Gaston County Schools Board of Education Friday, January 27, 2023 Meeting 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a regular session on Friday, January 27, 2023 in the Linda Rader Staff Development Center, 240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC. 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, and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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 reported that January is designated as National School Board Recognition Month. Each Board Member received a bag from the NC School Boards Association. Inside the bag were a number of items including cards created by students to show their appreciation to our Board Members. It is our tradition for a class to "adopt" a Board Member for School Board Recognition Month. Also included in their bag was a picture of the adopted class with the teacher's name and grade level.

The following schools adopted each Board Member:

New Hope (Chairman Ramsey)
Pleasant Ridge (Vice Chairman Cherry)
Carr (Mr. Crisp)
Brookside (Mr. Dedmon)
Lingerfeldt (Mrs. Guthrie)
Page Primary (Mr. Kinlaw)
Cherryville Elementary (Mrs. Lovelace)
Bessemer City Primary (Mr. Moore)
Ida Rankin (Mr. Stephens)

Public Expression - Information

No one signed up for Public Expression.

Approval/Correction of Minutes

The Board considered Approval/Correction of Minutes - Action

Motion to adopt minutes of December 5, 2022 (Organizational and Regular Meetings) as presented was made by Mr. Josh Crisp; seconded by Mr. Tod Kinlaw; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

Gaston County Schools Calendar 2023-2024 - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Kecia Coln who presented a PowerPoint on School Calendar Survey Results 2023-2024.

(View PowerPoint)

Gaston Early College Calendar 2023-2024 - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Kecia Coln who presented a PowerPoint on Gaston Early College High School Calendar.

(View PowerPoint)

School Business Systems Modernization Update - Information

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

(View PowerPoint)

Policy Update - Policy 6335/7270 — Drug & Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Attorney Sonya McGraw who reported recent changes require revisions to GCS policies. As of January 6, 2023, school officials are no longer required to contact an applicant's previous Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) – regulated employer to obtain records of an applicant's drug or alcohol violations. This information can now be obtained from querying the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. The revision to Policy 6335/7270, Drug & Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators, will streamline this process. This change complies with 49 C.F.R. 40.25.

Consent Agenda - Action

The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

- A. Recommended Personnel
- B. Budget Amendments & Budget Transfers
- C. Construction/Repair Change Orders
- D. Contracts
 - -North Gaston High School Drainage Repair Project
 - -Mount Holly Media Center Renovations Mechanical
 - -Mount Holly Media Center Renovations Electrical
 - —Annual Payment CherryRoad Technologies

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

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Booker reported the all-district band concert for the Charlotte region is at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at Stuart W. Cramer High School.

Superintendent Booker reported that North Gaston High School is hosting a dinner and celebration to honor long-time track coach Trace Barnett from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 28, 2023.

Superintendent Booker reported the Gaston County Schools spelling bee will be held on Wednesday, February 1 at Ashbrook and the winner will represent GCS in the Carolina Panthers regional spelling bee in March.

Superintendent Booker reported that Friday, February 3 from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 4 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. is the School Choice Fair at the Gastonia Conference Center.

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. A.M. Stephens; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 9:34 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:38 a.m.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tod Kinlaw reported the following:

The lawsuit captioned *C.A.*, a minor, by and through his Guardian ad Litem, Tiffany Scott, and K.G., by and through his Guardian ad Litem, Tiffany Scott; and K.M., by and through his Guardian ad Litem, Holden Clark v. Gaston County Board of Education and Penny Pope Barker, in the Western District of North Carolina, Case No. 3:20-CV-00228-RJC-DSC, has been settled. The Board's insurer, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, agreed to pay \$225,000 to each plaintiff in exchange for a full dismissal of the litigation. The settlement is not an admission of liability, but rather a strategic decision by the Board's insurance company to avoid the costs of further litigation, including possible appeals, and to obtain a dismissal and full release of all claims. The settlement agreement must be approved by the court before the matter is dismissed. A copy of the settlement agreement will be maintained in the Board's records.

Chairman Ramsey wished Mrs. Dot Guthrie a Happy Birthday.

Adjournment

All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Dot Cherry seconded by Mr. Brent Moore motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Approved:

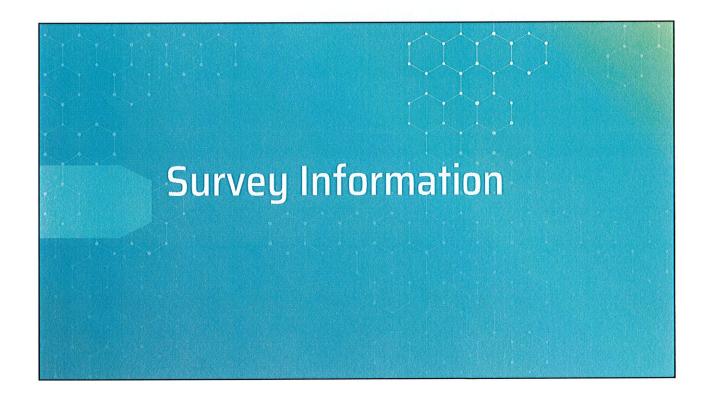
eff K. Ramsey, Chairman

[Corporate Seal]

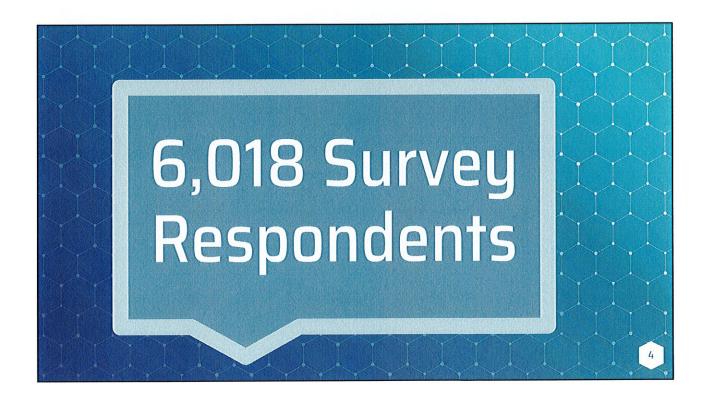
W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

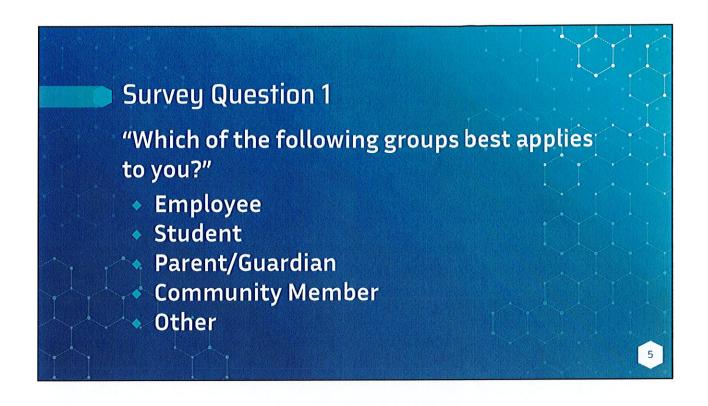
Date Approved:

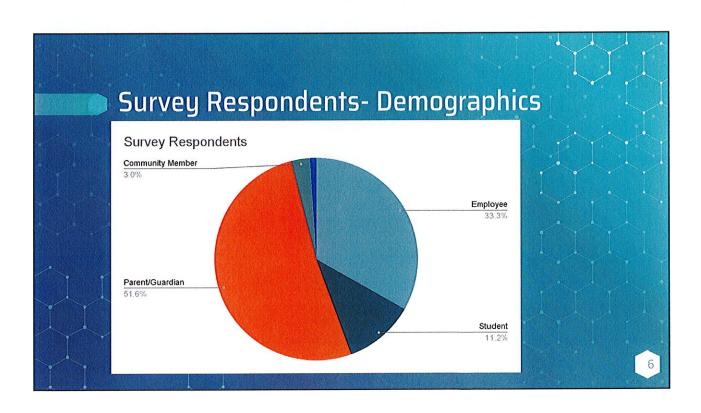


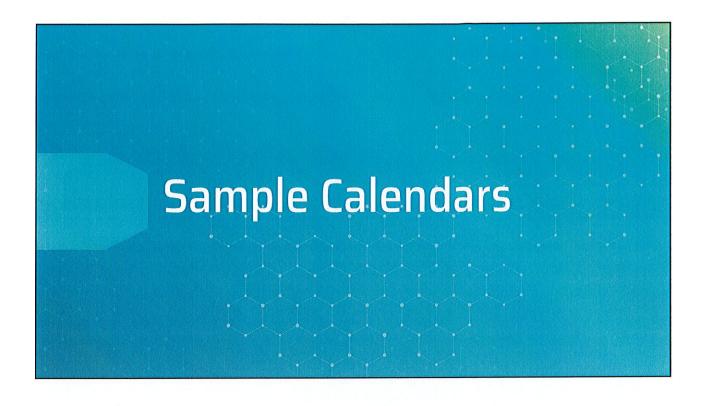


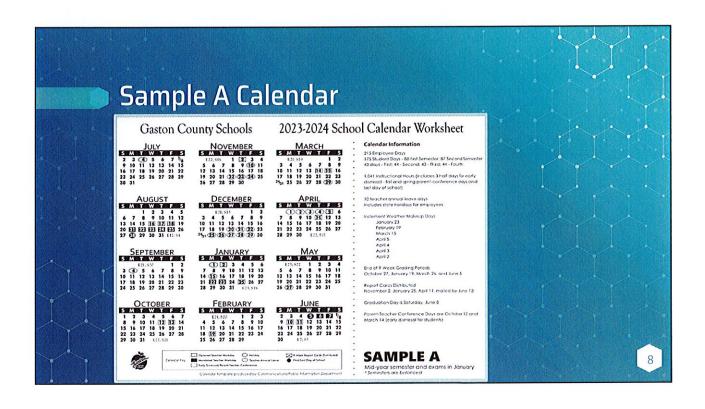
Survey Information Survey published on GCS Homepage from January 11, 2023 until January 20, 2023. Three draft calendars for review with questions to provide feedback.

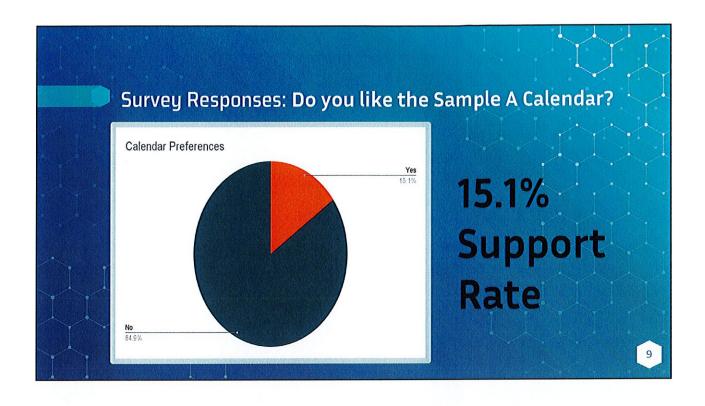


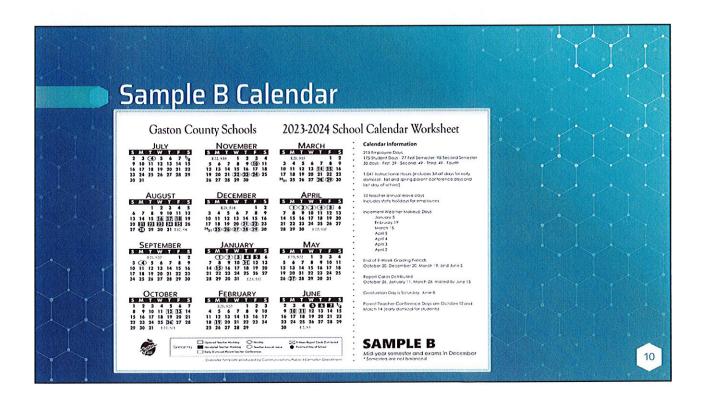


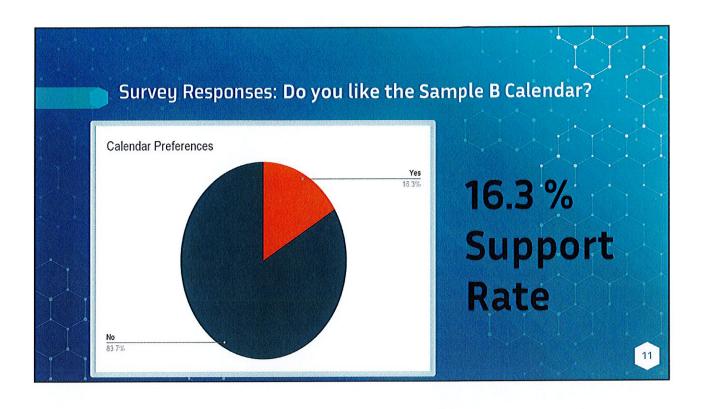


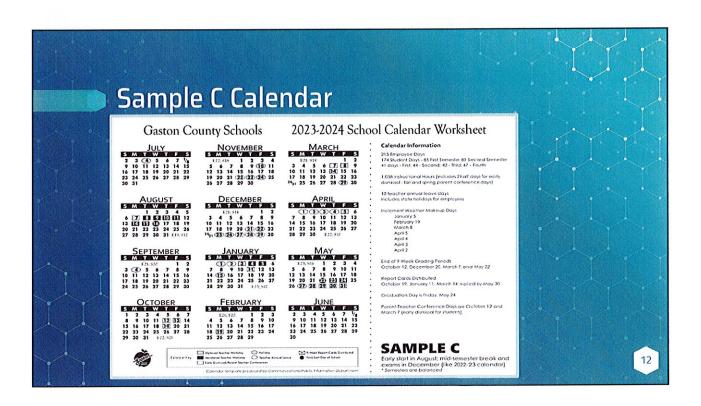


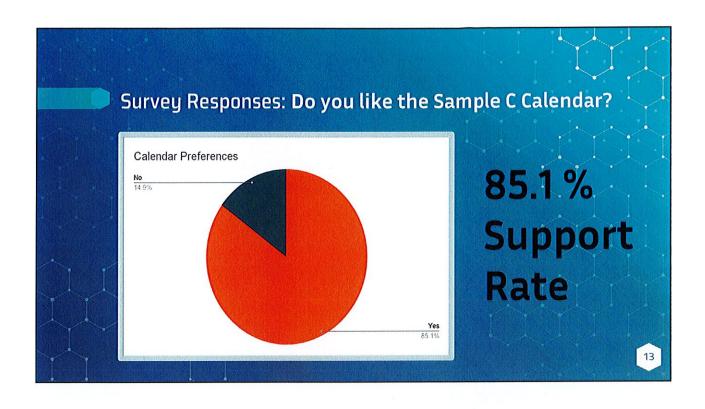


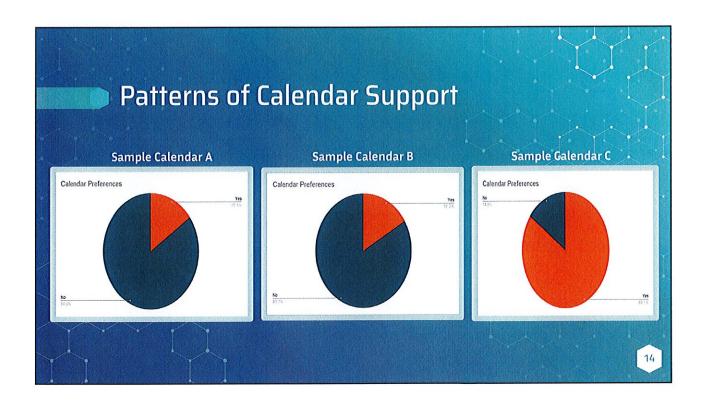


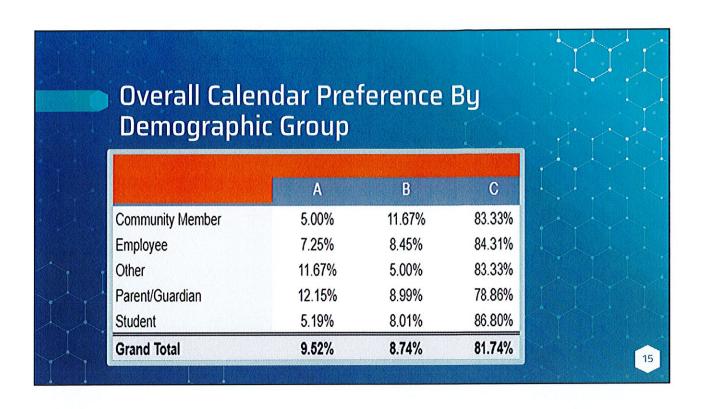


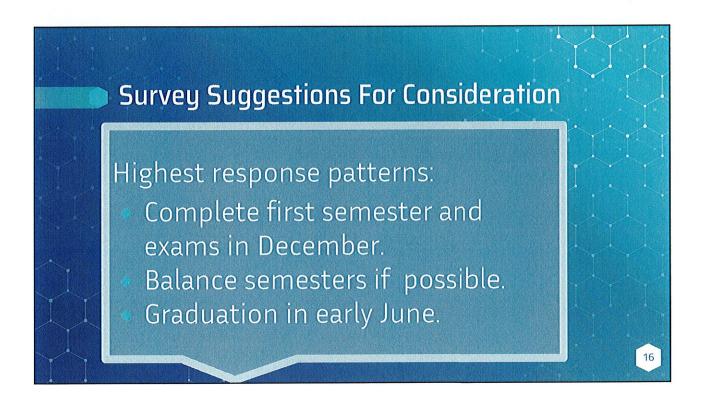






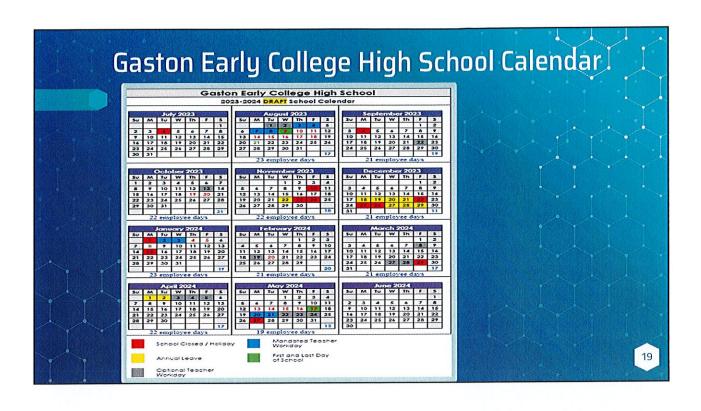


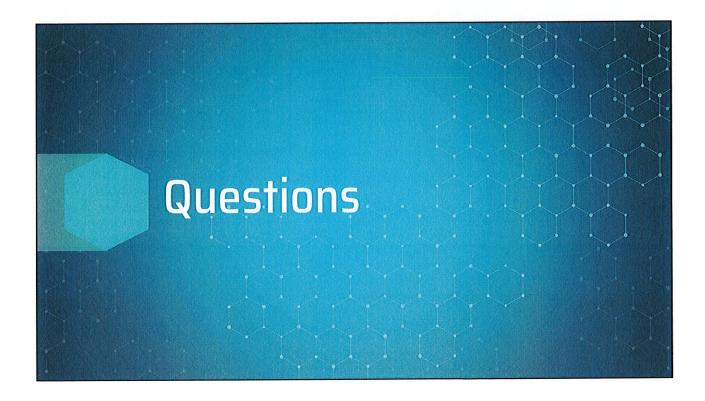


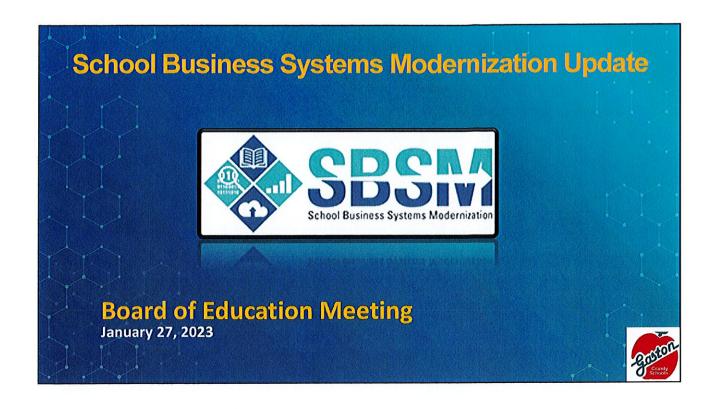




Gaston Early College High School Calendar







SBSM Update

At previous Board meetings we discussed the following items:

- The history and background of SBSM
- The specific goals of the SBSM initiative
- The impact on Gaston County Schools
- The historical conversion timeline
- Current payroll issues

Global Payroll Issues

Retirement Contributions

Netirement Contributions

EPI Teacher Deductions

ASPIRE Overtime Pay

Multiple Deductions

Longevity Payments

Comp Time Pay Rate

Progressing

Progressing

Corrected

Corrected

Corrected

In Development

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Current Payroll Issues

Retirement Contributions - Progressing

- NC State Retirement files have been submitted through August / posted through August
- Interest has been posted for 2022 in Orbit
- Empower 401(k) posted through December
- All other retirement plans 457 and 403(b) posted through December

Multiple Deductions - Progressing

- A number of employees had excess deductions taken from their checks in prior pay periods.
- We are working to identify and refund these deductions. We have made solid progress, but there are still a number of outstanding deductions to refund.

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Current Payroll Issues

EPI Teacher Deductions - Corrected

- EPI teachers are contract employees, so they are not subject to pay FICA deductions during their first two years, or any retirement contributions. However, we did withhold FICA and retirement from many of these individuals.
- These deductions have been refunded to these employees.

ASPIRE Overtime Pay - Corrected

- Non-certified employees that work in the afterschool ASPIRE program are currently earning comp time for overtime hours worked.
- These employees should be paid for their overtime worked
- These employees have now been paid for their overtime.

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Current Payroll Issues

Longevity - Corrected

- No longevity payments were made to employees in July and August.
- The issue was resolved for ongoing longevity payments in September.
- The missing July and August longevity payments have been paid.

Comp Time Pay Rate – In Development

- The system is currently using the employee's pay rate at the time when comp time is earned.
- The system should be using the pay rate at the time when comp time is used.
- We currently have a ticket with CherryRoad to correct this issue and assist us with reimbursement for this discrepancy.

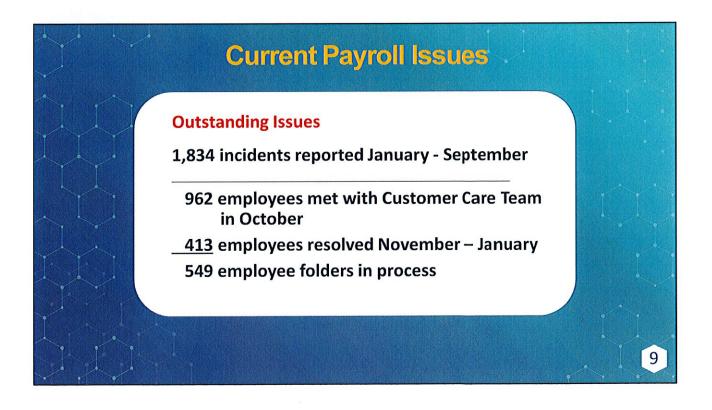
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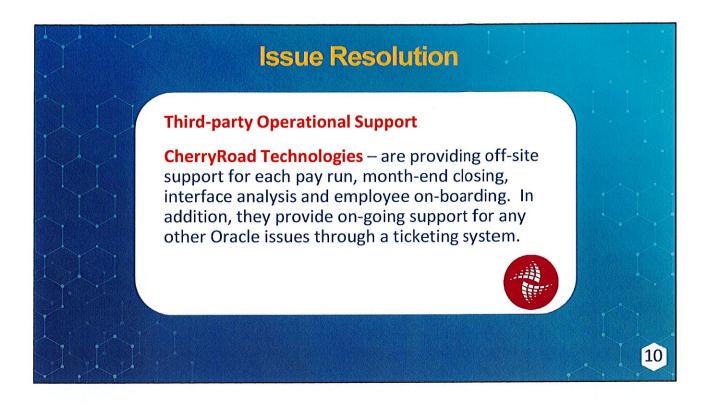
Current Payroll Issues

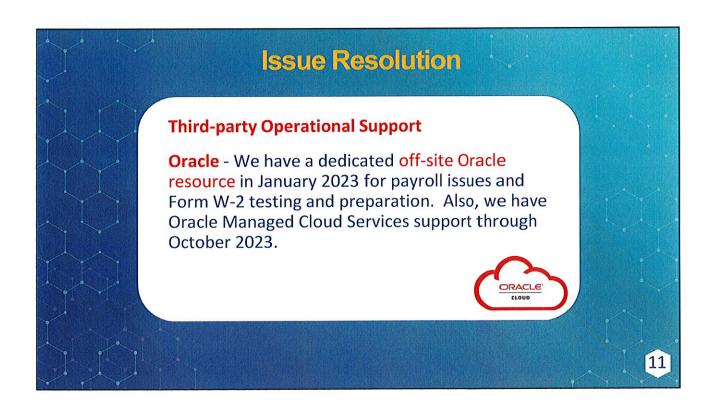
Individual Issues

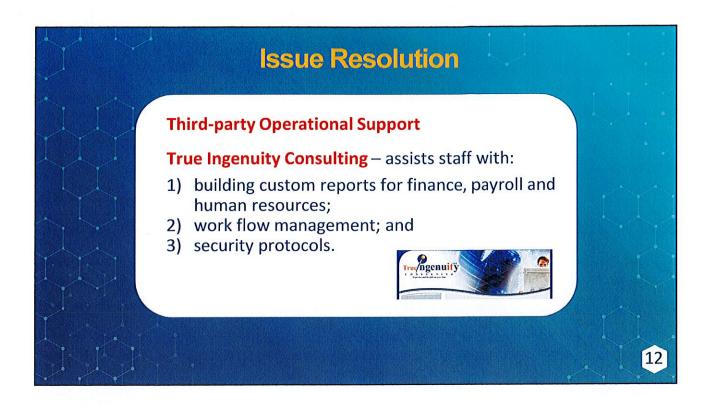
In addition to the current global issues, there are individual payroll issues that are unique to each employee. These issues are being reviewed and resolved by the Payroll Department. This is an ongoing process.

Current Payroll Issues Outstanding Issues Incorrect Deductions Overpayments Comp Time Pay Rate Retirement Contributions Leave Balances

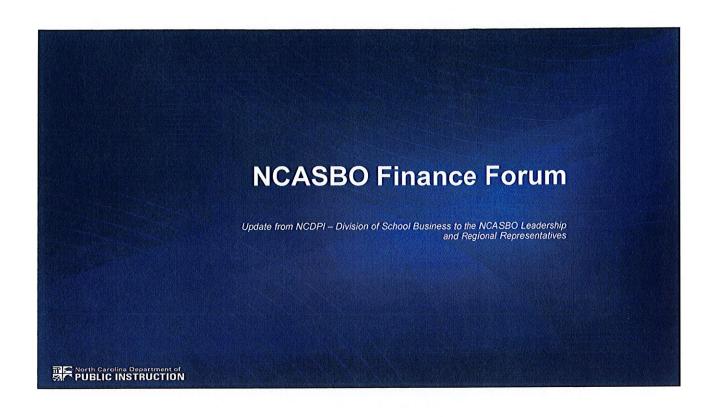








COVID Retention Bonus – 1st Semester (01/24) 3,660+ qualified employees Approximately \$3.8 million funded from ESSER Teacher Bonuses (01/25) 3rd - 5th grade reading and 4th - 8th grade math, AP and CTE scores 220+ eligible teachers Approximately \$690,000 funded from State



Modernization Update

Key items to know

- State oracle implementation date: Oct 2023.
- SBS Main Frame will go off-line June 2024.
- Impacts all programs we currently use in SBS.
- We are trying to set-up structurally for July 2023 to allow for interfaces, testing, reporting, operations, training, etc.
- We are setting up then for LIVE Data starting July 2024.
- MANY processes, reports, etc. that we know will go away... BAAS, BUD, JHA>>>, etc. All of these have to be redesigned.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

