



# bulletin



AUGUST 2015

*Excellence in North Dakota public education through local school board governance* ■ VOL XL ISSUE 8

## House, Senate Education Leaders Discuss Efforts to Replace No Child Left Behind

House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline (R-MN), Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Senate Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA), and House Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) met to discuss proceeding with a conference committee to resolve differences in the House- and Senate-passed bills to replace No Child Left Behind.

Kline said: "There is a lot of work

“ Fifty million children and 3.5 million teachers deserve to get a result, and we should be able to achieve that this fall. ”

*Lamar Alexander*

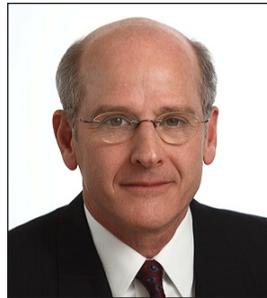
to do in the coming months, and I am confident we will be able to craft a bicameral education bill that reduces

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## NDSBA Annual Convention Features Two Keynote Speakers on Friday

### Friday morning keynote speaker

Friday's opening session begins with Jamie Vollmer, author of *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*, proclaimed by the *American School Board Journal* as one of the "top ten books of the year." Once a harsh critic, he is now an articulate champion of America's public schools.



*Jamie Vollmer*

Over the past twenty years, Vollmer has worked with educators, parents, and community leaders to remove obstacles to student success.

In addition to his book and numerous articles, Mr. Vollmer has written and produced the videos, *The Ever Increasing Burden on America's Public Schools*, *Why Our Schools Need to Change*, and *Teachers are Heroes*.

### Friday afternoon keynote speaker

Dr. Jean Twenge is a Professor of Psychology at San Diego State University and the author of *Generation Me*. The book uses data from 11 million respondents to explore why young people she calls "Generation Me" are tolerant, confident, open-minded, and ambitious but also disengaged, narcissistic, distrustful, and anxious. Born in the '80s, and '90s and called "The Entitlement Generation" or Millennials, they are reshaping schools, colleges, and businesses all over the country.



*Dr. Jean Twenge*

Members of this generation have dramatic differences in attitudes toward work and religious practice, in addition to controversial predictions about what the future holds for them and society as a whole.

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## IMPORTANT CONVENTION REMINDERS

### Service Award Deadline

Service Award forms must be submitted by **September 18**.

### Convention Rooms

If you have sleeping rooms reserved at the Ramkota Hotel for the 2015 NDSBA Annual Convention, you must give them a specific name for each reserved room by **October 7**, or the rooms will be released. Contact Ramkota Hotel reservations (701)258-7700.

### Convention Delegate Designations

Convention delegates and alternates must be clearly noted on the district's registration form which must be received in the NDSBA office **no later than October 16** in order to vote at Delegate Assembly. Only those registered as alternates **BY THIS DEADLINE** will be allowed to substitute for a registered delegate. There will be no exceptions!

## ■ EFFORTS TO REPLACE NCLB.....from page 1

the federal role, restores local control, and empowers parents and education leaders. Those are the kind of education reforms the American people expect and we must deliver. I look forward to continuing this important effort and putting in place new policies that will help every child in every school receive an excellent education.”

Alexander said: “Fifty million children and 3.5 million teachers deserve to get a result, and we should be able to achieve that this fall. While there are important differences, the consensus supporting the framework for the House and Senate bills is the same: Continue the law’s important measurements of academic progress of students but restore to states, school districts, classroom teachers and parents the responsibility for deciding what to do about improving student achievement.”

Murray said: “I am proud of the bipartisan work we did in the Senate to reach this point, and I am hopeful that we can build on this bipartisan foundation to take the final steps to get this bill to the President’s desk.

As we head toward conference, I look forward to continuing to improve the final bill to make sure all students have access to a good education, regardless of where they live, how they learn, or how much money their parents make.”

Scott said: “The right to educational opportunity knows no state boundaries, and federal law must protect this right for all students regardless of race, income, disability, or language status. I am confident that working together, we will produce a comprehensive reauthorization that fulfills the ESEA’s original civil rights legacy. I stand committed to producing a bipartisan bill that eliminates resource inequities and effectively addresses achievement gaps.”

The House passed the Student Success Act on July 8.

The Senate passed the Every Child Achieves Act on July 16.

The two chambers will form a conference committee to reconcile the differences between the two bills and develop a bicameral agreement.

## NDSBA Seeks Candidates for Northeast Director

NDSBA Northeast Director Jennifer Johnson is not running for reelection. This will create an open seat on the NDSBA Board of Directors.

If you have an interest in serving on the board, please contact NDSBA for a Candidate Information Form. The form must be received in the NDSBA office by **Monday, August 24, 2015**.

The Nominating Committee will review applications and select candidates to be placed on the ballot for the election held during our annual convention on October 29-30, 2015, in Bismarck. Candidates slated for election by the Nominating Committee will have time to make brief comments at the first business session on Thursday afternoon, October 29.



October 29-30, 2015  
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

## bulletin

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## New Universal Meal Service Option Now Available for High-Poverty School Districts

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) nationwide include a new universal meal service option, the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which has been phased in by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) over the past several years. CEP was created through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and allows qualifying high-poverty schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students without requiring families to complete an annual household application.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Education Secretary Arne Duncan stated in a joint letter, “Qualifying schools and districts — for which 40 percent or more of families get nutrition assistance or participate in other programs — are eligible for a reimbursement rate of up to 100 percent of meals. The program was set up under the

Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, and already about 14,000 schools are participating, accounting for six million students.”

Applications are due to the state-level agency administering the federal school meal programs by August 31, 2015, to ensure implementation of CEP for the 2015-2016 school year. LEAs that need more time to transition to CEP may contact their state agency to find out if it will accept a mid-year application as permitted by USDA.

In addition, resources are available on Title I, as well as the Federal e-rate program, state and local funding issues, and strategies for successful implementation of CEP at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision>. The state educational agency and state Child Nutrition Offices are also good resources for specific CEP eligibility questions.



# from the director's chair

■ by Jon Martinson, NDSBA Executive Director

## Task Force Addresses Teacher Shortage

A task force formed by State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler has been charged to search for solutions to the state's teacher shortage. The committee consists of 15 individuals representing education associations, higher education, the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB), Career and Technical Education (CTE), and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The purpose of the task force is to make short- and long-term recommendations to the state superintendent and ESPB about how to recruit and retain teachers and principals for North Dakota schools.

The group has met twice, most recently on August 3 at the Capitol. The Department of Public Instruction created the *North Dakota State Plan to Ensure Equitable Access to Excellent Educators*, which is a blueprint to ensure that every public school student will graduate from high school and be college or career ready. A component of the plan addresses the statewide teacher shortage and the need for a marketing effort to promote the teaching profession. The NDSBA Board of Directors agreed to take up that challenge and lead an effort to develop a marketing effort (subject to cost estimates) to combat:

- Low perception of the teaching profession
- Lack of interest in teaching (according to high school graduates)
- Lack of positive aspects of teaching being marketed
- Lack of public knowledge of the teaching profession

Further, NDSBA will work to create guidance and resources for school districts on the ability to offer signing bonuses to attract highly qualified

teachers and to provide a list of all known loan forgiveness programs for teachers.

While this marketing campaign would require a long-term commitment, foremost in everyone's mind was the need to consider immediate short-

term solutions that could be implemented to solve the teacher shortage prior to the beginning of the 2015-16 school year.

To get teachers in the classroom this fall, one idea would provide a "hardship waiver" to school districts in need of teachers. Essentially, this involves a school district hiring a "community expert" such as a local patron working in agriculture who may or may not have a college degree or an individual with a degree in chemistry who works for a local business but does not have an education background to teach chemistry. Yes, this is out-of-the-box thinking. As Einstein said, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

A motion was passed by the task force to "take the hardship waiver to the ESPB Board [the board responsible for licensing teachers in the state] with the recommendation to adopt the teacher hardship waiver." The motion passed unanimously. That afternoon, the ESPB Board passed a motion to "draft language for the community expert license so that the process for the emergency rule can be submitted to the Governor's office." That motion also passed unanimously. According to Dr. Janet Welk, executive director at ESPB, administrative rules still need to be written.

Although progress was being made on the teacher shortage issue, there was one hiccup. Despite the fact that two members on the task force who represent ND United voted in favor of the motion to "take the hardship waiver to the ESPB Board with the recommendation to adopt the teacher hardship waiver," a few days later Nick Archuleta, president of ND United, sent task force members a three-page letter outlining his organization's opposition to the task force's recommendation

to have the ESPB create a category of licensure for community experts. In addition to his concern that moving forward on this issue would "cause staff morale to diminish," and that the "credibility of ESPB will be compromised," listed as his number one concern was, "licensing non-professional teachers degrades the licenses of the professional educators who earned their licenses to teach by becoming highly qualified in their respective fields."

It's not surprising that the union is more invested in turf protection than in supporting this initiative to put community experts in hard-to-fill classrooms so all students have teachers. However, I was stunned at one solution (among a list of six) offered by Mr. Archuleta: "Ensure that every teacher is involved in creating student centered, teacher led schools. Everyone feels empowered and part of something they do not want to leave when they are treated as professionals with a stake in their school's success."

Hmmm. Teacher led schools. Superintendents and principals go to college and graduate school to earn the required credentials to serve as administrative experts thus qualifying them, working in tandem with school board members, to lead schools. Yet, apparently the union thinks it is acceptable for teachers, who don't have the proper credentials, to lead schools. I would think that licensing non-professional administrators, such as teachers, would degrade the certification of professional administrators who earned their credentials by becoming qualified in their respective fields. This should be equally offensive to ND United, and yet, they promote it.

Lastly, here is a recommendation to associations represented on the task force. In the future, have your decision-makers at the table. That should prevent an organization from impeding progress by subsequently backpedaling, being in conflict with your own members at the table, and attempting to stop forward progress. This suggestion will make serving on the task force more honest, efficient, and productive.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## ■ CONVENTION

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### Pre-register and Join Us

Mark your calendar for October 29-30 and join us at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck for the 2015 NDSBA Annual Convention. By sending in the early registration form (which will be arriving at your school

in early September), you can take advantage of the lower registration fee and ensure receipt of printed material when checking in as a pre-registered participant. Be sure your board designates delegates and alternates on the registration form.

We look forward to seeing you at the convention!



**mark**  
your calendar

### 2015 NDSBA Annual Convention

October 29-30, 2015  
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

### 2016 NDSBA Negotiations Seminar

February 11-12, 2016  
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

### 2016 NSBA Annual Conference

April 9-11, 2016  
Boston, MA

### 2016 NDSBA Annual Convention

October 27-28, 2016  
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

