



bulletin



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Excellence in North Dakota public education through local school board governance ■ VOL XLIII ISSUE 6

Burgum, Baesler Highlight Progress at Second Annual Governor’s Summit on Innovative Education

Governor Doug Burgum, State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler, and education leaders from across the state highlighted the progress made during the past year to transform education in North Dakota at the second annual Governor’s Summit on Innovative Education at Northern Cass School near Hunter.

“Last year we challenged educators and school districts to transform education to address the opportunities and demands of the 21st century, and that innovation is now on display all over the state,” Burgum said. “We have the ideas, the people and the momentum we need to make North Dakota the nation’s leader in education. While there is more work to be done, we are making great progress, and we must continue to empower people on the front lines to keep innovating.”

Nearly 500 people registered for summit events including a 30-Hour Challenge, with about 50 participants presenting their solutions to current challenges in education. Attendees heard from more than a dozen presenters and engaged in breakout sessions.

“As we encourage innovation in our North Dakota schools, it was heartening to see hundreds of educators and state leaders gather at Northern Cass School to share their enthusiasm and exchange ideas with their peers,” Baesler said. “We were able to showcase many of the dynamic projects and initiatives

that are occurring across our state. It is evidence that teachers are working hard every day to inspire students to learn about things in their passion areas.”

Among the presenters was Northern Cass Superintendent Cory Steiner, who emphasized the need to transform education and highlighted the district’s

efforts to personalize learning. Northern Cass was the first district to submit a “Senate Bill 2186” plan, named for the bill passed by the 2017 Legislature and signed by Governor Burgum that gives school

districts, working with local school boards, the flexibility to submit innovative education plans that provide more local control to meet their schools’ individual needs.

“We have the skills and the technology and all of the pieces right here in this room to do things differently,” said Steiner, who serves on the Innovative Education Task Force announced at last year’s summit in Bismarck. “This is not something we do as individuals. This is something we do together.”

The first-ever #InnovativeND Awards also were presented during the summit:

- Frontline Innovation Award: Brian Price, Darryl Duttonhefner, and Staceyann Ziemann, Bismarck Public Schools Vision 2030 team
- Student Leadership Award: Abrar Sharfi, Fargo South High sophomore
- Collaborative Culture Award: Kindred Elementary School

- System Transformation Award: New Rockford-Sheyenne School District

The free summit was sponsored by the Governor’s Office, the state Department of Public Instruction and the Bush Foundation.

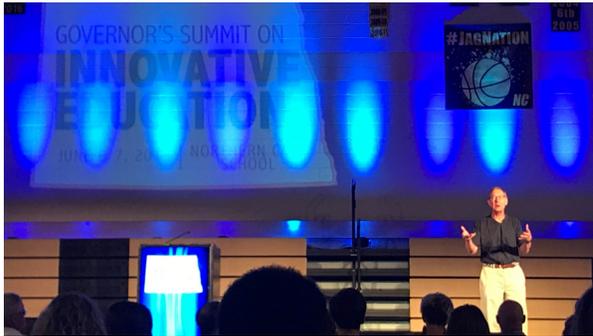
NDSBA and ND DPI New Board Member Workshop Registration Now Open

The North Dakota School Boards Association and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction are partnering to host a one-day workshop for school board members. The workshop will be held on July 27, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the State Capitol in Bismarck. Lunch will be provided on-site for a networking session from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. The event is aimed at newly elected board members, but all board members are welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity for new board members to get a crash course in state requirements early in their tenure and a great refresher for returning board members.

There is no fee to attend this training.

Topics discussed will include school finance, state reporting, instructional waivers, AdvancED, ESSA updates, and innovative education updates. This training does NOT meet the requirements for new board member training mandated by state law but will provide board members with basic knowledge on many topics.

Board members can register by completing the form available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WQFPD2N>.



Ted Dintersmith speaks at the second annual Governor’s Summit on Innovative Education on June 7 at the Northern Cass School near Hunter, ND.

Department of Justice Announces Availability of School Safety Grants

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and Bureau of Justice Assistance, published two notices for competitive grant programs under the recently approved STOP School Violence Act:

The “BJA STOP School Violence Threat Assessment and Technology Reporting Program” seeks applications that address the development and operation of school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams and the development of technology for local or regional anonymous reporting systems. Applications for grants are **due July 23, 2018**. More information is posted at <https://www.bja.gov/funding/SSVtraining18.pdf>.

The “BJA STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program” seeks applications that address training school officials in responding and educating students to prevent student violence and training school officials in responding to related mental health crises. Grant applications are **due July 23, 2018**. Further information is available at <https://www.bja.gov/funding/SSVtraining18.pdf>.



Legal Spotlight Your Annual Election is Complete, Now What?

by Amy De Kok, NDSBA Legal Counsel

North Dakota law requires that the board of a school district hold an election each year between April 1 and June 30 to fill all vacancies on the board, including those caused by the expiration of terms of office. By now, most school districts have held their annual elections. So, now what? There are several requirements that must be met following the annual election, most of which are found in NDCC ch. 15.1-09. The following are pertinent to most elections.

On the sixth day following the election, the school board must meet to canvass the votes and declare the results. The individual(s) receiving the highest number of votes must be declared elected and the board must record the result of the election. In the event of a tie, the business manager must provide written notice to the candidates between whom the tie exists. Within three days of the election, at a time agreed to by the candidates, the election must be decided by a drawing of names. The election judges and clerks must be present for the drawing and the business manager is required to keep a record of the proceedings. While not common, tie votes do occur and it is important to be aware of the process as there is a short turnaround time to declare a winner.

In addition, within three days after the board canvasses the election returns, the business manager of the district is required to provide each elected individual with written notice of the individual's election and of the obligation to take an affirmation or oath of office. The business manager is also required to certify the individuals elected and their terms to the county superintendent of schools within ten days after the canvass. The affirmation or oath may be administered by existing board members to newly-elected board members. If any of the individuals elected refuse to take the affirmation or oath of office within the time required, the individual's action is deemed a refusal to serve and constitutes a failure to qualify for office pursuant to NDCC 44-02-01. In turn, the failure to qualify for office results in a vacancy on the board and is fillable by the board via

appointment or special election as set forth in NDCC 15.1-09-05.

Following the declaration and certification of the winners and the administration of the affirmation or oath of office, **the board must hold its annual meeting in the month of July**. The term of office for a school board member begins at the annual meeting held in July following the member's election and continues until a successor is elected and qualified. At the annual meeting, the school board must elect from among themselves a president to serve for one year. The president presides at all meetings of the board, appoints all committees subject to approval by the board, provides authorization for the issuance of negotiable instruments, and performs all other acts required by law. The board may also elect a vice president at the annual meeting to serve in the absence of the president at any meeting.

I often receive questions regarding the process to remove a board member as president during the one-year term. North Dakota law is silent on this question; however, most boards adhere to *Robert's Rules of Order*, which provide that if the by-laws (i.e., policies) are silent as to this issue, the vice president succeeds to the position and carries out the rest of the term until a new president is elected at the following annual meeting. In addition, by motion, second, and majority vote, the board may remove an officer of the board. The board member continues his or her term as a member but no longer acts as an officer of the board.

Finally, the term of an elected member of a school board is three years, except when the member is completing the unexpired term of another member. Pursuant to NDCC 15.1-09-03, a school board may, by resolution, change the terms of office for its members from three to four years. The four-year term starts upon the expiration of each member's current three-year term. A school board that has converted the terms of its members to four years may revert back to three-year terms by passing a resolution providing for the

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Legal Spotlight

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reversion. Like the initial change, as the four-year term of each board member expires, the term of office for that position becomes three years.

I encourage board members, administrators, and business managers to review on a regular basis the provisions of NDCC ch. 15.1-09, many of which address the requirements of school district elections (both annual and special). Please also feel free to contact NDSBA for guidance.

Baesler Announces New ND Superintendent's Student Cabinet



Last month State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler announced the makeup of her new Superintendent's

Student Cabinet, a group of students who offer Baesler their advice and opinions about North Dakota education policy. The new 19-member cabinet will hold its first meeting in September.

Baesler founded the cabinet in April 2015. Its members serve for 18 months, after which a new cabinet is chosen. The group meets with the superintendent every three months. The students decide which issues to focus on and which speakers they would like to hear.

Past suggestions from cabinet members have supported a number of North Dakota policy advances, including grants for early childhood education and broader availability of advanced coursework in schools.

The members of the new cabinet are:

- Tristan Orton, a fourth grader at Lincoln Elementary School in Dickinson;
- Wyatt Barth, a fourth grader at the Innovation School in Bismarck;
- Grace Arthaud, a fifth grader at DeMores Elementary School in Medora;
- Kendall Jones, a fifth grader at Dakota Montessori School in Fargo;
- Ayden Frohlich, a seventh grader at Simle Middle School in Bismarck;
- Laura Eichhorst, a seventh grader at Underwood High School in Underwood;

- Aidan Bertsch, an eighth grader at Cheney Middle School in West Fargo;
- Gillian Ellena Lunde, an eighth grader at Standing Rock Middle School in Fort Yates;
- Halle Sanders, an eighth grader at Langdon Area Middle School in Langdon;
- Marisa Tafoya-Borr, an eighth grader at Simle Middle School in Bismarck;
- Reilly Meyer, an eighth grader at Trinity High School in Dickinson;
- Sheyenne Waletzko, an eighth grader at Lisbon Middle School in Lisbon;
- Zara Laber, a ninth grader at Mandan High School in Mandan;
- Kourtney Bitz, a 10th grader at Napoleon High School in Napoleon;
- Tegan Amundson, a 10th grader at Richland 44 Junior/Senior High School in Colfax;
- Colton Willits, an 11th grader at North Border-Walhalla High School in Walhalla;
- Gracie Johnsrud, an 11th grader at Watford City High School in Watford City;
- Preeti Chemiti, an 11th grader at Sheyenne High School in West Fargo; and
- Tobias Zikmund, a 12th grader at Park River Area High School in Park River.

The group is North Dakota's third Superintendent's Student Cabinet. Bertsch, Meyer, Amundson, and Johnsrud were reappointed to new terms. The other 16 students are new members.

Seventy young people applied to be considered for Cabinet appointments. Applicants were asked to write answers to several questions, including a question that asked what they believed was the biggest issue facing students in North Dakota. The applications were then vetted and scored by a team of Department of Public Instruction employees outside of the superintendent's office.

The students represent schools in 15 communities across North Dakota. There are students from eight separate grades, 15 public schools and two nonpublic schools, and six Class A and 11 Class B schools. Congratulations to all of the students chosen for the cabinet and the districts they represent!

Threat Assessment Training Registration Still Open

The North Dakota School Boards Association and the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund have partnered to offer threat assessment training to member districts. This training will enable your district to establish a plan to identify, evaluate, investigate, and respond to threats with the goal of preventing threats from being carried out in our schools. Participants will participate in a mock investigation and receive support materials to take home. The training uses a team approach and encourages collaboration with local agencies. The training will be lead by Jeff Azure, retired law enforcement officer and school resource officer.

Trainings will be held on:

July 17, 2018 – Bismarck

July 18, 2018 – Emerado

August 9, 2018 – Williston (FULL)

August 10, 2018 – Rugby

All training sessions will take place from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. except Fargo, which will take place from 8 a.m. – noon. Each training session is limited to six school districts. The registration fee is \$25 per team member.

- School districts must register as a team. Teams should consist of no less than four individuals and must include:
 1. Member of administration,
 2. School counselor, and
 3. School SRO or law enforcement representative from the jurisdiction in which the district is located.Other team members may include the school social worker, district safety coordinator, special education coordinator, or other individuals as determined by a district.
- School board members are encouraged to attend the training with their district.

If you have questions, please contact NDSBA at 1-800-932-8791.

To register, please print and complete the application form available at www.ndsba.org under QUICK CLICKS.

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**DPI & NDSBA Workshop for New
School Board Members**
July 27, 2018
State Capitol, Bismarck

2018 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 25-26, 2018
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2019 NSBA Annual Conference
March 30-April 1, 2019
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2019 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 24-25, 2019
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck



Emerado School District
Superintendent/Principal
Contact: Loree Prosser
Phone: (701)594-5125
Email: loree.prosser@emeradok8.com
Application: <https://www.emeradok8.com/employment-opportunities--175>
Deadline: Open until filled
Position begins: July 2, 2018



NDSBA DUES STATEMENTS have been sent to district business managers.

School districts in North Dakota have long benefited from the support, training, information, and legislative advocacy provided by the North Dakota School Boards Association. When public school boards join together, they make a difference in their own effectiveness and overall support for public education.

POLICY SERVICES RENEWAL INVOICES, along with an explanation of the different types of services available, will be mailed to each district's Policy Services contact at the end of June. Your Policy Services membership will ensure that you have the latest policy updates.

Keep your school district up to date by submitting payments promptly.