

FBS CONFERENCE – DRAFT CONCURRENT SESSION TOPICS

- ❖ **Federal Grant Conversation with the Bruman Group, PLLC:** Attorney Madelaine Cleghorn, Esq. will present on the latest news from USED related to Education funding, Compliance issues cropping up related to ESSER spending, new EDGAR and other items Public Schools need to be keenly aware of for the new fiscal year. *This will be our General Session in the morning – 8:30 – 10:30 for all participants.*
- ❖ **Charter School Operations: Reporting and Cash Management:** Overview of the monthly reporting processing, chart of accounts, and cash management responsibilities directed towards Charter Schools. Presented by Felicia Atkinson and Roxane Bernard from SBS, NCDPI.
- ❖ **Cleaner Classroom for Carolina Kids:** The RTI (Research Triangle Institute) and DHHS fiscal management team (Dept. of Health and Human Resources) will join us to discuss how this important work related to the mandate for clean water, lead and asbestos testing, mitigation and abatement is being implemented and funded across the state. Hosted by Dr. Lynn Harvey, Senior Director of the Operations Division, NCDPI.
- ❖ **CPA Panel discuss on School Audit Trends and Compliance:** Panel discussion with representatives from two of the leading CPA firms who conduct school audits across the state: Anderson Smith White (ASW) and Dixon Hughes Goodman (DHG). This session will provide some insights in preparing for your audits, what to expect from the audit firms and how to navigate this process effectively. We will discuss common findings and other items of interest to the audience. Moderated by Shirley McFadden, Compliance Manager, SBS, NCDPI with Shannon Dennison from ASW and ___ from DHG.
- ❖ **Cracking the Code: Understanding EC Funding so You Can Use It Before You Lose It:** Provides participants with information regarding sound fiscal management of EC grant Funding. This session will include information regarding maintenance of effort, special grants, and helpful hints for working with various EC grants. Presented By: Nicole Sinclair, Section Chief Special Programs and Data Section
- ❖ **Exceptional Children Weighted Funding Model as a Resource Planning Tool:** Discussion related to the proposed funding model for EC Services weighted on service delivery. How this tool can provide insights in setting up the resources for ensuring appropriate delivery of EC services. Presenters hope to gain insights and feedback from the participants as this model continues to be developed prior to presentation to the SBE in January 2024. Presented by Jennifer Bennett, Senior Director School Business, and Carol Ann Hudgens, Senior Director EC Services, NCDPI.
- ❖ **Federal Programs Update:** An overview from the Office of Federal Programs related to grants administration (CCIP grant application/ budget approval process/transferability/time and effort), available technical assistance (one-on-one, regional, and statewide meetings), and compliance monitoring/data reporting processes. Presented by the NCDPI Office of Federal Programs.
- ❖ **Fiscal Health for a Strong Charter School:** Discussion of key items to help charter schools create a strong fiscal culture, budget, compliance environment for their schools.

This discussion will draw upon several experts in the field that have knowledge of charter school operations to help provide insight and tips for those in attendance. Moderated by Felicia Atkinson, Charter School Program Analyst, SBS, NCDPI.

- ❖ **Implementing a New Financial System – Do's and Don'ts:** Session to discuss how to get your district positioned for implementing a new ERP Financial System. What are the key DO's and what are the problematic DON'TS. Presented by Steven Katz, Program Manager ERP Systems.
- ❖ **Licensure System and Benefits Update:** Provides an update on the proposed new Licensure system, reviews current and projected processing changes, and discuss any material changes related to employee benefits for the new school year. Will provide opportunity for Q&A. Presented by Thomas Tomberlin, Director, Educator Recruitment and Support, NCDPI.
- ❖ **Modernization Process Changes:** SBSM Team will discuss process updates related to the modernization project, in particular the vision for cash processing, the salary audit future, and reporting changes. Presented by Gwen Tucker, Program Manager External Systems.
- ❖ **Reporting & Analysis –** Our Reporting and Analysis team in School Business will discuss how NCDPI gathers and uses your data and the importance of its accuracy. Presented by New Assistant Director and our lead analysts, SBS, NCDPI.
- ❖ **School Business Budget Update:** Discussion on the items in the 2023-24 Budget and how to operationalize/implement those items for the new school year. *Will be offered if we have a final budget at that time. Otherwise, we will substitute this session with a more detailed discussion related to Funding in Arrears impacts and preparing for a Weighted Student Funding Model.* Presented by Alexis Schauss, CFO, NCDPI and Jennifer Bennett, Senior Director School Business.
- ❖ **School Planning/Construction Update:** Update from the NCDPI Operations Division related to School Planning and Plant Operations. The Team will provide information related to any new legislation and processes that impact the PSUs. Presented by Dr. Lynn Harvey, Senior Director Operations, Nathan Maune, Chief, School Planning Section, and Kim Lawson, Chief, Plant Operations Section.
- ❖ **School Food Service & CEP update:** Update from the NCDPI School Food Service department. They will discuss any changes that may impact school districts in implementing a successful school food service operation in the next fiscal year, including any changes to how CEP rates are calculated, etc. Presented by Janet Johnson, Chief of the SFS Department and her staff, Operations Division NCDPI.
- ❖ **Transportation Services Update:** Update from the NCDPI Operations Division related to Transportation Services. The Team will provide information related to any new legislation and processes that impact the PSUs. Presented by Dr. Lynn Harvey, Senior Director Operations, Kevin Harrison, Chief Transportation Section NCDPI.

EBSAC Quarterly Meeting:

Quarterly Meeting of the Educational Business Systems Advisory Committee (EBSAC) will meet in the Auditorium from 3:30-5pm. Non-voting and interested parties are welcome to listen to the discussions related to the specific modernization efforts that impact the PSUs. Hosted by Barry Pace, Director of School Business System Modernization – IT Systems.

ERP Financial System Demonstration Spaces

We've set-up the **Crown** and **Bull Durham Rooms** to provide a space for conference participants to meet with current ERP Financial System vendors to view their systems, ask questions, and get direct experience. Please stop by if you have any questions about their programs as you explore the options to advance your districts into the web/ERP world of Finance and HR system integrations. The vendors who will be present to provide you demonstrations and direct access to their systems are:

- Oracle (Crown 1)
- LINQ (Crown 2)
- SylogsitEd (formerly WenGAGE) (Bull Durham 1)

NCDPI – Technical Assistance Area

We've set-up the other ½ of the **Bull Durham (BD 2)** as an area to Meet and Greet the DPI staff from School Business and receive some technical assistance (Salary Audit, refunds), small group training support (cash mgmt., reports, allotment systems). We will have this room staffed during the day, please reach out to our team, and arrange some time in a quiet setting on-site at the conference.

LISTEN and LEARN SESSIONS

- ❖ The last sessions of the day will include various **LISTEN & LEARN** sessions with our various areas at NCDPI. These sessions are meant not just as Q&A with the teams but for our teams at NCDPI to gather feedback and other information from our customers to help us improve and inform our work this next fiscal year. Please attend and help us all move forward together.
 - School Business
 - Charter Schools