



# bulletin



OCTOBER 2011

Excellence in North Dakota public education through local school board governance ■ VOL XXXVI ISSUE 10

## NDSBA Convention: A Time to Learn and Share

### Keynote Speakers



Friday, 8:00 a.m.

*Take This Job and Love It*

Dr. David R. Landsverk

Dr. Landsverk

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

*Tragedy Can Strike Anywhere: Be Prepared!*



Dr. Keith Lutz



Linda Poole



Amy Friedman

NDSBA's Annual Convention will be held **October 28-29** 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.

Clinic Sessions will cover information in several areas of interest:

#### Student Achievement

- Focus on Student Success-- North Dakota University System
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Rural Schools: An Underappreciated Asset
- Gearing Up for Kindergarten: A Collaborative Approach to School Readiness
- What's New with ESPB and the Teacher Support System
- How to Make Your School ND Scholarship Friendly
- Classroom Technology: Improving Education or Stifling Student Development
- Secondary Education in ND: Assessment and Performance
- Using Balanced Classroom Assessment to Enhance Student Learning and

#### Achievement

- Standing Rock Dropout Prevention Initiative
- Abstinence Education in the Classroom
- The School Board's Role in Dropout Prevention

#### Board Governance

- Leadership Track (two-hour session): What Boards Need to Know About Poor Teacher Performance; Recent NDEA Negotiation Tactics Used in a Rural School; Using Data to Improve Student Achievement
- Superintendent/Principal Evaluation and Nonrenewal
- Increasing Student Opportunities with REAs
- Initiated Measure #2: The Impact on School Districts of Eliminating Property Tax
- Fraud in School Districts

#### Health and Safety

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program Overview
- Learn to Cope...Be Resilient
- Leading the Way with a Tobacco-Free Campus Policy

#### Policy and Legal

- Leading a Safe School Climate for LGBTQ Students
- How to Implement the New

*Continued on page 5*

### NSBA 2012 Annual Conference Registration Opens

The 2012 NSBA Annual Conference will be held April 21-23 in Boston, Massachusetts. Conference registration is now open. You can register online at: [www.nsba.org](http://www.nsba.org) under Conferences and Events. You

must be registered for the conference before you can make hotel reservations through the housing bureau. **Register by October 21, 2011, to be sure you have your confirmation ID# before housing opens on November 1.**



# from the director's chair

■ by Jon Martinson, NDSBA Executive Director

## Significant Changes to NCLB Introduced in Congress

"The federal role in K-12 education is not working nearly as well as is needed. It must be seriously rethought and restructured," according to Russ Whitehurst, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit policy institute.

Since President Obama announced in August that he would sign an executive order allowing states to request waivers from mandatory participation in No Child Left Behind, at least 27 states have indicated they will ask to opt out. Furthermore, Education Secretary Arne Duncan is actively encouraging education officials to apply for waivers because he said "No Child Left Behind is fundamentally broken."

Waivers won't get it done. NCLB needs an overhaul and legislation has

recently been introduced in Congress to accomplish that goal. Emily Tryon, legislative assistant in Senator Hoeven's office, alerted me to four pieces of federal legislation (listed below) that will be of interest to educators. For more information on each bill, visit [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov) type in the bill number (in bold after each bill) and be sure to select the "Bill Number" button. Summary bullet points were provided by Ms. Tryon.

1. The Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments Act of 2011 (**S.1571**)  
*Empowering state and local leaders to improve public schools*
  - Eliminates Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
  - Eliminates "Highly Qualified Teacher" requirement
  - Empowers state and local leaders to develop their own accountability systems
  - Amends Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
2. The Teacher and Principal Improvement Act of 2011 (**S.1567**)  
*Preparing, training, and recruiting effective teachers and principals to improve student achievement*
  - Addresses state and local needs for teacher and principal training
  - Supports the state-led Development of Teacher/Principal Evaluation Systems
  - Encourages innovative private-sector involvement
  - Reduces paperwork and federal intrusion
  - Amends Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
3. Empowering Local Educational Decision Making Act of 2011 (**S.1569**)  
*This Act streamlines 59 programs into two flexible foundational block grants*

- Consolidates 34 programs into ONE flexible, formula-driven Fund for the Improvement of Teaching and Learning to fund locally-determined needs and initiatives
- Consolidates 25 programs into ONE flexible, formula-driven Safe and Healthy Students Block Grant to fund locally-determined needs and initiatives for improving students' safety, health, and well-being during and after the school day

Note: In an effort to provide more funding flexibility to state and local districts, this bill would allow districts to transfer up to 100 percent of their allocations under the Fund for the Improvement of Teaching and Learning and the Safe and Healthy Students Block Grant between the two programs or into Title I, Part A.

4. The State Innovation Pilot Act of 2011 (**S. 1568**)  
*This Act allows for state-driven waivers for innovation in accountability*
  - Improves the waiver authority currently in law by clarifying that the waiver process is intended to be led by state and local requests, not Washington mandates
  - If the Education Secretary does not approve a waiver request, this bill directs the Secretary to develop a peer review process that defers to state and local judgment on waiver requests
  - Ensures the peer review process will be open and transparent so it is clear what state and local school districts are asking to waive and what peer reviewers think about those waivers
  - Prohibits the Secretary from imposing by regulation additional requirements to waiver requests not authorized by Congress

Senator Hoeven's office is distributing these bills and taking input from constituent groups before he commits his support. You are encouraged to review the bills in their entirety and contact the Senator's office with your reaction and suggestions.

## bulletin

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# Meet the 2011 NDSBA Slate of Candidates



## CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

### Angela Korsmo....West Fargo

Angela is a graduate of the College of St. Benedict with a major in biology and minors in English and education. She has been a science and English teacher, a vocational rehabilitation counselor, and is currently employed at Sanford Health in Fargo.

Angela has been on the West Fargo School Board since 1997, serving as vice president from 2003-2008. She has been an active participant on most of the board committees over the years. She was appointed to the NDSBA Governmental Affairs Committee in 2005 and elected to the NDSBA Board of Directors in 2006. In 2007 Governor Hoeven appointed her to the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board and is currently serving her second term.

Angela regularly attends the NDSBA Annual Convention, the National School Boards Association Federal Relations Network Conference and NSBA's Annual Conference. She has earned NDSBA's Master Board Member Award with distinction. Angela and her husband Michael have four adult children.



## CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

### Jannell Lagein....Rock Lake

Jannell graduated from Turtle Lake/Mercer High School and NDSU with degrees in Animal Science and Veterinary Technology. She worked several years with veterinarians and now farms with her husband and family.

Jannell has been on the Rock Lake School Board for fourteen years, serving as vice president and on the Negotiating Committee for the past ten years. She is currently serving as NDSBA Northeast Director and has represented various levels in the local & county 4-H as well as the local church community.

Jannell and her husband Dave have five children ages 12 to 19.



## CANDIDATE FOR SOUTHWEST DIRECTOR

### Kirsten Baesler....Mandan

Kirsten is a graduate of Flasher High School, Bismarck State College, Valley City State University, and Minot State University with Bachelor and Master's degrees in Education and Library Information and Technology Media. She has worked as a technology staff developer and is currently a library media specialist and assistant principal in Bismarck.

Kirsten has been on the Mandan School Board since 2004 and in July 2011 was elected to her sixth term as president. She has served on the NDSBA board as Southwest Director since 2007. Kirsten also serves on the board for the Morton-Sioux Special Education Unit and has served on the National, Western Region, and NDSBA Nominating Committees and has been a presenter at several NDSBA and NSBA conferences on topics dealing with community relations, school finance, and leadership skills.

Kirsten is a member of the Morton Mandan Public Library Board of Trustees, serves on the Board of Directors for the Mandan Progress Organization, is Chairperson for the Mandan Tomorrow Strategic Plan Steering Committee, and is the Constitution, Bylaws and Policies Chairperson for the Executive Board of the North Dakota Library Association.

Kirsten has three sons: Lee, 22, Mitchel, 18, and Chancellor, 18.

## CANDIDATES FOR NORTHEAST DIRECTOR



### Jennifer Johnson....Larimore

A lifelong North Dakotan who lives on a farm and works in the city, Jennifer offers to the NDSBA a variety of professional and life experiences that incorporate the respect of tradition while enthusiastically embracing the inevitable changes of the 21st century.

In 2003, the Larimore School District elected Jennifer to its school board where she is currently serving as board president. Last year, Jennifer served on the negotiations committee when the district went to impasse. She presented "Lessons Learned from Impasse" about the district's experience at the 2011 NDSBA Negotiations Seminar.

In 2004, Jennifer was selected to represent the Larimore district on the newly organized Red River Valley Education Cooperative board, where she served until 2010. During the 2007 legislative session, Jennifer testified at an education committee hearing on behalf of the state REAs. She was also a co-presenter discussing REA objectives and experiences at the 2006 NDSBA Annual Convention.

A graduate of the University of North Dakota and an employee of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., in the engineering department for over 30 years, Jennifer also serves as a member of the University of North Dakota's School of Business Industrial Technology Department Advisory Board, is a township assessor in Grand Forks County, and has presented technical papers at several national electrical transmission conferences.

Jennifer and her husband run a farm/ranch operation in western Grand Forks County and have one son in eighth grade.



### Warren Jonasson....Milton

Warren graduated from Milton High School and attended college at Wahpeton where he earned a degree in Electrical Technology. He currently operates his own electrical contracting business out of Milton, North Dakota.

Warren served on the Milton School Board for four years before the district consolidated with Langdon and became the Langdon Area School District. He has served on the new board for 11 years, the last seven years as president. He has served on the negotiations committee, the budget committee, the legislative committee for the last 11 years, and on the new teacher interview committee this past year.

He has served as vice president of the North Dakota AFL-CIO for several years and has served on the executive committee of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA for four years. Because of his dual position on these two boards, he was selected to be the keynote speaker at a Labor/Churchwide Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Warren currently serves his community as fire chief of his local volunteer fire department, president of the Milton Lutheran Church, and chairman of the Montrose Township Board.

Warren is a frequent attendee of the NDSBA Negotiation Seminars and several Annual Conventions. He also has attended several National School Board Conferences.

Warren and his wife Debbie have two grown children and three grandchildren.



### Roger Pohlman....Grand Forks

Roger is currently a resident of Grand Forks and has been a member of the Grand Forks Police Department since 1996. Graduating from a rural Minnesota Township School (K-12) and being a former grain and livestock farmer, Roger understands the value of a rural education and the need for equal representation.

Roger actively serves the Grand Forks School District, initially as an Air Base Board Member in 1995 and most recently being elected to the Grand Forks School Board in 2008, serving on numerous committees and representative to the Head Start Policy Council. Roger currently serves as president of the Grand Forks School Board.

Roger believes strongly in representing his community and region at the state level. In 2000 he was appointed by Governor Hoeven to the ND Community Health Grant Advisory Committee and presently serves the citizens of North Dakota as a member of the Division of Emergency Services Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT). Roger is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, holds a Master's degree in Human Resources Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Roger retired from the North Dakota Army National Guard in May 2006 with 21 years of total military service and is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Roger and his wife Shelley have two children: Megan (27), a graduate of UND and presently serving in the US Air Force in North Carolina, and Joshua (25), a third-year medical student at UND.

## ■ CONVENTION

*Continued from page 1*

### Bullying Bill

- NDHSAA Current Issues
- Lawsuits and Two New Laws
- Board Members' Questions, NDSBA's Answers
- Question Box for Business Managers

### Potpourri

- Education Challenges: Growing with Energy
- School Health Advisory Councils
- PERS Information for Business Managers
- Shop Talk for Business Managers
- TFFR: 2011 Legislative Impact

Consult NDSBA's website at [www.ndsba.org](http://www.ndsba.org) to view clinic session times.

See you October 28-29 in Bismarck!

## Convention Time Reminders

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

Law Seminar registration opens at 8:00 a.m.

Seminar start time: 8:55 a.m.

New Member Seminar registration opens at 8:00 a.m.

Seminar start time: 9:00 a.m.

NDSBA Convention early registration:  
3:30-5:00 p.m.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

Convention registration opens at 7:30 a.m.

Keynote: 8:00 a.m.

First Business Session/Delegate Assembly: 3:30 p.m.

Networking Social: 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Visit with Gary Thune who will be retiring from NDSBA in June.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Keynote: 8:00 a.m.

Second Business Session/Delegate Assembly: 11:00 a.m.

## 2012 ND Teacher of the Year Announced

Governor Jack Dalrymple and State Superintendent Wayne Sanstead named Bismarck English teacher Brenda Werner North Dakota's 2012 Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made during a ceremony at Bismarck High School where Werner was surrounded by her teaching peers, students, administrators, and representatives of education organizations.

A selection committee chose Werner from a pool of four finalists including: Fargo math teacher Michelle Bertsch, Minot fourth grade teacher Melessa Bosch, and Northwood science teacher Mike Voglewede. Finalists were present to honor Werner.

In presenting the award to Werner, Governor Dalrymple said, "Brenda exemplifies North Dakota's outstanding teachers who are dedicated to education excellence and to helping our young people achieve their full potential."

Werner has taught at BHS since 2001 and currently teaches 10th and 11th grade Advanced Placement English composition and literature. In addition to serving on several district teams and committees, she is advisor to the Writer's Club and Literary Magazine, serves as a technology integration mentor, and is district coordinator of curriculum mapping.

She is also a part-time assistant professor of education and online coordinator with the University of Mary. In this capacity she teaches graduate level courses, supervises practicum students, and mentors student teachers.

Werner graduated from Minot State University and received her doctorate in education from the University of North Dakota.

Accepting the award, Werner said, "I view teaching as a calling and a privilege. I have always had a passion and natural curiosity for learning and it is rewarding, indeed, to play a role igniting in students the desire and confidence to learn."

The Teacher of the Year Program is the most recognized national commendation focusing attention on



Teacher of the Year Finalists: (L to R) Michelle Bertsch, Fargo; Melessa Bosch, Minot; Mike Voglewede, Northwood; winner Brenda Werner, Bismarck (Photo credit: Mike McCleary, Bismarck Tribune)

excellence in teaching. North Dakota's program is sponsored by DPI in conjunction with the national Council of Chief State School Officers and ING (financial corporation). The North Dakota legislature provides financial support for the state Teacher of the Year program.

Werner will contend for National Teacher of the Year and travel to Washington, D.C., to be honored along with awardees from each state.

## 2011 Convention Committees

NDSBA President Angela Korsmo appointed members to three committees for the Annual Convention. Members are:

### Ballot Counting Committee

Steve Halldorson, Devils Lake, Chair  
Cyndee Chesley, Enderlin  
Dave Linstad, Adams-Edmore

### Credentials Committee

Matt Sagsveen, Bismarck, Chair  
Jim Black, Beulah  
Darwin Heley, Lidgerwood  
Ann Ueland, Central Cass

### Nominating Committee

Ben Auch, Mott/Regent, Chair  
Lawrence King, Bismarck  
Larry Luick, Fairmount

The willingness of these members to serve their association is greatly appreciated!

# From the NDHSAA

by Ben Auch, NDHSAA

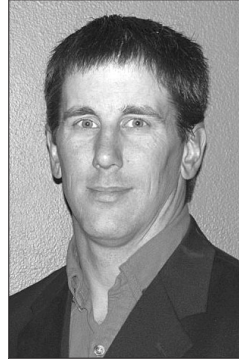
It is already October! Some of you wonder how the summer passed so quickly, while others who battled flooding and other weather-related disasters probably thought the summer would never end! My prayers go out to all of you who are dealing with these issues.

As I attended the National Federation of High School Activities Association (NFHS) summer meeting, I wondered how many of you know about the NFHS. Judging from personal experience on my local school board, I guess you might not know much about this association. The NFHS is made up of the 50 state associations and the District of Columbia. Its mission is to “provide leadership for the administration of education-based interscholastic activities, which support academic achievement, good citizenship, and equitable opportunities.” The association publishes rules for 16 sports and administers fine arts, music, speech, and debate. It establishes standard signals for officials and also provides them with insurance benefits. The National High School Hall of Fame is operated by the NFHS and it works with the NCAA to promote fair and honest recruitment of athletes, as well as with the NFL to get the best information on concussions and concussion management.

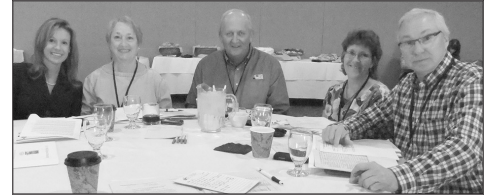
The NFHS helps state associations with lobbying efforts to get quality legislation on sports-related issues. It

hosts a summer conference where state association employees and board members have roundtable discussions on specific sports and activities issues and offers presentations on the latest technology, foreign exchange student programs, leadership, and much more. The association's website ([www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)) offers free courses on topics such as concussions, first aid for coaches, and the role of parents in sports. The site also offers sport-specific courses for coaches' education and certification.

This is only a brief overview of NFHS and what it does. Therefore, I hope you will take time to learn more about the association and the value it brings to our state association, your school, and parents in your community. Please check out their websites: [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) and [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). You might consider taking some of the courses offered and promoting them to your administration, coaches, and parents. If you have any questions for me or want to discuss any issues, feel free to call me at 701-260-1398 or you can find me at the NDSBA Annual Convention.



NDSBA board member Kirsten Baesler visits with NSBA Past President Earl Rickman III at NSBA Western Region meeting.



NDSBA board members Kirsten Baesler, Angela Korsmo, Maurice Hardy, Jannell Lagein, and Jon Martinson attend Western Region meeting.

## 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. This process allows opportunity for professional growth before the superintendent's formal summative evaluation in April.