



# bulletin



JANUARY 2011

*Excellence in North Dakota public education through local school board governance* ■ VOL XXXVI ISSUE 1

## 2011 Session Begins

The Sixty-Second Legislative Assembly convened on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. NDSBA is tracking about 80 bills at this point, including those related to school approval, Teachers' Fund for Retirement, property tax relief/reform, bullying, alternative compensation, K-12 funding, district policy, and required curriculum. You can access bills being tracked and follow the association's legislative activities during the Session by clicking "Legislation" on NDSBA's website: [www.ndsba.org](http://www.ndsba.org).

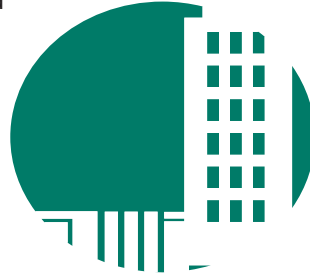
As this publication goes to print, there has been little activity on major education bills, but there will be by mid-February. This is how quickly things happen once the Session moves into high gear. It is important to check our website often for updates and bill status.

**SB2150** is the comprehensive education policy bill that contains recommendations of the Commission on Education Improvement. Elements of the bill include foundation aid payment levels, formula factor adjustments, provision for Supplemental Teacher Effectiveness Compensation Plans (formerly called Alternative Compensation Plans), revenue source for continuation of the ND Scholarships, and REA required offerings. You can find a link to a summary of **SB2150** on NDSBA's home page under

"Quick Clicks." The Senate Education Committee is hearing this bill on January 25. Since **SB2150** has multiple sections, the hearing will be at least a day long and committee work on the bill will likely continue into mid-February.

The House Education Committee has heard **HB1029** that changes the school approval process and imposes severe penalties for late or inaccurate reporting. This bill was drafted by the Interim Education Committee with the intent of streamlining the approval process, making approval notification more timely, and providing a meaningful penalty for late reporting. Because NDSBA and the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders (NDCEL) raised several concerns about the bill during testimony, Chairman Kelsch appointed a subcommittee to work through the issues. The subcommittee was receptive to most of our objections. We are waiting to see if the bill is changed to address our concerns before giving it our support.

**HB1134** is the Teachers' Fund for



Retirement (TFFR) bill that contains employer and employee contribution increases as well as benefit reductions for future retirees. Along with NDCEL and NDEA, NDSBA supports the bill as an unfortunate necessity given the condition of the fund.

There will be considerable discussion in days ahead regarding practicality of funding defined benefit plans in the future. **HB1258** recommends all new members to the retirement system be placed in defined contribution plans, which means their retirement benefits will be determined on the value of their contributions at the time of their retirement instead of being guaranteed a specified dollar amount regardless of the financial condition of the state fund, which is the case with the current defined benefit plan. Regardless of what is decided about defined contribution plans, TFFR changes included in **HB1134** are needed to build the fund.

Bullying prevention is a prevalent topic this Session. **HB1147**, **HB1250**, **HB1465**, and **SB2167** contain policy and prevention program requirements for school districts regarding bullying. NDSBA, NDCEL, and NDEA worked with the attorney general's office to write **HB1465**. All House bullying bills will be heard at one time and assigned to a subcommittee to produce one bill. NDSBA will be working toward a final bill that is realistic, enforceable, and respectful of local control. It is also important that school policy regarding bullying addresses only those activities

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## School Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month. NDSBA thanks those individuals who devote time and energy to North Dakota students by serving on their local school boards. They are extraordinary citizens.

North Dakotans know the best government is closest to

the people it serves. Board members live and work close to students, parents, and educators and, therefore, know their needs and desires better than anyone.

The work of school boards forms the foundation for excellence in instruction and student academic success.

## ■ SESSION BEGINS

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and locations over which the school has control.

In addition to bills mentioned above, we encourage you to take note of the following:

**HB1047**--Property tax relief bill with mill levy reduction grants

**HB1143**--Adds one unit of World History to current graduation requirements

**HB1229**--Requires abstinence-based health curriculum

**HB1248**--Requires North Dakota to join the Interstate Compact for Education of Military Children

**HB1278**--Allows time for kindergarten readiness and formative assessments

**HB1342**--Allows patrons to refer a school district's proposed budget

**SB2013**--DPI budget

Board members will want to communicate regularly with local legislators regarding bills that impact their districts. It is also important to build coalitions with parent, business, and farm organizations to broaden advocacy efforts. Legislators are always interested in local impact of proposed legislation.

## bulletin

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# from the director's chair

■ by Jon Martinson, NDSBA Executive Director

## A Note of Thanks

As most of you know, NDSBA moved into a new building recently. It's a comfortable facility, we are all on the same floor, and we finally have adequate room for parking.

There are a couple of things we are especially pleased about. Passersby will notice the most distinguishing architectural feature—one that identifies the building as associated with education—a unique bell tower complete with an authentic school bell donated by Don Schaible, a former member of the Mott-Regent School Board and now serving in the North Dakota Senate.

You will need to come inside to experience the other special feature—our board room. The North Dakota Council of School Attorneys made a generous donation and requested that funds be used to enhance amenities in the board room. With this gift, we upgraded chairs from vinyl to leather, added a large screen television that can be used for Power Point presentations,



and are in the process of selecting wall decor. As recognition of this gift, we are delighted to dedicate the board room to the North Dakota Council of School Attorneys.

## Superintendent Evaluation Deadline March 15

North Dakota law requires that a school board complete the superintendent's summative evaluation process **before March 15**. This means all paperwork, compilations, and public discussion of the evaluation must occur before March 15. A board cannot complete the process if they wait until its March meeting.

It is best to start the process early in February to ensure compliance with the deadline.

## NDSBA Negotiations Seminar

NDSBA's Negotiations Seminar will be held **February 4 and 5, 2011**, at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The following Early Bird Sessions will be held on **Thursday, February 3**: 1:00 p.m.--Nonrenewals; and 7:00 p.m.--Shortage of Board Candidates in Reorganized Districts.

Registration forms are at: <http://www.ndsba.org/Events/NegSem2011regis.pdf>. Call the Ramkota Hotel at (701)258-7700 for sleeping room reservations.

# Baesler Receives Recognition

NDSBA board member Kirsten Baesler of the Mandan School Board has received national and statewide recognition in the past few months.

In December, National School Boards

Association President Earl C. Rickman appointed Kirsten to represent the Western Region on NSBA's 2011 National Nominating



Committee. She was chosen among board members in the nine-state region. This appointment is made to a school board member who exhibits strong leadership on his/her local board, through the state association, and participation on the national level.

In response to her appointment Baesler said, "I'm very honored to have been chosen by President Rickman to represent the Western Region on the Nominating Committee. The people involved with this work have such deep commitment to improving public education. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the national leadership decisions of our organization."

Just previous to her NSBA appointment, Kirsten received the North Dakota Library Association's President's Recognition Award for meritorious service to the library profession and the NDLA.

Congratulations to Kirsten for these well deserved honors!

## REMINDER: NDSBA Address Change

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 7128  
Bismarck ND 58507-7128

**Street Address:**  
1224 West Owens Avenue  
Bismarck ND 58501

## Education Technology Showcase Teams Named

Ten North Dakota K-12 classrooms have been chosen by EduTech to participate in the Education Technology Showcase being held in the Great Hall of the Capitol in Bismarck on **February 16, 2011**. Students will be present to demonstrate technology usage.

Legislators have been invited to visit each school's technology demonstration booth from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Participating schools are:

**Sheyenne Valley Area CTC**--PC Construction, Skype (Frank Egan)

**Turtle Mountain Middle School**--Interdisciplinary Community Project (Claudette Gourneau)

**Burlington Des Lacs Elementary**--Google Apps (Kayla Anderson)

**ND Center for Distance Education**--Online Curriculum (Barb Meidinger)

**Horizon Middle School, Bismarck**--ActivExpressions, Doc Cameras, Flip Video (Kathy Berg)

**Fessenden-Bowdon School**--1:1 Laptops=21st Century Classrooms (Nancy Bollingberg)

**Harvey High School**--ActivBoard Lessons for Review (Shane Sagert)

**McClusky High School**--Using Games to Master Stock Market (Tara Vollmer)

**Myhre and Saxvik Schools, Bismarck**--Technology-Integrated Project-Based Social Studies (Tanna Kincaid)

**Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock**--EduSocial: Social Networking in Safe Environment (Tami Naaden)

If you are in Bismarck on Wednesday, February 16, stop in the Great Hall and check out the amazing things being done with educational technology.

## K-12 Community Outreach Grants Available

EduTech will be awarding \$5,000 grants to 30 North Dakota K-12 public and/or nonpublic schools to offer technology-based workshops for

community members. Funding is made available through the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program. The goal is to extend professional development to adult education programs in North Dakota communities via teacher/administrator teams.

Applications are due by midnight on February 23, 2011. Details are available at <https://blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/grants/>.

## Attention Business Managers

On December 17, 2010, President Obama signed the "Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act." This law provides new tax exemptions and extends current tax rates for 2011. A major change creates a one-year change in the Social Security payroll system.

Employees will receive a reduction of two percentage points in Social Security payroll taxes in 2011. Rates are reduced from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent for employees. Employers must adjust withholding amounts no later than January 31, 2011. The employer share of FICA taxes is not being reduced.

## 2012 CONVENTION DATES

The 2012 NDSBA Annual Convention will be held on **October 26-27, 2012**, at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The School Law Seminar and New Member Seminar will be held on October 25, also at the Ramkota. The Ramkota is now taking reservations for those dates at (701)258-7700.

## Session Dates and Deadlines

February 25	Deadline for bills to cross over to the other chamber
February 28-March 1	Crossover recess
April 6	Bills must be reported out of committee
April 28	80th day—Constitutional limit for Session duration

You can access all legislative information on the Legislative Council website at: [www.legis.nd.gov](http://www.legis.nd.gov).



### **Powers Lake School District**

Contact: Linda Fredrickson, BsMgr.  
PO Box 346  
Powers Lake, ND 58773  
(701)464-5432  
[Linda.Fredrickson@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:Linda.Fredrickson@sendit.nodak.edu)  
Deadline: Open

### **Richland School District**

Contact: Kendra Dockter, BsMgr.  
110 Main  
Colfax, ND 58018  
(701)372-3713  
[kendra.dockter@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:kendra.dockter@sendit.nodak.edu)  
Deadline: Open

## **Nonrenewal Representatives Available**

NDSBA trains field representatives to assist districts with nonrenewals. If you are in need of this service, call NDSBA at (800)932-8791.

## Qwest Teacher and Technology Grants Awarded

The Qwest Foundation offers competitive grants to teachers for programs that use technology or the Internet in innovative ways to advance student achievement. The following North Dakota teachers were awarded \$5,000 grants to support technology strategies in their schools:

**Barb Sandstrom**, Bismarck Roosevelt Elementary School  
**Jeff Rerick and Jennifer Fritz**, Grafton Central Middle School  
**Joel Foss, Brett Omdahl, and Mary Jelinek**, Manvel Public School  
**Molly Bestge**, West Fargo STEM Center  
**Virjean Cramer and JoAnn Teets**, West Fargo Westside Elementary School

Project summaries are at: [www.ndetc.k12.nd.us](http://www.ndetc.k12.nd.us).

## **STATE MILEAGE RATE CHANGES!**

As of January 1, 2011, the state rate for mileage reimbursement is **\$.51 per mile**. State law ties mileage reimbursement to federal rates. The state received notice that federal mileage rates would be increased as of January 1 and has followed suit. Federal rates change periodically but on no set schedule. Updates are posted on the North Dakota Office of Management and Budget website at: <http://www.nd.gov/fiscal/policies/> under the link: 2009-2011 Updates to Fiscal Policies



**2011 NDSBA Negotiations Seminar**  
February 4-5, 2011  
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

**2011 NSBA Annual Conference**  
April 9-11, 2011  
San Francisco, CA

**2011 NDSBA Annual Convention**  
PRE-CONVENTION  
*NDSBA New Member Seminar*  
*NDCSA School Law Seminar*  
Thursday, October 27, 2011  
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

ANNUAL CONVENTION  
October 28 & 29, 2011  
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck