

## GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS REPORT

NDSBA's Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) met on August 28, 2018, to act on resolutions for consideration by the Delegate Assembly at the Annual Convention. Participating committee members were: Jim Rostad, Chair (Minot); Susie Carlson (Northern Cass); Rick Gillund (Enderlin Area); Steve Halldorson (Devils Lake); Sonya Hansana (Hazen); Roger Haut (Jamestown); Dianne Hensen (Glenburn); Jim Johnson (Fargo); Mike Lautenschlager (Lewis & Clark); Don Nygaard (Finley-Sharon); and Carissa Swenson (Halliday).

Resolutions remain as standing resolutions for four years unless significant legislative or staff action prompt an earlier review. At the end of four years, they are dropped unless readopted by the Delegate Assembly. One new resolution was submitted by the NDSBA Board of Directors. Following are recommendations of the GAC:

### RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE FOUR YEARS OLD AND RECOMMENDED FOR READOPTION AS WRITTEN

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS. NDSBA shall support the state ensuring program funding equity for school districts, including full funding of the costs associated with English language learners.

*Adopted in 2014.*

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LOAN PROGRAM. NDSBA shall support increasing the total funds available for the School Construction Loan Program.

*Adopted in 2014.*

TEACHERS' FUND FOR RETIREMENT. NDSBA shall support any of the following solutions to help address this critical issue:

- 1) A separate state appropriation that gives each school district an annual amount equal to 5% of their certified staff payroll, until such time as the rollback occurs to the pre-2008 contribution levels.
- 2) A series of catch-up allocations from the state's general fund sufficient to fund the plan to 100%.
- 3) A rollback to the pre-2008 contribution levels when the TFFR plan is funded at 70% with the post-2008 increased contribution rates paid by state funds until the plan is 100% funded.
- 4) Agreement to study the present funding system for TFFR and explore other possible solutions with appropriate stakeholders. Comprehensive study should include potential costs considerations, funding sources, legal implications, and impact on employees, employers, and the state.

*Adopted in 2014.*

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. NDSBA shall support separate state funding for preschool programs meeting prescribed standards.

*Adopted in 2010; readopted in 2014.*

FUNDING ADEQUACY, BOARD TAXING AUTHORITY, AND PROPERTY TAX REDUCTIONS. NDSBA will support direct state funding of K-12 education at a level adequate to reduce reliance on local property taxes.

*Adopted in 2006; readopted in 2010; readopted in 2014.*

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING. NDSBA will support legislation that will allow all school districts in North Dakota an equal opportunity to participate with after-school programming.

*Adopted in 2006; readopted in 2010; readopted in 2014.*

## **RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE FOUR YEARS OLD AND RECOMMENDED FOR READOPTION AS AMENDED**

NORTH DAKOTA STATE STANDARDS. NDSBA shall support the ongoing implementation of North Dakota State Standards.

*Adopted in 2014.*

## **NEW RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

Submitted by NDSBA Board of Directors

A resolution stating that NDSBA shall support legislation that would expand the ability of school districts to discuss school safety and security in executive session.

**WHEREAS,** public schools are charged not only with supporting student achievement but also providing a foundation for mental and physical health, personal growth, and character development; and

**WHEREAS,** student and staff safety is a prerequisite for consistently high levels of academic and social development; and

**WHEREAS,** the North Dakota School Boards Association believes it is every local school board's responsibility and right to determine the safety and security measures appropriate for their district; and

**WHEREAS,** the public disclosure of some information related to school safety and security could compromise security procedures and responses;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NDSBA shall support legislation that would expand the ability of school districts to discuss school safety and security in executive session.