

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Governmental Affairs Committee

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

2 p.m.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by chairwoman Orton. Participating in the meeting were the following:

Committee Members

Michelle Orton, chair, Dickinson

Jason Rohr, Jamestown

Collette Hertz, Harvey

Mike Lautenschlager, Lewis & Clark

Terry Snider, Grand Forks

Committee Members Absent

Robin Nelson, Fargo

Staff

Amy De Kok, NDSBA Executive Director

De Kok reviewed the agenda and gave an overview of the process and the options available to the committee for four-year-old resolutions and resolutions submitted to the committee.

RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE FOUR YEARS OLD AND RECOMMENDED FOR READOPTION

A. FUNDING

12. REGIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS. NDSBA shall support the State of North Dakota providing separate and additional funding to REAs and work toward expanding resources available to these REAs so educational opportunities for students and professional development for staff all across the state can be improved.

Adopted in 2005; amended and readopted in 2009; amended and readopted in 2013; amended and readopted in 2017, and readopted in 2021.

13. TAXING AUTHORITY OF THE STATE. NDSBA shall oppose any attempt to limit the taxing authority of the state.

Adopted in 2005; readopted in 2009, 2013, 2017, and 2021.

G. BOARD AUTHORITY AND BOARD MEETINGS

4. TAXING AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL BOARDS. NDSBA shall oppose any attempts to further limit or eliminate the taxing authority of school districts.

RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE FOUR YEARS OLD AND SCHEDULED TO BE DROPPED

E. NEGOTIATIONS

1. **DEADLINE FOR NEGOTIATIONS.** NDSBA shall support legislation that would require and/or encourage contract negotiations to be pursued in good faith, diligently, and within a reasonable period of time in order to have an agreement reached between the school board and recognized representative organization by a specified deadline or impasse will be automatically declared. Adopted in 2020.

Rohr moved to recommend resolutions A12, A13, and G4 for re-adoption as written. Snider seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Rohr moved to drop resolution E1. Hertz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The committee reviewed a proposed Standing Resolution submitted by the Fargo Board of Education by Fargo board member, Robin Nelson: (*)

A resolution to support state legislation that assists in the retention and recruitment of a high-quality education workforce to ensure the success of all North Dakota students.

WHEREAS, despite being considered one of the most attractive states for teaching on several measures, [more than 60% of North Dakota school leaders report](#) that it is either very difficult or impossible to fill teacher vacancies; and

WHEREAS, 33% of North Dakota teachers leave the teaching profession within the first five years, reflecting a high teacher attrition rate; and 6 out of 10 North Dakota teachers [cited burnout](#) (2022) as a contributing factor to teacher attrition; and

WHEREAS, a [survey conducted in 2023](#) showed 88% of North Dakota educators believe teacher retention is a major issue, and only 19% of educators under age 30 and 24% of educators between ages 30 and 39 say they plan to retire in the education field; and
WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of North Dakota established the Teacher Retention and Recruitment Task Force in 2023 via [Executive Order 2023-08](#) to increase recruitment to the teaching profession, improve teacher preparation programs across the state; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's students, families, schools, and communities depend on the education workforce, and retaining educators is essential for positive student outcomes, strong schools, and vibrant communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NDSBA shall support state legislation that assists in the retention and recruitment of a high-quality education workforce, including teachers, administrators, and support staff, to ensure the success of all students.

Robin Nelson

NDSBA Governmental Affairs Committee, Fargo Board of Education member
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Lautenschlager made a motion to adopt; Rohr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

De Kok gave an overview of the proposed changes/amendments to the NDSBA Constitution. Committee discussion: there was no action taken.

Having completed committee business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Amy De Kok, Recording Secretary

(*) After the meeting, it was discovered that the proposed Standing Resolution submitted by the Fargo Board of Education had not been approved for submittal by that board prior to submission by Robin Nelson; therefore, the resolution will not be put forward for a vote by the delegate assembly.