Election Deadlines
North Dakota election laws are specific regarding dates and deadlines. Relevant election law is found in NDCC 15.1-09. Election deadline information and a sample calendar were included in the January Bulletin and are posted on NDSBA’s website at www.ndsba.org under “Quick Clicks.”

Superintendent Evaluations
North Dakota law requires that a school board complete the superintendent’s evaluation before March 15. A sample evaluation is available online at http://ndsba.org/Resources/ResourcesIndex.asp.

NSBA Federal Legislative Priorities for the 114th Congress

The National School Boards Association has identified three key legislative priorities that are essential to the success of our students and schools. They are:

Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
- Increase flexibility and authority for local school districts: We urge school districts to support passage of the Schock-Meehan Amendment or specific language similar to Sec. 5531* of H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, which was the House-passed ESEA reauthorization in 2013. This measure affirms the role of states and local school districts in facilitating local innovation and student achievement, without placing undue burdens on districts that would adversely impact effective governance, including district budgets, staffing and operations, and overall student outcomes.
- Maximize Title I resources: Maximizing Title I grants for disadvantaged students is critical to achieving goals of the new law. Amplified resources are paramount to support student achievement efforts at roughly 90 percent of the 14,000 public school districts across the nation that utilize Title I grants.

Federal Funding for Education
- Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Increasing the federal share of funding for special education is vital and should be addressed before considering future funding for newly created programs that may not have proven results for program effectiveness. Current federal appropriations provide roughly 16 percent of the cost to educate students with disabilities. Many local school districts are struggling to pay for needed services under students’ individualized education plans (IEP).
- Enact the IDEA Full Funding Act: This legislation would establish a 10-year glide path for full funding that will provide the necessary resources to address the unique learning needs of the more than 6.5 million children with disabilities, preschool through age 21.

Reauthorization of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act
- Restore local school board governance, provide sufficient federal funding, and address the impact of the current law on school district budgets and operations in the reauthorization, including:
  √ Indirect cost rules
  √ Frequency of compliance reviews
  √ National standards for school meals
  √ Mandatory standards for competitive foods
  √ Paid meal pricing regulation
  √ National professional standards for all school food personnel
  √ Requirements for local school wellness plans, including marketing restrictions
- Provide local school boards with opportunities to improve the law and administrative policy.

*Sec. 5531 of H.R. 5, the Student Success Act

The Secretary shall not:
1. Impose any requirements or exercise any governance or authority over school administration, including the development and expenditure over school budgets, unless explicitly authorized under this ACT;
2. Issue any regulations or non-regulatory guidance without first consulting with local stakeholders and fairly addressing their concerns; or
3. Deny any local educational agency the right to object to any administrative requirement, including actions that place additional burdens or cost on the local educational agency.

REMINDERS

Election Deadlines
North Dakota election laws are specific regarding dates and deadlines. Relevant election law is found in NDCC 15.1-09. Election deadline information and a sample calendar were included in the January Bulletin and are posted on NDSBA’s website at www.ndsba.org under “Quick Clicks.”
Jim Rostad Receives Award

Jim Rostad, president of the NDSBA Board of Directors, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minot City Parent Teachers’ Association during a ceremony held on February 2, 2015, in Minot. The award recognized Jim’s leadership on the Minot School Board since 2004, where he currently serves as president.

Working with others to find positive solutions, including the Souris River flood of 2011, Jim and his fellow board members lead the effort to ensure a quick recovery for the school district. The district was able to develop a plan to ensure every child would have a desk and a classroom at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. Jim’s focus is always to make decisions based on what is best for students.

Congratulations Jim!

NDSBA Hosts Annual Negotiations Seminar

The North Dakota School Boards Association hosted its annual Negotiations Seminar on February 6.

Attendees including Jim Rostad, Scott Moum, and Mark Vollmer from Minot

Dr. Viola LaFontaine, Williston Superintendent and Sara Kasmer, Williston Board Member

Attendees at the Negotiations Seminar

Barrett Christina, attorney with the New Hampshire School Boards Association, presenting on Employee Misconduct

Dean Rummel, Chair, North Dakota Education Fact Finding Commission

Lisa Kudelka, HR Director, Bismarck Public Schools

Jim Johnson, Fargo Board of Education
February 27, 2015, is the crossover date for the 64th Legislative Session. Crossover is the date when bills that originated in one house must pass to the other house.

Bills affecting legislation can be tracked through information on NDSBA’s website at http://ndsba.org/legislation/BillTracking.asp. A legislative newsletter is published online each Friday. Six of the seven bills introduced at NDSBA’s request have passed in their house of origin. The seventh bill was defeated in the Senate.

**House Bill 1251** changes the timeframe that teachers have to return to contract, 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. An additional provision that would have eliminated retroactive pay increases was eliminated from the bill. The bill passed the House 58-34.

**House Bill 1315** clarifies requirements for salary increases for unfillable positions. This bill passed the House 60-32.

**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 and 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. The bill passed the House 59-31.

**Senate Bill 2145** expands authority for BCI criminal history record checks to special education units, career and technical education units, and regional education units. The bill passed the Senate 47-0.

**Senate Bill 2152** allows a board to delegate suspension authority of a staff member to the superintendent. The bill passed the Senate 46-0.

**Senate Bill 2181** clarifies that the school district business manager is an employee of the board. The bill also repeals sections 21-06-05 and 21-06-06 and addresses which school district records need to be retained permanently. The bill passed the Senate 47-0.

Other bills that have passed and will be sent to the other house are:

- **House Bill 1131** removes superintendents and teachers from the exception to the veterans’ preference law.
- **House Bill 1195** allows an individual twenty-one years or older possessing a valid concealed weapons license to carry a firearm concealed on school property, if the individual has the approval of the school board.
- **House Bills 1302, 1333, and 1348** relating to voting requirements and qualifications of electors, voter identification, and absent voters’ ballots.
- **Senate Bill 2039 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 4003** both amend uses of the foundation aid stabilization fund. The bill transfers funds to the school construction assistance loan fund and a scholarship fund. The resolution proposes to amend the constitutional provisions related to the foundation aid stabilization fund.
- **Senate Bill 2088** creates a North Dakota Education Foundation. The Foundation shall pursue and distribute private sector moneys for use in education-related activities.
- **Senate Bill 2210** creates new sections of law related to Regional Education Associations.

Several bills on NDSBA’s tracking list have not received action as of the time of this publication, including:

- an exception for elected public officials to carry concealed weapons on public property (HB1157)
- supplemental payments for increased enrollment (HB1216)
- voter identification (HB1389)
- legislative sessions in even numbered years (HB1342)
- school district resource officer appropriation (HB1388)
- Department of Public Instruction budget (SB2013)
- education funding bill (SB2031)
- early childhood appropriation (SB2151)
- school construction loan appropriation (SB2178)
NDSBA Board Members meet with Congressional Delegation during Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C., on February 3, 2015