As this publication goes to print, the 2015 Legislative Session is still in session. For a complete bill status report check online at: http://ndsba.org/legislation/BillTracking.asp. A final legislative update will be posted online after the conclusion of the Legislative Session.

Following is a brief summary of legislative action since publication of the March Bulletin.

**Bills that have been signed by the Governor:**

**House Bill 1027** allows school districts to be licensed retailers for milk in order to effectuate the purchase of milk products and frozen dairy products at wholesale prices.

**House Bill 1029** separates child abuse and child neglect into separate offenses.

**House Bill 1188** creates a task force to study school district boundaries, annexation, reorganization, and dissolution.

**House Bill 1251** changes the time that teachers have to return a contract from 30 days to 14 days, establishes a deadline to meet after petitions for negotiations have been approved, and creates an exception to open meeting laws to allow for executive session for negotiation caucus meetings. These changes will be effective August 1.

**House Bill 1284** requires that the ballot for a school district bond election include the maximum amount of debt being proposed, how long it will take to pay off, proposed increase in property tax rates, and the impact on a taxpayer’s property tax bill.

**House Bill 1316** creates a process for nonrenewal of principals employed less than two years, clarifies the superintendent/principal evaluation and nonrenewal process, and changes the first evaluation date for superintendents from December 15 to November 15. These changes will be effective August 1.

**House Bill 1426** changes the threshold for bidding a public improvement and for DPI approval to $150,000.

**House Bill 1471** relates to freedom of expression rights of students of public schools.

**Senate Bill 2092** states that a school board whose district was part of a voter-approved reorganization plan may not make contracts or obligate the district before the plan takes effect, unless the agreements are approved by the board of every other school district participating in the reorganization.

**Senate Bill 2151** appropriates $3 million for early childhood education. The bill provides $2,000 state grants for children who qualify for free school lunches and a $1,000 grant for children who qualify for reduced-price meals.

**Senate Bill 2181** requires the school board to keep its minutes permanently and its payroll and expenditure records for five years; gives the school board explicit authority to supervise, hire, fire, and discipline the school district’s business manager (unless the board has approved an alternative supervisory structure); and requires the business manager to personally present all financial reports to the school board.

**Senate Bill 2209** requires school districts to provide at least two hours of training annually for middle school and high school instructional staff, teachers, and administrators on spotting suicide risk indicators.

**Senate Bill 2315** increases the liability of political subdivisions from $500,000 to $1 million for any number of claims arising from any single incident where the injuries are proximately caused by the negligence or wrongful act or omission of an employee acting within the scope of employment.

**Senate Bill 2326** requires school boards to approve policies on student data protection and sharing and restricts the sharing of data outside the school system. It also requires the State Longitudinal Data System to establish policies and rules addressing data.

**Senate Bill 2348** requires anyone who is expected to use an automated external defibrillator to have training in its use, using the most recent nationally recognized course.

**Bills that have failed:**

**House Bill 1055** would have changed all statutory references from mills to cents.

**House Bill 1283** relates to parental directives regarding statutorily mandated assessments.

The North Dakota School Business Managers Certification Program is now accepting applications for new students. A program brochure and applications can be downloaded online at http://ndsbmcp.org/handbooks-and-forms/. The application deadline is May 31.
NSBA Elects 2015-2016 Leadership

John D. Tuttle of Oklahoma’s Kellyville Public Schools was named the 68th President of the National School Boards Association (NSBA), at its 75th Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Miranda Beard of Mississippi’s Laurel School District was elected President-Elect, and Kevin E. Ciak of New Jersey’s Sayreville School District was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Anne M. Byrne of New York’s Nanuet Union Free District, who served as President, will now serve as NSBA’s Immediate Past President.

NSBA’s Delegate Assembly also elected Frank S. Henderson of Kansas’ Seaman USD 345 was elected as Western Region Director.

NSBA President Jim Rostad and Jim Johnson, Southeast Regional Director, serve as delegates to the National School Boards Association’s Delegate Assembly in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 20, 2015.

Mark your calendar

2015 NSBA Annual Convention
October 29-30, 2015
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2016 NSBA Negotiations Seminar
February 11-12, 2016
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2016 NSBA Annual Conference
April 9-11, 2016
Boston, MA

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Have a suggestion for a clinic session topic or speaker? Please email ideas to jon.martinson@ndsba.org by May 15, 2015.

Mott/Regent School District
Search re-opened
Contact: Jon Martinson
(701) 255-4127
jon.martinson@ndsba.org
Application materials: www.ndsba.org
Deadline: May 1, 2015
Position begins: July 1, 2015

Richland Public School District
(Colfax)
Full-time Superintendent preferred; will consider part-time
Contact: Jon Martinson
(701) 255-4127
jon.martinson@ndsba.org
Application materials: www.ndsba.org
Deadline: May 12, 2015
Position begins: July 1, 2015

Billings County School District
Superintendent/Elementary Principal Position, will consider under filling with Elementary Principal Credentials Only
Contact: Tammy Simnioniw
(701) 623-4363
tammy.simnioniw@k12.nd.us
Deadline: May 1, 2015
Position Begins: July 1, 2015

Billings County School District
Assistant Elementary Principal
Contact: Tammy Simnioniw
(701) 623-4363
tammy.simnioniw@k12.nd.us
Deadline: Open Until Filled
Position Begins: August 10, 2015

Wyndmere School District
Superintendent
Contact: Janice Illies, Business Manager
(701) 439-2287
Email: janice.illies@sendit.nodak.edu
Deadline: Open until filled
Position begins: July 1, 2015

Roosevelt Public School
Assistant Superintendent/Elementary Principal
Contact: Carey Reis, Business Manager
210 2nd Ave West
Carson, ND 58529
(701)622-3263
Carey.L.Reis@sendit.nodak.edu
Deadline: Open until filled
Position begins: July 1, 2015

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Nutrition for the Future, Inc. President

Working Together to Grow Healthy Kids
Tuesday, June 9, 2015
8:30am – 4:30pm
Fargo, ND

Featuring Keynote Speaker
Dayle Hayes
Nutrition for the Future, Inc. President

NDDPI Child Nutrition is planning a workshop on the optimal schedule for learning. The workshop will discuss the importance of breakfast, techniques to increase breakfast participation, classroom energizers, offering recess before lunch, Comfortable Cafeteria, Smart Snacks, local wellness policies, healthy concessions, and promoting a healthy school environment.

Registration information: https://eventbrite.com/event/16540293463/
Every Child Achieves Act Reported out of U.S. Senate Committee

By unanimous vote, the Senate HELP Committee recently reported out the Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA), as amended. The three-day mark-up of the Senate's legislation to modernize and reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) allowed committee members to consider and debate more than 50 amendments, with 29 adopted, 8 defeated, and 20 withdrawn.

Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) encouraged a “yes” vote on ECAA due to its bipartisan approach and “because the process was fair,” stating that “if you like the fact that we have the Department of Education running schools through waivers in 42 states, vote no.” Moments later, the Committee’s final vote was 22 to 0.

“Today marks a great victory for local and community leadership in public education,” said Thomas J. Gentzel, Executive Director, National School Boards Association. “Though there is much more work to be done, today’s powerful vote demonstrates that we are one step closer to rewriting the broken No Child Left Behind Act and modernizing ESEA.”

Selected highlights from this week’s mark-up of interest to local school board members include:

- A voucher amendment withdrawn, but expected to be discussed during the Senate’s floor debate on the bill
- Grants to states to improve the quality and reliability of state assessments
- An amendment to improve data collection methods and systems, intended to reduce the burden on school districts
- A change of the funding formula ratio to 80 percent poverty, 20 percent population, regarding funding for high-quality teachers, principals, and other school leaders
- A “hold harmless” provision for states that would lose funding due to the change in the funding formula
- A gradual decrease of “hold harmless” funding, phasing out the provision in seven years

While the Senate HELP Committee action is another big step in the legislative process, Senators must agree to move ECAA to the Senate floor for a vote. Also still on the horizon is the House version (H.R. 5) which has been debated on the House Floor, with no final votes taken.

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