2013 NDSBA Convention Will Educate and Inspire

NDSBA’s Annual Convention will be held October 25-26 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The schedule is full of informative and educational sessions. Since individual board members will not be able to attend them all, it is a good idea for boards to review clinic sessions ahead of time, attend as many different sessions as possible, and later share what was learned. Issues presented during general sessions and clinic sessions will be important to board members, business managers, and superintendents.

Keynote Speakers

Friday, 8:15 a.m.

Imagination Library
ND First Lady Betsy Dalrymple

Friday, 8:30 a.m.

The Richest Man in Town
V.J. Smith

Clinic Sessions include the following topics:

- Providing Choice to Students and Schools through the Center for Distance Education
- Practical Tips for Avoiding Special Education Legal Disputes
- State Longitudinal Data System and SEED Project
- Superintendent Selection, Assessment of Applications, and Preparing for December Evaluations
- Hot Topics in Home Education
- Standards for College and Career Readiness and the Smarter Balanced Assessment
- Principal and Teacher Evaluation and the Role of the School Board
- Let the Sun Shine on School Board Meetings...Even at Night
- Vertical Curriculum Alignment through the Common Core
- Developing Board Unity and Positive Relations Inside and Outside the Board Room
- Adjudicated Youth – What Happens to Your Kids

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

How Children Learn: Brain Research and Inquiry-based Science
Dr. Ken Wesson

- Property Tax Relief and Schools: Trying to Meet Legislative Intent in Your School District
- Mastery-based Learning
- Understanding and Implementing the School Medication Law
- Tips on Passing a School Bond Issue
- Avoiding Blunders when Dealing with Classified Staff Members
- 2013 TFFR Update
- A conversation with State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday.
- On Saturday at 10:00 a.m., Senator Dwight Cook and Representative David Rust will discuss legislative issues including school safety grants, the new education funding formula, and educating taxpayers about the relationship between demanding public services and paying the tax bill.
- Consult NDSBA’s website at www.ndsba.org to view clinic session times.
- See you October 25-26 in Bismarck!

Handbook for School Board Members Updated

NDSBA’s Handbook for School Board Members has been updated to reflect changes in state and federal law. The handbook is available online at: http://www.ndsba.org/handbook/search.asp.

In the Table of Contents, titles of sections that have been updated are in red. If you have hard copies of the handbook, be sure to discard outdated sections and replace them with new ones. It is important that you use the most recent version of each section.
Supporters Circulate School Start Date Petition

It seems every year some individual, group, or organization wants school to begin after Labor Day. Typically the approach has been to have a bill introduced in the state legislature and change state law by passing a bill requiring a later start date. This past legislative session was no exception, yet fortunately, HB1248 received a DO NOT PASS recommendation from the House Education Committee and was defeated in the House on a 35-53 vote. The Legislative Assembly has consistently defeated bills that would mandate a later start date. This past year was no exception, yet the approach has been to have a bill introduced in the state legislature and requiring a later start date. This past year was no exception, yet the approach has been to have a bill introduced in the state legislature and requiring a later start date.

However, the most recent tactic is by a group interested in placing an initiated measure on the November 2014 ballot. The group, who favors starting school after Labor Day, recently received approval of their petition language from North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger. The language is clearly stated:

15.1-06-03. School year-Definition

The school year begins on July first and ends on June thirtieth of the following year. School classes shall begin after Labor Day.

Our association is fully supportive of the initiated measure process and having the general public vote on important issues of the day. It’s all part of the democratic process. However, the public needs to make an effort to learn about the implications of this measure. Proponents and opponents of a later start date will spend considerable time, energy, and resources communicating consequences of this measure to the public.

A later school start date has consequences. North Dakota law requires 175 days of instruction, plus professional development days for teachers, and parent-teacher conferences which total 182 days overall. Therefore, the school calendar either needs to be adjusted or students get out of school in June. Consider Bev Nielson’s legislative testimony that highlights the dilemma: “When parents or the public are asked if they think school should start after Labor Day they say ‘sure.’ And when asked if they want a decent break at Christmas, they say ‘of course.’ Would you like a spring break too? ‘Well naturally’ is the response. When do you think the school year should end? ‘Before Memorial Day’ is the common reply.” Cleary, something’s gotta give.

The tradeoff is very clear—either August through May or September through June. It’s one or the other. Grab your local school calendar and start counting the days (including holidays). It’s elementary math. We never hear conversations about a later start date in mid-May when the temperature begins to warm and students are anxious to get outside and enjoy the spring weather. Why is that?

NDSBA’s position is that the school calendar should be a local decision made by the school board with input from the community.

NSBA 2014 Annual Conference Registration & Housing Opens

The 2014 NSBA Annual Conference will be held April 5-7 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Conference registration and housing reservation will open on Wednesday, October 23. You can register online at: www.nsba.org under Conferences and Events. You must be registered for the conference before you can make hotel reservations through the housing bureau.
Meet the 2013 NDSBA Candidates

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT
Greg Allen...Jamestown

Greg Allen has been a resident of North Dakota for 41 years. He graduated from Valley City State University with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and is currently Administration Manager for Cavendish Farms in Jamestown.

Greg has served on the Jamestown School Board since 1994. He was elected to NDSBA’s Board of Directors in 2009. Governor Hoeven appointed Greg to the Education Standards and Practices Board in 2007 where he served for six years, including two years as chair. He currently serves on the North Dakota State Commission on National and Community Service and has recently been reappointed by Governor Dalrymple to the ND Health Council for another three years. Greg has been active on additional state and local boards including the ND Workforce Development Council, the ND Round Table on Higher Education (private sector), Jamestown United Way (board chairman), North Dakota Safety Council Board of Directors (Safety Professional of the Year), and Jamestown Mayor’s Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities. He has given presentations to many organizations such as Jamestown Character Counts, North Dakota Business Challenge, Marketplace for Kids, and the VCSU Fellowship of Christian Athletes/Campus Crusade for Christ.

Greg is married and has four grown children and nine grandchildren. His wife Mary is a Special Education Strategist teaching math and reading at Jamestown Middle School.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT
Jim Rostad...Minot

As a resident of rural Minot, Jim brings a unique blend of experiences to the NDSBA. Rostad graduated from Carpio High School and attended Minot State University. Jim is retired from a 40-year career in the auto collision repair industry. Founder of Minot’s Finest Collision Center, Jim was active in state and national auto body industry organizations and was a columnist for “Body Shop Business,” the most highly recognized industry journal in the nation. Jim served as a board member and president of the North Dakota Auto Body Association and as chairman of the state convention. His contributions to the auto body industry in the state were recognized when he was inducted into the ND Auto Body Association’s Hall of Fame in 2012. His 40 years of management experience helped him develop valuable decision-making skills.

Jim’s school board experience includes serving as a member of the Minot Public School Board from 1988–1992 and from 2004 to present. Jim was president from 1990–1992 and again in 2012 and 2013. Rostad has attended several NSBA conferences, and as the board’s liaison to the Minot Air Force Base School Board, he has attended several National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) conferences in Washington, D.C. Jim has served on NDSBA’s Governmental Affairs Committee for the last eight years and was elected to the NDSBA Board of Directors as the representative from the Northwest region in 2010 and as vice president in 2012.

Jim is a past board member and chairman of the Minot Housing Authority, a member of the Minot Area Development Corporation, and a former member and chairman of the Board of Trustees of his church, where he and his wife Verla are active members. Jim and Verla have two grown children and three grandchildren.

CANDIDATE FOR SOUTHWEST DIRECTOR
Ben Auch...Mott-Regent

Ben Auch graduated from Mott High School in 1993, attended NDSCS, and graduated in 1996 with an Associate’s Degree in Diesel Technology. Since 2007 he has been partnered with his brother-in-law in a custom manure spreading business.

Ben was elected to the Mott/Regent School Board in 2004. He has been on several board committees, including eight years on negotiations with the last three as chief negotiator. Ben was appointed to the NDHSA’s board of directors in 2010, serving on constitutions and by-laws, programs and promotions, and realignment committees. He was elected to the NDSBA board of directors in 2012 to complete the term of Kirsten Baesler. He has been on NDSBA nominating and ballot counting committees and is a Barb Norby Scholarship winner. He has also testified at the state legislature many times for NDSBA, NDHSA, and his local school board, and has been to Washington, D.C., twice for NSBA’s Federal Relations Network Conference. Ben has served on the Head Start Policy Council, been a fireman and an EMT, a referee for junior high and junior varsity football, and community organizer for two visits of the CANDISC bicycle tour in Mott. He is very active in his community as a 4th grade basketball coach, working with the county fair board, 4-H, Knights of Columbus, and church parish council.

Ben has been married to his high school sweetheart, Nadra, for 16 years and has two children Kaden (10) and Kendra (8).

CANDIDATE FOR NORTHEAST DIRECTOR
Jennifer Johnson...Larimore

Education has been an interest for Jennifer Johnson for many years, resulting in board service at the district, regional, and state levels. A board member at Larimore since 2003, Jennifer is currently serving as president. She also served for six years on the Red River Valley Education Cooperative board and Legislative Issues Committee and for the past year as Northeast Director on the NDSBA Board of Directors. A graduate from the University of North Dakota, Jennifer also serves on an education committee within the school of business at her alma mater.

A member of the negotiations committee for several years at Larimore, Jennifer presented “Lessons Learned from Impasse” at the 2011 NDSBA Negotiations Seminar outlining Larimore’s experience in the impasse process. She also co-presented a discussion on REA objectives at the 2006 NDSBA Annual Convention and testified at an education committee hearing on behalf of the state’s REAs in 2007.

Jennifer has been a member of the engineering department at Minn Kota Power Cooperative since 1981. She and her husband, Mike, run a farm/ranch operation in western Grand Forks County and have one son, Reece, a sophomore at Larimore. Providing a quality educational experience for our state’s youth is the driving force behind Jennifer’s involvement with boards. Her guiding philosophy in all the varied ways she serves is that, ultimately, it is all about the students.
Gov. Jack Dalrymple and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Kirsten Baesler today named Aaron Knodel, an English language arts teacher at West Fargo High School (WFHS), as North Dakota’s 2014 Teacher of the Year.

The announcement was made during a ceremony at WFHS that was attended by administrators, educators, representatives from the state’s education associations, and students.

Dalrymple and Baesler were joined by West Fargo Public Schools Superintendent David Flowers, WFHS Principal Jennifer Fremstad and Sheyenne 9th Grade Center Principal Greg Grooters.

Knodel was selected from a pool of four finalists that included Julie Jaeger, a K-5 gifted education teacher from Minot Public Schools; Debra Nelson, a science teacher from Bottineau High School; and Kristi Shanenko, an English language arts teacher from Valley City Junior-Senior High School.

“North Dakota has one of the best educational systems in the country and that is due in large part to the great work that is going on in classrooms across our state,” Dalrymple said. “Aaron exemplifies North Dakota’s outstanding teachers who are dedicated to education excellence and to helping our young people achieve their full potential.”

“Aaron is an example of these high caliber instructors who make a daily difference in the lives of all the students in their classrooms and school,” Baesler said.

“I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to represent this noble profession,” Knodel said.

Nominations for Teacher of the Year must come from a teacher, school administrator, school district board member, local education association, student or parent, and are reviewed by a seven-member selection panel. Knodel will now advance to the national Teacher of the Year program.

Superintendent Evaluations

North Dakota law requires that school boards complete a formative evaluation of superintendents before December 15 [NDCC 15.1-14-03]. This evaluation must take place at an open public meeting. One purpose of the December evaluation is to highlight areas of performance in need of improvement and provide an improvement plan and timeline for expected enhanced performance. The law regarding superintendent evaluations states that if the superintendent is found to be unsatisfactory in any area, the board shall detail its findings in the report and make recommendations. This process allows opportunity for professional growth before the superintendent’s formal summative evaluation in April.

New Website

The North Dakota School Business Manager Certification Program has launched a new website. The site contains information on the program and access to course content for students. The web address is: http://ndsbmcp.org/.