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

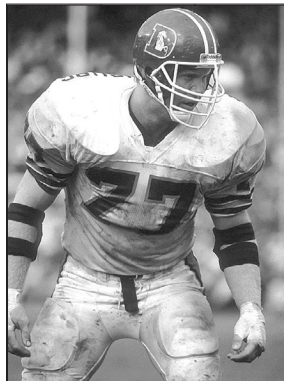
NDSBA Annual Convention Features Four National Keynote Speakers and a Former NSBA President

NDSBA's 2012 Annual Convention will have a slightly different format this year. Two general session speakers will address attendees on both Friday and Saturday. Although this will result in fewer clinic sessions, issues presented during general sessions will be important to board members, business managers, and superintendents.

Also joining us this year is NSBA's past president **C.H. "Sonny" Savoie**. Sonny travels from his home in Louisiana to discuss the National Board Certification program for teachers and the role of school boards. These speakers will provide insight for attendees by sharing their unique knowledge, experience, and background.

Friday's Keynote Speakers

Karl Mecklenburg, former Denver Broncos Captain and All-Pro Linebacker, rose from being a college walk-on and a 12th round draft pick to a pro career that included six Pro Bowl and three Super Bowl appearances. Considered the NFL's most versatile



Karl Mecklenburg

were many games where Mecklenburg played all seven positions in the course of a single game. In 2001, Karl was inducted into the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.

Karl shares with his audiences life lessons he learned in the NFL including the importance of teamwork, courage, dedication, desire, honesty, and goal setting that are his "Six Keys to Success." His story is both humorous and inspirational and promises to leave listeners with a renewed commitment to

player, Karl played all seven defensive front positions. Bronco coaches wanted him at the point of attack and would move him throughout the game. There

their goals.

David Quam is Director of the Office of Federal Relations for the National Governors Association (NGA). The NGA is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations.

Quam brings an extensive track record in developing policy solutions and effectively advocating positions before Congress and the Administration.

Through his years of experience in Washington, Quam has gained expertise in areas including unfunded mandates, federal budgeting and tax, and the Constitution.

As director, Quam oversees all of NGA's lobbying activity and works closely with governors and Congress to advance NGA's legislative priorities. He will share his forecast for our country



David Quam

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Business Manager Certification Program Survey

NDSBA, in conjunction with the North Dakota Association of School Business Managers (NDASBM), is developing a school business manager certification program. As part of this process, we are seeking the input of business managers on their professional development needs. NDSBA sent an email to business managers statewide containing a link to a survey on



this topic and has also placed a link to this survey under "Quick Clicks" on the NDSBA homepage. A link is also available on NDASBM homepage. The survey will take approximately five minutes to complete and will be open from now until September 7. We appreciate business managers' input as it will be instrumental in shaping the certificate curriculum.

■ NDSBA Annual Convention

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in terms of economic recovery and educational competitiveness based on his experience and up-to-date information from around the country.

Saturday Keynote Speakers

Saturday's keynote speakers will address students' socio-economic environment and their physiological makeup. These two issues are on opposite ends of the spectrum yet both are beyond our students' control.

Dr. Ruby Payne, educator and author best known for her book, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, will share her work on the culture of poverty and its relation to education.



Dr. Ruby Payne

Payne will teach us about "hidden rules" that exist in society and about characteristics possessed by members of a socio-economic class (upper,

middle and lower) that make it difficult to communicate and to relate to members of other classes.

Dr. Payne has helped students and adults of all socio-economic backgrounds achieve academic, professional, and personal success. As an expert on the mindsets of economic classes and overcoming the hurdles of poverty, she has trained thousands of professionals who work with people from poverty, including educators, school administrators, and church and business leaders. Dr. Payne's work stems from more than 30 years of experience in public schools as a high school department head, principal, and central office administrator of staff development.

Saturday's second keynote speaker, **Dr. Ken Wesson**, will share facts on the neuroscience of learning, the physiological basis of how learning occurs inside the human brain, and



Dr. Ken Wesson

ways to create learning methods that are "brain-compatible." Dr. Wesson helps his audience understand how the issues of early brain development, emotional intelligence,

diversity in learning, and design and implementation of curriculum all impact how well our students are able to learn. Advancements in 21st century technology have allowed brain research to increase rapidly, thus providing educators with information never before available. School board members have a great responsibility to keep up to date on the latest information.

Pre-register and Join Us

Mark your calendar for October 26-27 and join us at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck for the 2012 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!

IMPORTANT CONVENTION REMINDERS

Service Award Deadline

Service Award forms must be submitted by **September 14**.

Convention Rooms

If you have sleeping rooms reserved at the Ramkota Hotel for the 2012 NDSBA Annual Convention, you must give them a specific name for each reserved room by **October 3** 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) 258-7700; fax (701) 224-8212.

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 12** 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!

bulletin

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Governor's Education Summit

Governor Jack Dalrymple hosted a Governor's Education Summit in Dickinson on August 1, bringing together over 100 key educational leaders and officials from 20 different school districts and Higher Ed to discuss current status of our schools and share best practices. Governor Dalrymple used the opportunity to share a \$225 million proposal to enhance state support for school districts facing rapid student enrollment.

Dalrymple's proposal includes:

- Setting aside \$200 million in the state's strategic investment and improvement fund to provide low-interest loans to qualified school districts throughout the state—not just in the oil counties—for the construction of new schools or for improvements or expansions to existing school buildings. Schools could receive up to \$20 million for a project and at interest rates as low as one percent. Loan applications would be received and approved by the superintendent of public instruction based on need and the relative wealth of the school district. Loans would not be considered a debt for school districts in oil-producing counties, but rather a prepayment of future oil tax allocations.
- Setting aside \$25 million in oil and gas impact grant funds during the 2013-15 biennium solely for rapidly growing schools impacted by oil development. Dalrymple said this money could be used for teacher housing, transportation issues, meeting needs of new and existing students, or anything that they can show is an impact due to oil development. These grants are funded with oil tax revenue. Dalrymple has said he again wants the state to set aside a total of \$135 million for impact grants for the next biennium to

help all local government entities in oil country.

- Forming an advisory group of western school superintendents, teachers, counselors, and school board members to keep state officials informed of school enrollments and immediate challenges. Dalrymple recently announced the appointment of Dr. Rick Buresh, former superintendent of Fargo Public Schools, as an adviser on rapidly growing schools. Dr. Buresh will assist superintendents and other school officials with planning and growth strategies.

Guest speaker at the Summit was

Superintendent David Vroonland of Frenship Independent School District in Texas. Vroonland chairs the Texas Fast Growth Schools Coalition, an organization of 102 fast growth schools in the state. Vroonland stressed the importance of school districts using demographers

who specialize in school demographic predictions. Every rapid enrollment school in Texas has a contract with a school demographer. Vroonland also repeatedly stressed the importance of involving and communicating with the whole community while planning and making decisions, saying "It's their kids, it's their money, and it's their schools." Dr. Vroonland identified a fear that most communities experience as they see rapid growth occurring. He said he senses that fear is the same in North Dakota: How can we protect and preserve our safe sense of community, friendliness and security in our towns? Vroonland said the answer is the schools. "School districts are the epicenters of culture and community of every town. Foster friendly relationships and quality educational experiences in your schools and your town will maintain its quality North Dakota way of life."

Oil industry experts provided insights



Governor Jack Dalrymple

“School districts are the epicenters of culture and community of every town. Foster friendly relationships and quality educational experiences in your schools and your town will maintain its quality North Dakota way of life.”

David Vroonland, Chairman of the Texas Fast Growth Schools Coalition

on the rapid growth in their industry, what they see for future growth in North Dakota, and how educational leaders can partner with companies to meet their needs. Mark Johnsrud of Power Fuels Oil Service Company sees the need for housing for his truck drivers based in Watford City so his company is building four 42-unit apartment complexes and 54 patio homes. Steve McNally, a Hess Corporation general manager, said companies will start looking for efficiencies but doesn't see any massive layoffs; instead, his company expects more workers will become permanent residents rather than flying in to work every two weeks at a big expense to the company. Russel Ranking, a regional manager for Statoil, said the Bakken-Three Forks is not another boom and bust. Instead, he sees another 14 years or so of drilling and another 35,000 new wells. "And that's just in the Bakken-Three Forks," he said.

Roundtable discussions included the following critical education-related topics: finance and housing; planning for a bond vote; maximizing school facilities; forecasting property tax collections; managing new construction projects; transient student needs, records; teacher recruitment strategies; enrollment projections; bussing and transportation; and fast growth issues with ND perspective. Conclusions of these discussions and ideas generated can be found at <http://www.commerce.nd.gov/uploads/resources/537/roundtable-discussion-notes.pdf>

New TFFR Funding Contributions Take Affect

Teacher Fund For Retirement is the pension benefit provided to the state's public school teachers and administrators. Due to a funding shortfall created by the downturn in financial markets in 2008-2009, HB1134 was approved in the 2011 legislative session to create a long-term solution. The first of these changes took effect July 1, 2012.

Employer and employee contributions will increase a total of 8% shared equally between employers (4%) and employees (4%). The rate increases will be phased in as follows:

	Prior to 7/1/12	Effective 7/1/12	Effective 7/1/14
Employer	8.75%	10.75%	12.75%
Employee	<u>7.75%</u>	<u>9.75%</u>	<u>11.75%</u>
Total	16.50%	20.50%	24.50%

The increased employer and employee contribution rates will be effective until TFFR reaches a 90% funded level on an actuarial basis at which time the contribution rates will be reduced to 7.75% each.

It is possible contribution rates may have been part of your school district's negotiated agreement. Check with your business manager to learn what impact this is having on your school district's budget. A 9.75% employee contribution is required on all salary earned by re-employed retirees performing TFFR-covered employment as well.

Policy Services Renewal Reminder

NDSBA mailed Policy Services renewal notices to school districts in June. Districts that would like to access renewal information online can download it at <http://www.ndsba.org/Policies/2012-13membershipform.pdf>.

Policy Services membership is

\$250 annually and includes access to a monthly online policy newsletter, sample policies, and policy consultation. Districts that join this program may elect to participate in other fee-based plans such as our required policy manual and customized policy manual services.

Legislative Election

This month's *Bulletin* contains an insert with questions addressing candidate's views on education issues. Board members and administrators are encouraged to use these questions to conduct interviews of their North Dakota Senate and House candidates or share them with local newspapers or candidate forum groups in their district.



mark
your calendar

2012 NDSBA Annual Convention PRE-CONVENTION

NDSBA New Member Seminar
NDCSA School Law Seminar
Thursday, October 25, 2012
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

ANNUAL CONVENTION
October 26 & 27, 2012
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2013 NSBA Annual Conference

April 13-15, 2013
San Diego, California

2013 NDSBA Annual Convention

October 24-26, 2013
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck