



bulletin



AUGUST 2010

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

NDSBA Convention Keynote Speakers Will Inspire

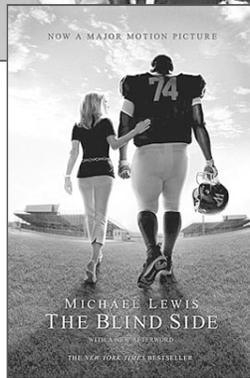
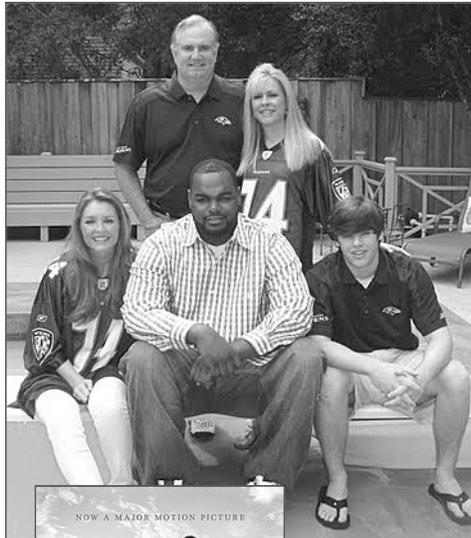
“Blindside” Daughter to Open NDSBA Annual Convention

NDSBA is excited to announce that Collins Tuohy, daughter in the inspiring family whose story is portrayed in the award winning movie *The Blind Side* will open NDSBA’s 2010 Annual Convention on Friday morning.

The Blind Side chronicles the amazing story of Michael Oher, a 16-year-old homeless boy whose life is forever changed when the Tuohy family takes him into their home and lives. With the family’s love and support he succeeds in school and on the football field, becoming first-round pick of the NFL Baltimore Ravens. Michael could have been just another young man who went unnoticed and slipped through every crack in the system if not for the Tuohy family’s love and attention.

Collins Tuohy shares a famously close bond with her adoptive brother Michael. It began when she met him in the halls of her school. When Collins tried to pass Michael in a stairwell, she backed up to let him pass. At 16 years old, he was 6’4” and 340 pounds—the biggest student the school had ever seen.

Collins grew close to Michael as she helped him adjust to school and his new life with the Tuohy family. When she became homecoming queen, Michael



was her escort. They also shared a common bond through their unique athletic pursuits: Collins won the Tennessee State

Championship in the pole vault as Michael earned All-State honors in the discus and basketball championships.

Collins earned her bachelor’s degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Mississippi. An exceptional

student and influential role model on campus, she was president of the Student Alumni Council and Student Spirit Committee, an officer for Kappa Delta Sorority, and an Ole Miss varsity cheerleader, supporting Michael’s football endeavors—also an Ole Miss student.

Collins will take you through her journey with Michael from fellow student to close friend, confidant, and ultimately adoptive sister. The Tuohy family’s story confirms that miracles happen when extraordinary people see a need and step in to fill it.

If you haven’t seen *The Blind Side*, we heartily recommend you do so—then come hear Collins’ personal account of this amazing story.

Innovative Leadership Consultant Keynotes Saturday



Bob Upgren has dedicated his life to helping individuals and organizations become everything they were created to be. As an author and independent consultant, he

has been routinely praised by such organizations as the NBA, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Verizon Wireless, Blue

Continued on page 3

Celebrate Constitution Day

Constitution Day was established in federal law to set aside time in schools and colleges to increase awareness of the document and what it means for citizens of the United States. On Friday, **September 17**, schools across the country will commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution, which occurred on that day in 1787.

By searching “constitution day” on the internet you will find multiple websites that provide teachers and administrators excellent, free curricular materials and interactive exercises to capture students’ interest regarding this important day in history.

NDTFFR Statewide Informational Meetings

TFFR Retirement Officer Fay Kopp will review funding challenges and legislative proposals at statewide regional meetings in September. Teachers, administrators, school board members, business managers, legislators, and others interested in the TFFR program are invited to attend. Pre-registration is not required. Check TFFR's website for bill drafts and information about legislative proposals at www.nd.gov/rio/TFFR/Legislation.

Meeting Schedule: All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

- **Grand Forks:** September 7, South Middle School Cafetorium, 1999 47th Ave. S.
- **Fargo:** September 8, South High School Theatre, 1840 S. 15th Ave.
- **Minot:** September 14, Magic City Campus Auditorium, 1100 11th Ave. SW
- **Bismarck:** September 15, Horizon Middle School Cafetorium, 500 Ash Coulee Dr.

bulletin

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from the director's chair

■ by Jon Martinson, NDSBA Executive Director

Joint Boards Meet to Discuss Alternative Teacher Compensation

A unique meeting was held last week at the North Dakota Council of Education Leaders (NDCEL) office in Bismarck. Board members from three education associations (NDCEL, NDSBA, and NDEA) met to discuss pay for performance, also called an "alternative teacher compensation system" (ATCS).

As readers of the *Bulletin* are aware, alternative teacher compensation has received a lot of attention on the federal and state level. In North Dakota, it's being discussed among members of the ND Commission on Education Improvement. Members of the Commission who serve on the Quality Instruction Subcommittee are deeply involved in research and discussion about an alternative to the traditional salary schedule. Executive directors of the three education associations recognized a joint board meeting must occur in order to move the concept forward.

Although details of a new model have not been developed, there are conceptual ideas about how this would work. Most importantly, a new pay system will not be imposed on any school district in North Dakota. Rather, a discussion about ATCS will only occur at the invitation from a school district. Furthermore, teachers, administrators, and school board members will have major input into how an ATCS will fit their needs—there will be flexibility built into the plan.

An ATCS pay system shall provide for teacher pay based on multiple

factors such as, but not limited to: pay for hard-to-staff positions; added knowledge or skills; professional development; student education growth; or added responsibilities such as mentoring, coaching or instructional leadership. ATCS funding may be for an entire district or for individual buildings within a district.

There will also be an opportunity to evaluate the pay plan. After the ATCS has been in effect for one year, a written review will be provided that includes how the program has improved instruction, student educational growth, recruitment and retention of effective teachers, what worked well and what will be modified to make the plan more effective, and any other information relative to the impact the plan has had on teaching and learning.

It's fair to say that the mood throughout the joint board meeting was optimistic and cautiously supportive for developing a new pay plan. One participant said this is a "wonderful opportunity and the time is right."



Meeting of the Joint Boards. From left to right: Jon Martinson (NDSBA); Kirsten Baesler (NDSBA); Tonya Hunsakor (NDCEL); Loren Kersting (NDCEL); Angela Korsmo (NDSBA); Dave King (NDSBA); Mark Berntson (NDEA); Kelly Peters (NDCEL); Dakota Draper (President, NDEA); Doug Johnson (Executive Director, NDCEL); Linda Maize (NDEA); Tracy Klein (NDCEL); Alicia Bata (NDEA); Mike Ness (NDCEL); Brad Srur (NDEA); Greg Burns (Executive Director, NDEA).

DIRECTOR OPENING

Roughrider Area Career and
Technology Center
(Southwest North Dakota)

Position: Director

Contact: Darrel Remington
701-575-4275

Deadline: Open

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Continued from page 1

Cross Blue Shield and many more. He has become an invaluable resource in challenging, mentoring, and teaching people of all ages how to leverage their strengths, counter the culture, and become truly great leaders who focus on serving others.

As one of the emerging thought leaders in the country, Bob is consistently called upon to stand before leaders and high potential team members. His presentation is always unique, fresh and off-beat, but the motive never changes—to inspire others to develop their full potential.

Much of his work today originated years ago. First came the idea of matching sports and faith when he launched Cross Training, Inc., and watched thousands of kids pour into the program. Next, in the spirit of entrepreneurship, Bob attempted to master a new skill in an attempt to further separate himself from other speakers. In just four months he became one of only three new school chalk artists in the world and invitations to motivate, inspire, and perform his amazing chalk art came flooding in from across the country. It would be this chalk art that would grow and develop into an inspiring metaphor.

Bob has extended his impact by teaching individuals and groups how to discover their strengths and pursue their passion. In doing so, Upgren watches in fulfillment as they discover renewed purpose for the work they do and the life they lead.

You will want to start Saturday morning with Bob's inspiring and entertaining presentation.

ND CDE Has New Director

A leadership change has occurred at the North Dakota Center for Distance Education. Dr. Alan Peterson, West Fargo, was named the new director of the CDE in July. His background is marked by diverse experience in both education and business. Peterson taught English and coached in Minnesota and Jamestown, ND. He also taught at North Dakota State College of Science while earning his master's degree. Peterson later attended the University of Minnesota with a Bush Foundation Leadership Fellowship where he earned a Doctor of Education Degree. Most recently, he worked as a management consultant for several U.S. and international companies.

Peterson takes on the leadership role at a time when the Center is moving forward with a reorganization plan. According to Dr. Peterson, the reorganization of the CDE will focus on achieving the following outcomes: more efficient operations, increased collaboration with providers of secondary and middle school education, more effective delivery of distance education, and increased learning.

He said, "We live in exciting and sometimes very challenging times:

- Technology is rapidly changing.
- Our understanding of how the brain functions and how learning occurs is increasing exponentially.
- Access to information via internet has resulted in a democratization of education, while at the same time, making management of learning much more challenging.
- Support mechanisms for communication have never been



Dr. Alan Peterson

so widespread and provided by such a wide variety of means and methods.

"Though much has changed for the positive, we continue to struggle to provide our children an education of

sufficient quality to ensure they are able to learn, grow, and become successful in a fast-changing world. Technology alone is not the answer to all ills that confront our education system. The answer lies somewhere and somehow in our intelligent use and application of technology."

He went on to say, "I would describe the Center this way. CDE is an organization that North Dakota depends on to understand and intelligently apply technology in order to effectively and efficiently produce in middle and high school students the knowledge and skills we know are necessary for living and working well, including and most importantly, learning how to learn. The Center's expert use of technology makes educational opportunities available to students in North Dakota to know no bounds, regardless of location and circumstances."

Peterson will be meeting with the ND Educational Technology Council in September to review and refine goals of the Center's reorganization plan.

ND CDE Can Help with Course Requirements

On July 1, 2010, new graduation and scholarship requirements took effect. Districts should keep in mind that the North Dakota Center for Distance Education (ND CDE) offers several foreign language, career and technical education, AP, and elective courses your students can take to meet these requirements. ND CDE sent new 2010-11 course

catalogs to every district.

New online offerings include

Language Arts 6, 7, and 8; English I II, III, and IV (for grades 9-12); Algebra I and II; and Pre-calculus.

For further information go to www.ndcde.org or contact Barb Meidinger at

(701)231-6007 or Barb.Meidinger@ndcde.org.



Supreme Court Rulings Impact K-12 Schools

June produced two U.S. Supreme Court decisions that impact K-12 schools. Even though neither case directly involved K-12 districts, the decisions are applicable to public school policy.

One ruling upheld a public law school's nondiscrimination policy requiring open membership for all student groups seeking official recognition. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) praised the high court's decision regarding nondiscrimination policies in schools, noting the ruling will allow school districts to preserve equality and maintain nondiscrimination policies for student groups and extracurricular activities.

"It is important that the Supreme Court recognized that nondiscrimination policies are powerful tools in our public

schools," said Anne Bryant, NSBA Executive Director. "This ruling is critical in helping school districts continue to foster an inclusive environment for all students."

A second ruling involved a text messaging privacy case. The Court determined that public officials did not violate a police officer's Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches when they searched text messages on his government-issued pager. NSBA, which collectively represents the largest group of public employers in the

country, praised the unanimous decision regarding public employers' right to search electronic communications. In its amicus brief, NSBA urged the court to recognize the need for schools to access school-issued electronic devices.

NSBA General Counsel Francisco Negron, Jr., said, "We are pleased with the outcome of this case, especially because the court recognized the challenges employers are facing balancing competing interests of rising technology in everyday communications and realities of the workplace. A standard that allows schools to monitor those communications will be a useful tool in ensuring student safety."

IMPORTANT CONVENTION REMINDERS

Service Award Deadline

Service Award forms must be submitted by **September 15**.

Convention Rooms

If you have sleeping rooms reserved at the Ramkota Hotel for the 2010 NDSBA Annual Convention, you must give them a specific name for each reserved room by **October 6** or the rooms will be released.

If a room is reserved for both Thursday and Friday nights and the guest does not arrive on Thursday, the reservation will automatically be canceled for the second night.

Ramkota Hotel reservations (701)224-7700; fax (701)224-8212.

Convention Delegate Designations

Convention delegates and alternates should be clearly noted on the district's registration form which must be submitted **no later than October 15** 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!



2010 NDSBA Annual Convention PRE-CONVENTION

NDSBA New Member Seminar
NDCSA School Law Seminar
Thursday, October 28, 2010
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

ANNUAL CONVENTION
October 29 & 30, 2010
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck