2016 NDSBA Convention Will Inspire and Inform

NDSBA’s Annual Convention will be held on October 27-28 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The New Member Seminar and School Law Seminar begin at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 27, and run until 2:45 p.m.

The convention will open with a keynote speaker on Thursday afternoon at 3:00. The First Business Session will follow the keynote speaker and will include comments from NDSBA candidates, the resolutions report, and board member awards.

Friday begins with a general session speaker and continues with a full day of educational sessions including an afternoon general session speaker. The Second Business Session will be at 3:30 on Friday afternoon and will consist of announcement of election results, action on resolutions, presentations to outgoing NDSBA board members, and distribution of door prizes.

Friday Clinic Sessions include the following topics:

- What NASCAR and School Boards Have in Common
- ND State ESSA Accountability Plan
- Superintendent, Business Manager, and Board Evaluation
- Open Record and Meeting Laws in ND
- Legislators’ Perspective on the 2017 Legislative Session
- Human Trafficking 101
- Investigation: Role of the School Administrator and the School Board
- Raising the Bar: Changing and Creating a Positive Culture for Students
- Balancing Your Mojo
- Conversation with State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler
- AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination
- Understanding Cyber Security
- Small Organized Schools: Online Ag Ed in the Classroom
- Small Organized Schools: Mental Health and Suicide Training
- Small Organized Schools: Annual Board Meeting
- Several Sessions Specifically for Business Managers

Superintendent Evaluations

North Dakota law requires that school boards complete a formative evaluation of superintendents ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 15 [NDCC 15.1-14-03]. This evaluation must take place at an open public meeting. One purpose of the November evaluation is to highlight areas of performance in need of improvement and provide an improvement plan and timeline for expected enhanced performance. The law regarding superintendent evaluations states that if the superintendent is found to be unsatisfactory in any area, the board shall detail its findings in the report and make recommendations. This process allows opportunity for professional growth before the superintendent’s formal evaluation, which must be completed ON OR BEFORE MARCH 15. A sample evaluation form is available on NDSBA’s website and www.nbsd.org under RESOURCES.
Interim Education Committee Makes No Recommendation on Restraint and Seclusion Study

On September 15, 2016, the Interim Education Committee met for the final time to determine whether it would recommend introduction of a bill relating to the restraint or seclusion of students. The committee had two bill drafts before it. One would have required each school district to notify the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) if it had a policy on restraint and seclusion, and if it did have a policy, it would have to report “all incidents of the application of the policy” annually. NDSBA pointed out that the wording of the bill draft would have placed an untenable amount of reporting requirements on school districts. If a school district’s policy, like the NDSBA template FCC, actually promoted or required the use of multiple interventions prior to restraining or secluding a student, the school district would have to report each time a teacher used such an intervention.

The second bill draft considered by the committee would have required all school boards to adopt a restraint and seclusion policy and to provide for the notification of a student’s parent if restraint or seclusion was used. In addition, the bill draft called on school district personnel to provide periodic reports to the board regarding the number of incidents that resulted in the use of restraint or seclusion.

Paralleling the interim committee’s study, a task force assembled by the ND Protection and Advocacy Project had for several months been developing its own recommendations regarding the use of restraint and seclusion in schools and presented those recommendations to the committee. The task force had hoped to have its recommendations amended onto one of the two bill drafts being considered by the committee, but the recommendations as presented were merely statements of support for various concepts and not statutory directives.

One of the recommendations indicated that the task force supported training for school district personnel in the area of restraint and seclusion. The committee began to explore this recommendation with questions such as: How many hours of training? From where would the funding come? Which staff should be trained? What options are available to a school bus driver in the event that a student is endangering himself or others?

As the questions mounted, so did the committee’s realization that more work is needed to ensure that any legislation regarding restraint and seclusion does not come with a myriad of unintended or unworkable consequences. The committee therefore opted not to recommend any bill draft regarding restraint and seclusion.

NDSBA Hires Director of Policy Services

NDSBA is pleased to announce that we have hired Rebecca Wimer as the new Director of Policy Services. She joined our staff on October 1, 2016. Those of you attending our annual convention will have an opportunity to meet and visit with her.

Rebecca was formerly a senior staff member with the North Dakota University System serving as executive assistant to the Chancellor. She was with the NDUS since 2002 and prior to that she worked at the Department of Public Instruction.

Since earning her bachelor’s degree from Dickinson State University in 2010, Rebecca has held positions in an education setting where she worked with academic professionals and state leaders. Her passion for learning, fondness for research, and understanding of educational policies and procedures make her a great fit for our association.

State Law Requires New Members to Attend Seminar

North Dakota Century Code section 15.1-09-32 requires new school board members to attend an inservice training workshop hosted by the North Dakota School Boards Association or its designee within one year of assuming office. NDSBA hosts a seminar for new board members on the first day of the Annual Convention on Thursday, October 27. Topics will include the role of a school board member, duties of the school board, and school finance. In addition, a panel of experienced school board members will share their experiences.

West Fargo Teacher Named ND Teacher of the Year

Nanci Dauwen, a math teacher at Sheyenne High School in West Fargo, received the 2017 North Dakota Teacher of the Year award. Governor Jack Dalrymple and State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler made the presentation during a ceremony at the high school. Dalrymple and Baesler were joined by West Fargo Superintendent David Flowers, Sheyenne High School Principal Greg Grooters, and the 2017 Teacher of the Year finalists: Thomas Kjelland, Valley City; Jennifer Kujanson, Fargo; and Kristi Mahrer, Wahpeton.

“North Dakota has one of the best educational systems in the nation and that is due in large part to the great work that is going on in classrooms across our state,” said Dalrymple. “Nanci and the Teacher of the Year finalists exemplify the innovative and inspiring work being performed by North Dakota’s teachers and their dedication to shaping the lives and futures of our young people.”

One Political Institution Surviving the Trust Implosion

One of the most important trends in American public opinion over the last generation is the increasing distrust of major political and cultural institutions. From the media, to the courts, to congress, polls consistently show a steady decline in confidence since the 1990s. According to a recent Gallop poll, “Americans’ trust in their political leaders and in the American people themselves to make political decisions continues to decline. The percentages trusting the American people (56 percent) and political leaders (42 percent) are down roughly 20 percentage points since 2004 and are currently at new lows in Gallup’s trends.”

There is one political institution, however, that is weathering this trust implosion better than most: local government. As the Gallop poll shows, Americans’ confidence in their local government has held steady or even ticked up slightly over the past 40 years. People are as confident as ever in their local school boards and city halls. This finding lends credence to the argument that it would be productive for American government to move toward a greater level of subsidiarity.

Local governments have significant and underrated power to influence many of the most important policy problems America faces—from education to crime to housing. And they might even have the legitimacy to start solving them.

Source: The American Interest, September 21, 2016

2016 Convention Committees

Nominating Committee
Jim Vendsel, Chair – Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood
Michelle Billadeau – Parshall
Eric Myhre – New Rockford-Sheyenne

Credentials Committee
Steve Halldorson, Chair – Devils Lake
Bryan Dean, Velva
Rick Gillund, Enderlin Area
Angela Riehl, Wilton

Ballot Counting Committee
Tyler Schau, Chair – New Salem-Almont
Angela Evans, Hankinson
Jodi Somerville, Griggs County Central

Governmental Affairs Committee
Greg Allen, Chair – Jamestown
Dianne Hensen – Glenburn
Jim Johnson – Fargo
Lawrence King – Bismarck
Mike Lautenschlager – Lewis & Clark
Don Nygaard – Finley-Sharon
Jim Rostad – Minot

Thank you to each of these members for your willingness to serve the association!

2016 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 27-28, 2016
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2017 NDSBA Negotiations Seminar
February 9-10, 2017
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2017 NSBA Annual Conference
March 25-27, 2017
Denver, CO

2017 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 26-27, 2017
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

mark your calendar
What does this measure do? It raids the K-12 education savings account (Foundation Aid Stabilization Fund) that was established by a vote of the citizens of North Dakota in 1994.

How is the fund used? Its purpose is to offset reductions to K-12 education when the state experiences a revenue shortfall. Money from the fund is transferred to the state’s general fund so that K-12 education does not suffer a reduction.

Have funds ever been transferred? Yes, twice this year alone. The total amount transferred this year was over $116 million.

Currently, who has authority to transfer funds? Only the Governor – and only the amount necessary to cover the shortfall when an across-the-board cut is made to state agency budgets.

What changes will this measure make? It provides an opportunity for the Legislative Assembly to spend money in the savings account – all but 15 percent of the money necessary to finance the K-12 budget.

If this measure passes, would the legislature be limited to spending money in the fund on K-12 education? No. The Legislative Assembly could spend dollars for any “education-related purpose.” That includes buildings for higher education and any creative or imaginative idea that could be loosely tied to education.

If oil prices rise, will the savings account be replenished? Yes. However, the Legislative Assembly would retain its authority to spend the account down to 15 percent of the K-12 budget each biennium.
MEET THE NDSBA CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Jim Johnson – Fargo

Jim has been on the Fargo School Board since 2001 and has served on all of the board’s standing committees at one time or another during his years on the board. He served five terms as president.

On the state level, Jim has been a strong advocate for k-12 education. He currently serves as NDSBA’s Southeast Director and as a member of the NDSBA Governmental Affairs Committee. He has presented at past state conventions, testified several times before the education committees of the legislature, and has traveled to Washington, D. C., to discuss the impact of federal legislation with our congressional delegation.

In addition, Johnson is vice president of the South East Education Cooperative (SEEC) Board of Directors and serves on the Executive Committee. His work on the SEEC board has given him a unique perspective of the differing needs that districts face based on their size and location. He has been a strong voice in Bismarck for the continued support and development of the Regional Education Associations (REAs) throughout the state.

Jim grew up in Fargo where he graduated from Fargo South High School and was lucky enough to go on to college. Jim and his wife Kay (West Fargo graduate) have two pretty darn good daughters, Robin and Emma. And thanks to the cost of their college education, he is still working as vice president of Hallett Financial Group, a Minneapolis-based financial services firm.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Lautenschlager – Lewis & Clark, Berthold

Mike is a graduate of Berthold Public School. He spent five years in Leeds, North Dakota, as herdsman for Kenner Simmentals and then returned to Berthold where he is involved in the family farm and employed by Farden Construction.

Mike has been on his local school board for 20 years and has served on many committees. He has presented on reorganizations at the NDSBA Convention and on labor/management issues at Negotiation Seminars. He currently serves as Northwest Director on NDSBA’s board and is a member of the Governmental Affairs Committee. In 2015, Mike was appointed to serve on the ND Insurance Reserve Fund board of directors representing schools. He has attended NSBA’s National Conferences and has participated in the National Affiliate Conference in Washington, D. C.

Mike serves on the county ambulance board of directors and is a volunteer for the Berthold ambulance service. He and his wife Ginger have three sons, ranging in age from 18-26.

CANDIDATE FOR NORTHWEST DIRECTOR

Roger Johnson – Kenmare

Roger is from Donnybrook, North Dakota, and has been serving on the Kenmare School Board. He has also served on numerous other boards including CHS SunPrairie, Ree Township, and the Donnybrook Fire Department.

Roger is a past recipient of the NDSBA Master Board Member service award.

Roger and his wife Mary farm and ranch for a living. Mary is a nurse at Sanford Health and they have three grown daughters: Carrie, Laura, and Hope; and three grandsons.

Since he has always been involved in public education, Roger feels it would be a privilege and honor to serve as NDSBA’s Northwest Director.
Karl Lembke – Bismarck

Karl Lembke graduated from Century High School, attended Bismarck State College, and went on to graduate from the University of Mary with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. He is married and has three children. His son Nick is a freshman at the University of North Dakota, daughter Kaia is a sophomore at Century High School, and daughter Riley is an 8th grader at Horizon Middle School.

Karl is an insurance agent with Vaaler Insurance. His past work experience includes medical and pharmaceutical sales, professional fundraising, and work as a lobbyist at the North Dakota State Legislature.

Karl was elected to the Bismarck School Board in 2014 and currently serves as vice president. He serves on the Bismarck Public Schools Foundation Board and fundraising committee for Bismarck Public Schools Athletic Complex. Karl has attended the NDSBA convention every year since being elected on the school board and has attended the National School Boards Association Annual Conference.

Karl is active in his community by serving on the Bismarck Mandan Chamber of Commerce Local Issues Committee, University of Mary Alumni Committee, and ND Kids First Foundation. He has also served on the ND Dietetic Practices Board, Parent Advisory Committee at Century High School, Bismarck Baseball Boosters, and Century High School Baseball Boosters.

Patti Stedman – West Fargo

Patti graduated in 1984 from Carrington High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Minnesota State University Moorhead. She is a former Barb Norby scholarship recipient and has been a regular participant at state and national school board conventions.

Patti was elected to the West Fargo School Board in 2008. For the past three years, she has served as school board president and previously served as vice president. She has also been an active member of various committees including planning development; governance; long-range facility; negotiations, including lead negotiator; and more. For the past six years, she has served on the board of directors for the South East Education Cooperative (SEEC) REA and is also currently serving in her third year on the North Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors.

Patti has been married to her husband Brad for 25 years, and they have three children who previously attended or currently attend West Fargo High School: Alyssa, Dustin and Kylie. She is currently self-employed and works with her husband in West Fargo.

Roger Haut – Jamestown

Roger J. Haut is a resident of Jamestown, along with his wife Margo. They have been married for 27 years and are the proud parents of three children: Truman who is a 5th generation funeral director, Lexus who recently graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead, and Chandler, PFC, U.S. Marine Corp.

Roger is a graduate of Jamestown High School. He furthered his education at the Mid-America College of Funeral Service. He has been a 4th generation funeral director for the last 32 years.

Throughout his time in Jamestown, Roger has been very active in the community. He is a member of the Basilica of St. James, having served on both the Parish Council and Finance Committee. Roger has been a member of the Jamestown Elks Lodge No. 995 for 31 years and in 2006 had the honor of acting as State President for the ND Elks Association. Roger recently completed a term as Chairman of Camp Grassick’s Management Committee. In addition, he is a member of the Jamestown Eagles Aerie 2337, the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, and served as past president of the Jamestown Football Boosters. Over the years, Roger has also given his time to the Scouting Program in Jamestown, being an Eagle Scout himself.

Presently, Roger is serving the Jamestown School Board as president, a position he has held for the last three years. He also serves on the Negotiation Committee. In his free time he enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his family.

Roger is dedicated to the schooling of our children and offering them their best possible futures. He looks forward to this potential opportunity in representing the Southeast District.