom teachers, 5.53 out of 707.5 for enhanced teachers, 25.28 out of 878 for school administration, 2.47 out of 84.7 for school psychologist, and 7.82 out of 1176 for instructional support

Cause: There was a new software implemented during the year and this complicated determining the months used.

Questioned costs: The Board has accrued a liability as of June 30, 2022, payable to the State of North Carolina, for the excess months of employment used. The amount of costs was \$725,147.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Board implement procedures to eliminate excess months used over months allotted.

Management Response: The Board of Education agrees with this finding. See the correct action plan on page 16.

N.C. Department of Public Instruction
Program Name: State Public School Fund

2022-7 **Criteria:** The school system cannot exceed the dollar amount of programs allotted on a dollar basis.

Condition: The school system did exceed the dollar amounts allotted by the Department of Public Instruction for certain programs.

Effect: The school system exceeded the dollar allotments in programs 002, 003, 016, 020, 034, 037, 039, 055, and 079.

Cause: There was a new software implemented during the year and this complicated the process for comparing program expenditures to allotments.

Questioned costs: The Board has accrued a liability as of June 30, 2022, payable to the State of North Carolina, for the amounts above the allotments. The amount of costs was \$1,120,633.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Board implement procedures to eliminate excess months used over months allotted.

Management Response: The Board of Education agrees with this finding. See the correct action plan on page 16.

**Gaston County Board of Education
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Section IV. State Award Findings and Questioned Costs

N.C. Department of Public Instruction
Program Name: State Public School Fund

2022-8 Criteria: The school system should pay certified personnel their correct certified salary based on the state certified pay schedule.

Condition: The school system had approximately 476 items on the license exception list at June 30, 2022.

Effect: The school system had differences between the employee's certified salary and the amounts actually paid.

Cause: There was a new software implemented during the year and this complicated payroll process.

Questioned costs: The Board's net effect of these items at June 30, 2022 was approximately \$553,362. All these items were cleared subsequent to June 30, 2022.

Recommendation: We recommend that the Board implement procedures to eliminate excess months used over months allotted.

Management Response: The Board of Education agrees with this finding. See the corrective action plan on page 16.



Gaston County Schools
shaping our future

Gaston County Board of Education
Corrective Action Plan
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

W. Jeffrey Booker
Superintendent

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

Central Administrative Office
943 Osceola Street
P. O. Box 1397
Gastonia, NC 28053
704-866-6100
FAX 704-866-6175

Finding: 2022-1 – Bank Reconciliations

Name of contact person: DeLaine Loftis, Accounting Manager

Corrective Action: We have been working with our computer conversion integrator to resolve computer software conversion issues which caused difficulties with reconciling our general ledger to our bank balance. We have engaged a former NC School Finance Officer to assist us with getting all bank accounts reconciled and up to date. We are also adding another accounting position that will assist with the preparation of timely bank reconciliations.

Proposed Completion Date: April 30, 2023

Department of
Exceptional Children
215 West Third Avenue
Gastonia, NC 28052
704-866-6160
FAX 704-866-6191

Finding: 2022-2 – Fixed Assets

Name of contact person: DeLaine Loftis, Accounting Manager

Corrective Action: We are adding additional accounting support personnel which will assist with the updating and reconciliation of fixed assets.

Proposed Completion Date: April 30, 2023

Division of
Resource Management
1351 Bradford Heights Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-866-6129
FAX 704-866-6193

Finding: 2022-3 – Retirement Deposits

Name of contact person: Gina Waters, Payroll Supervisor

Corrective Action: We have been working with our computer conversion integrator to resolve issues that caused errors in our monthly files that were submitted to the retirement system. Also, we have filled two of three payroll vacancies which has allowed us to make progress in this area. We are working to fill the remaining payroll vacancy.

Proposed Completion Date: April 30, 2023

School Nutrition Programs
500 Reid Street
Lowell, NC 28098
704-836-9110
FAX 704-824-8442

Staff Development Center
240 Eighth Avenue
Cramerton, NC 28032
704-824-2828
FAX 704-824-4918

Teacher Resource Center
366 W. Garrison Boulevard
Gastonia, NC 28052
704-866-6174
FAX 704-866-6194



Gaston County Schools
shaping our future

W. Jeffrey Booker
Superintendent

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943 Osceola Street
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Gastonia, NC 28053
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FAX 704-866-6175

Department of
Exceptional Children
215 West Third Avenue
Gastonia, NC 28052
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FAX 704-866-6191

Division of
Resource Management
1351 Bradford Heights Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
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FAX 704-866-6193

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Gastonia, NC 28052
704-866-6174
FAX 704-866-6194

Finding: 2022-4 – Payroll

Name of contact person: Gina Waters, Payroll Supervisor

Corrective Action: We used GCS personnel from outside the Finance department to assist with reviewing outstanding employee pay issues that were caused by the computer conversion. We also contracted with outside vendors to assist payroll with correcting global payroll issues. Finally, we have filled two of three payroll vacancies which has allowed us to make progress in this area. We are working to fill the remaining payroll vacancy.

Proposed Completion Date: April 30, 2023

Finding: 2022-5 – State Expenditures

Name of contact person: James Beckford, Finance Director

Corrective Action: We have been working with our software integrator to address the outstanding computer conversion issues that have contributed to these over payments. We have also engaged a third party vendor to create reports that should make it easier for GCS to compare appropriated amounts with actual expenditures.

Proposed Completion Date: April 30, 2023

Section IV - State Award Findings and Questioned Costs

Finding: 2022-6 - Exceeded the Number of Months of Employment Allotted by DPI

Name of contact person: DeLaine Loftis, Accounting Manager

Corrective Action: We have been working with our software integrator to address accounting issues caused by the conversion. We have also engaged a third party vendor to create reports that should make it easier for GCS to compare appropriated amounts with actual expenditures.

Proposed Completion Date: April 30, 2023



Gaston County Schools
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Finding: 2022-7 - Exceeded the Dollar Amount of Programs Allotted by DPI

W. Jeffrey Booker
Superintendent

Name of contact person: James Beckford, Finance Director

Corrective Action: We have been working with our software integrator to address these accounting issues caused by the conversion. We have also engaged a third party vendor to create reports that should make it easier for GCS to compare appropriated amounts with actual expenditures.

Central Administrative Office
943 Osceola Street
P. O. Box 1397
Gastonia, NC 28053
704-866-6100
FAX 704-866-6175

Proposed Completion Date: April 30, 2023

Department of
Exceptional Children
215 West Third Avenue
Gastonia, NC 28052
704-866-6160
FAX 704-866-6191

Finding: 2022-8 – GCS Should Pay Certified Personnel Based on the State Certified Pay Schedule

Name of contact person: DeLaine Loftis, Accounting Manager

Corrective Action: We have been working with our software vendor to address these accounting issues caused by the conversion. We have also engaged a retired Finance/HR employee to assist us with working on reviewing and resolving these licensure exceptions in a timely manner.

Division of
Resource Management
1351 Bradford Heights Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-866-6129
FAX 704-866-6193

Proposed Completion Date: April 30, 2023

School Nutrition Programs
500 Reid Street
Lowell, NC 28098
704-836-9110
FAX 704-824-8442

Staff Development Center
240 Eighth Avenue
Cramerton, NC 28032
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**Gaston County Board of Education
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Findings: 2019
19-1 Corrected

Findings: 2020
20-1 Corrected

Findings: 2021
21-1: Corrected

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AND STATE AWARDS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

Grantor/Pass-through Grantor/Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	State/ Pass-through Grantor's Number	Expenditures
Federal Grants:			
Cash Programs:			
<u>U. S. Department of Agriculture</u>			
School Nutrition Program (Note 3)			
<u>Child Nutrition Cluster:</u>			
Non-cash Assistance (Commodities)			
Passed-through the N.C. Department of Public Instruction:			
National School Lunch Program			
Non-cash Assistance			
	10.555	PRC 035	\$ 1,578,193
Cash Assistance			
Passed-through the N.C. Department of Public Instruction:			
Supply Chain Assistance Funds			
	10.555	PRC 035	565,669
Healthy Meal Program			
	10.555	PRC 035	791,489
National School Lunch Program			
	10.555	PRC 035	18,732,677
Summer Food Service Program for Children			
	10.559	PRC 035	789,692
Total Cash Assistance			
			<u>20,879,527</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster:			
			22,457,720
Child and Adult Food Care Program			
	10.558	PRC 035	101,199
Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability			
	10.579	PRC 053	32,705
Total School Nutrition Program (Note 3)			
			<u>22,591,624</u>
Total U. S. Department of Agriculture			
			<u>22,591,624</u>
<u>U.S. Department of the Treasury</u>			
Passed-through the NC Office of State Budget and Management			
NC Pandemic Recovery Office			
Passed-through the N.C. Department of Public Instruction:			
Coronavirus Relief Fund			
COVID - 19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds			
Employee Bonuses			
	21.027	PRC 141	7,888,358
<u>U.S. Department of Education</u>			
<u>Office of Elementary and Secondary Education</u>			
Passed-through the N.C. Department of Public Instruction:			
Grants to Local Education - Basic and Concentration			
Title I Cluster:			
Educationally Deprived Children			
	84.010	PRC 050	8,609,965
School Improvement - Title I			
	84.010	PRC 105 & 115	542,591
			9,152,556
School Improvement Grant			
	84.377	PRC 117	66
English Language Acquisition Grants			
	84.365	PRC 104, 111	186,997
21st Century Community Learning Centers			
	84.287	PRC 110	663,089
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants			
	84.367	PRC 103	1,104,834
Student Support and Academic Enrichment			
	84.424	PRC 108	337,717
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund			
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Fund (ESSER)			
Governor's Emergency Relief Fund (GEER)			
ESSER I (Cares Act)			
	84.425D	PRC 163-168	998,589
GEER (Cares Act)			
	84.425C	PRC 169-170	375,858
ESSER II (CRRSA)			
	84.425D	PRC 171-178	13,128,747
ESSER III (ARP)			
	84.425D	PRC 181-198 &	
	84.425D	PRC 201-205	14,655,517
			<u>29,158,711</u>

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AND STATE AWARDS
(Continued)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

Grantor/Pass-through Grantor/Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	State/ Pass-through Grantor's Number	Expenditures
<u>Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services</u>			
Passed-through the N.C. Department of Public Instruction:			
<u>Special Education Cluster:</u>			
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act			
Education of the Handicapped	84.027	PRC 060	6,443,983
Preschool Handicapped	84.173	PRC 049	136,135
Children with Special Needs	84.027	PRC 114	309,432
Targeted Assistance	84.027	PRC 118	12,884
Targeted Assistance	84.027	PRC 119	1,505
State Improvement	84.027	PRC 082	<u>10,376</u>
Total Special Education Cluster:			<u>6,914,315</u>
<u>Education for Homeless Children and Youth Cluster</u>			
Education of Homeless Children and Youth	84.196	PRC 026	54,835
Passed-through the N.C. Department of Public Instruction:			
Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act Amendments of 1990 Basic Grants to States			
- Program Development	84.048	PRC 017	<u>370,368</u>
Total U. S. Department of Education			<u>47,943,488</u>
<u>Federal Communications Commission</u>			
Direct Program:			
COVID-19 - Emergency Connectivity Fund	32.009		4,912,684
<u>U.S. Department of Defense</u>			
Direct Program:			
ROTC	12.000		<u>321,536</u>
Total federal assistance			<u>83,657,690</u>
State Grants:			
<u>N.C. Department of Public Instruction:</u>			
State Public School Fund			192,958,369
Driver Training - SPSF		PRC 012	413,997
School Technology Fund - SPSF		PRC 015	20,729
Vocational Education			
- State Months of Employment		PRC 013	9,386,864
- Program Support Funds		PRC 014	686,777
State Appropriations- School Buses- Noncash			<u>374,507</u>
Total N.C. Department of Public Instruction			<u>203,841,243</u>

GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AND STATE AWARDS
(Continued)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

Grantor/Pass-through Grantor/Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	State/ Pass-through Grantor's Number	Expenditures
<u>N.C. Department of Health and Human Services:</u>			
Division of Child Development:			
NC Pre-Kindergarten Program			6,148,641
Division of Public Health			
School Nurse Funding Initiative			<u>100,000</u>
Total N.C. Department of Health and Human Services			<u>6,248,641</u>
Total State assistance			<u>210,089,884</u>
Total federal and State assistance			<u>\$ 293,747,574</u>

Note 1: Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards (SEFSA) includes the federal and State grant activity of the Gaston County Schools under programs of the federal government and the State of North Carolina for the year end June 30, 2022. The information in this SEFSA is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 US Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards and the State Single Audit Implementation Act. Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of Gaston County Schools, it is not intended Federal Awards (Uniform Compliance) and the State Single Audit to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets or cash flows of Gaston County Schools.

Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported in the SEFSA are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowed or are limited. Gaston County Schools has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate under the Uniform Guidance.

Note 3: Cluster of Programs

The following are clustered by the NC Department of Public Instruction and are treated separately for state audit requirement purposes: School Nutrition Program

Board of Education Meeting



Gaston County Schools County Budget Request

FY 2023-2024

April 17, 2023



County Budget Request

1. Budget Calendar
2. Operating Request
3. Capital Outlay
4. Discussion





Budget Calendar

Jan 27	Board of Education (BOE) Retreat
Jan/Feb	Gather information from Directors and Department Supervisors
Mar 15	Governor releases proposed budget
Mar 20	Presented Superintendent's Budget Request to BOE
Mar 28	Joint Budget Meeting with BOE and County Commissioners

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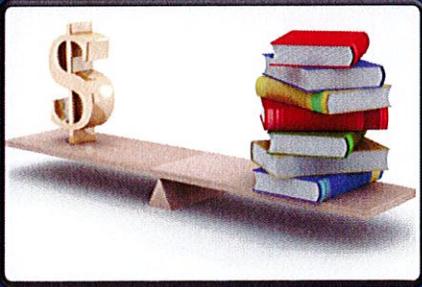
Budget Calendar

Apr 10	House proposed their State Budget
Apr 17	Approve GCS County Budget Request
Apr 21	Deliver GCS Budget Request to County
Apr/May	Gaston County approves their budget
Jun 19	BOE approves balanced interim budget
Jun/Sep	State Budget is approved and BOE approves final budget resolution

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Operating Request

2



Budget Attributes

Our budget should support the vision, mission and priorities and goals of Gaston County Schools

- College and Career Ready
- Healthy, Safe and Responsible Schools
- Innovation
- Qualified Workforce



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Operating Request

Ongoing Expenditures

Expenses related to the ongoing operations that are impacted by changes in the law, inflation, end of life for technology, etc.

New Initiatives

Expenses related to new programs, projects, initiatives, salary increases, etc. that are supportive of the GCS mission and vision or are required by law.

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Operating Request

FY 2019-20 Actual		\$50,311,704
Operating budget cut	<u>(\$500,000)</u>	
Total Change in Funding		(\$500,000)
FY 2020-21 Actual		\$49,811,704
Teacher supplements	\$500,000	
Employer paid benefits	\$528,000	
Inflation	\$212,000	
Classified compensation increase	\$261,000	
Certified employee increase	\$189,000	
Total Change in Funding		\$1,690,000
FY 2021-22 Actual		\$51,501,704
Teacher supplements	\$500,000	
Employer paid benefits	\$500,000	
Total Change in Funding		\$1,000,000
FY 2022-23 Actual		\$52,501,704

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Use of County Funds

- Salary supplements - Teachers, Principals, Assistant Principals, etc.
- Instructional supplies
- Maintenance and custodial supplies
- Technology
- Utilities and insurance
- School Resource Officers
- Athletics and arts programs
- Charter school allotments



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Expansion Request

Ongoing Expenditures - \$1,585,000

Ongoing Expenditures	
State Mandated Increase in Employer Paid Benefits	\$ 620,000
Replace End-of-Life Mobile Devices	COVID Funds
Inflation - Operating Expenses and Utilities	965,000
Total	\$ 1,585,000

Expansion Request

New Initiatives - \$1,300,000

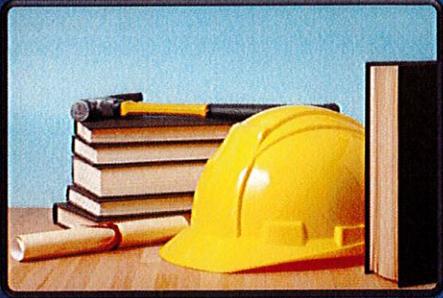
New Initiatives	
Certified Employee Salary Supplement Adjustment	500,000
Employee Compensation Adjustment - Classified	335,000
Employee Compensation Adjustment - Certified	180,000
Student Support Personnel Increase	COVID Funds
Custodial Allotment Increase	COVID Funds
School Grounds Maintenance	COVID Funds
Elementary School Playground Replacements	285,000
Total	\$1,300,000

Operating Request Summary

County Request	2022-23	2023-24
Prior Year County Appropriation	\$51,501,704	\$52,501,704
Ongoing Expenditures	\$1,023,000	\$1,585,000
New Initiatives	\$1,672,000	\$1,300,000
Total County Request	\$54,196,704	\$55,386,704

Capital Outlay

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Capital Outlay

School Bonds:

- New construction
- Classroom additions
- Capital replacements



Capital Outlay:

- Preventative maintenance
- Minor repairs
- Contracted facility services

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Capital Outlay

Capital Outlay is used for the following purposes:

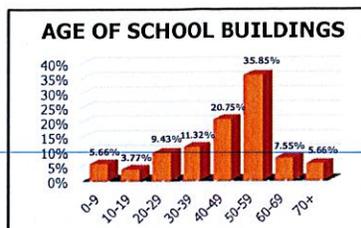
- Roofing Repairs
- HVAC
- Vehicles
- Plumbing
- Site Improvements
- Electrical
- Technology
- Furniture
- Life Safety
- Other Maintenance

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Capital Outlay

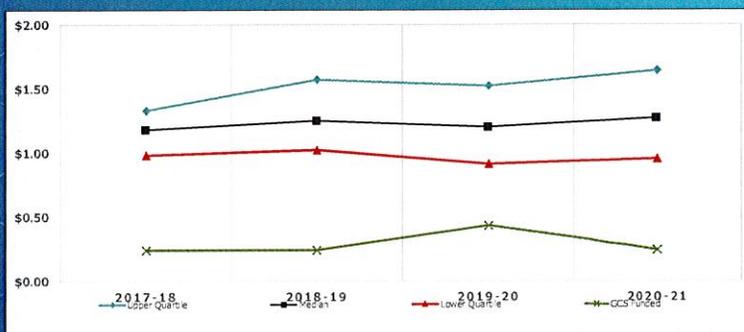
Maintenance Costs Are Affected By:

- Age of the Buildings
- Quality and Experience of Custodial Staff
- Training of Custodial Staff
- Deferred Maintenance Backlog



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Maintenance Cost per Square Foot



	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Upper Quartile	\$ 1.33	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.52	\$ 1.64
Median	1.18	1.25	1.20	1.27
Lower Quartile	0.98	1.02	0.91	0.95
GCS Funded	0.24	0.24	0.43	0.24

Source: Managing for Results in America's Great City Schools – 2022 (results from fiscal year 2020-2021)

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Capital Outlay

- All schools and administrative buildings total about **5.1 million square feet**
- This year we received \$2.2 million in capital outlay, or about **\$0.44 per square foot**
- We are requesting **\$6.5 million** in capital outlay for 2023-24. This request amounts to **\$1.27 per square foot**

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Capital Request

Expenditures	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Proposed 2023-24
	Technology	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
Vehicles	150,000	150,000	100,000	100,000	225,000	100,000
General Renovations	882,000	1,882,000	1,027,000	1,027,000	2,002,000	6,150,000
Furniture	95,000	95,000	50,000	50,000	-	150,000
TOTAL COUNTY CAPITAL	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 2,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 2,227,000	\$ 6,500,000

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Conclusion

This Budget Request supports the Gaston County Schools' Vision **"to inspire success and a lifetime of learning"** for all of our students.



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Discussion

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School Business Systems Modernization Update



Board of Education Meeting

April 17, 2023



Global Payroll Issues

Retirement Contributions - Progressing

- NC State Retirement files have been posted through **November**, the December file has been submitted
- Empower **401(k)** is **current** and posted through **March**
- All other retirement plans **457** and **403(b)** are **current** and posted through **March**

Individual Payroll Issues

Primary Individual Issues

- Incorrect Deductions
- Overpayments
- Comp Time Pay Rate
- Retirement Contributions
- Leave Balance Accrual

Individual Payroll Issues

Outstanding Folders

962 employees met with Customer Care Team
in October 2022

564 employees resolved November – mid-April

398 employee folders remaining

Payroll / HR Ticketing System

- The **Freshdesk** customer service system will replace Google Sheets, emails and calls as a method for notifying Payroll / HR of issues
- All outstanding issues are being imported into **Freshdesk** from existing issues in Google Sheets
- Employees will access **Freshdesk** using their existing Google sign in





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View all tickets

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Describe your issue by filling up the support ticket form



Knowledge base

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General

Default solution category, feel free to edit or delete it.



Enter the search term here...



Email *

awelusky@gaston.k12.nc.us

Area of Concern *

Choose...

First Name *



Last Name *

Work Site *

Choose...

Person Number from Oracle *

Date of Issue *

Short Description *

Label for agents *

Area of Concern

Label for customers *

Area of Concern

DROPDOWN CHOICES

- No Pay - Missing Payslip for Pay Date 
- No Pay - Missing Full/Partial Pay 
- No Pay - Missing Supplements 
- No Pay - Missing Bonus 
- Deductions on Payslip - Insurance (Health, Vision, and Dent 
- Deductions - No Enrollment 
- Deductions on Payslip Other than Insurance 
- Overpayment 
- Longevity 
- Retirement - Orbit 
- Comp Time 
- Annual Leave / Sick Leave Balance 
- Coaching Supplement 
- W2 
- Orbit Missing Service Time 
- Multiple Jobs 
- Plug In Pay 
- Pay Rate - Hourly 
- Pay - Salary 

Payroll / HR Ticketing System

- Human Resources and Payroll personnel have been trained on the new **Freshdesk** system
- Principals and Financial Secretaries will be trained by the end of the month
- Training documents will be sent to all employees
- Employees will enter any new issues into **Freshdesk** beginning **May 1st**



Questions