



NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2026
Board Candidates

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Nathan Berseth – Richland 44 School District



Nathan Berseth has served on the NDSBA Board of Directors since 2021 and currently serves as president. If re-elected, he will continue his service as president for a second year.

Berseth is in his ninth year on the Richland #44 School Board, serving the past eight years as president. He is also a member of the boards of the North Dakota High School Activities Association and Home on The Range and has served as a Richland County Commissioner since 2014.

Employed by Bank Forward, Berseth is active in farming, community development, and business investment. He and his wife, Janelle, live near Colfax with their daughter, Bianca.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Michelle Orton – Dickinson School District



Michelle Orton has served on the NDSBA Board of Directors since 2023 and currently serves as vice president. If re-elected, she will continue in that leadership role for a second year.

Orton has served on the Dickinson School Board since 2018 and is its current president. A former educator and coach, she is also the Johnson Endowed Chair for the Theodore Roosevelt Honors Leadership Program at Dickinson State University.

She and her husband, Ty, live in Dickinson with their sons, Tristan and Cooper. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Orton enjoys hiking and trail running and has completed multiple 50K ultramarathons.

CANDIDATE FOR NORTHWEST DIRECTOR

James Vannett – Nedrose School District



James Vannett represents northwest North Dakota on the NDSBA Board of Directors and is completing the second year of his first term. He is seeking re-election to a second two-year term.

Vannett has served on the Nedrose School Board since 2016 and currently serves as president. His leadership experience includes chairing the district's negotiations and community vision committees and serving on local and regional career and technical education committees.

He is employed by Bourgault Industries and lives in Minot with his wife, Rachelle.

CANDIDATE FOR SOUTHEAST DIRECTOR

Nikkie Gullickson – Fargo School District



Nikkie Gullickson represents southeast North Dakota on the NDSBA Board of Directors and is seeking re-election to a second two-year term. She's in her seventh year of service on the Fargo School Board, where she has chaired the Communication Engagement and Advocacy Committee for six years. Gullickson is an active PTA member, serving at the state and national levels. She has served on various task forces for the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and Fargo Public schools.

Gullickson grew up and attended college in Wahpeton but has called Fargo home since 1990, where she lives with her family.

2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Katie Christensen Mineer, Fargo (chair)
Carrie Zachman, Beach
Michele Thorpe, Ellendale
Jeffrey Moberg, Tioga