



2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Clinic Sessions

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026

7:15 a.m. - 8 a.m. | Breakfast & Registration

8 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | Welcome and Keynote Speaker – State Superintendent Levi Bachmeier | Hall A

Clinic Sessions1

Room

9:15 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Parliamentary Procedure: Robert's Rules of Order This session provides an overview of the history, purpose, and fundamental principles of <i>Robert's Rules of Order</i>. Participants will learn why parliamentary procedure is an effective tool for conducting efficient, orderly, and transparent board meetings. The session will also explore how <i>Robert's Rules</i> intersects with state law and local school board policy, helping board members navigate meeting procedures with confidence. <i>AnnMarie Campbell – Chief Communications Officer, Fargo Public Schools</i>	Prairie Rose Room 101
9:15 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Investing in the Future: The Road map to Net-Zero Schools Transitioning to zero-energy design is often viewed as a luxury, but the long-term reality is a matter of fiscal responsibility. This panel explores how high-performance school buildings serve as a hedge against rising utility costs while creating healthier, more resilient spaces for students. Join a multidisciplinary team to discuss the "business case" for sustainability, including financing strategies, operational savings, and the ways a commitment to net-zero carbon can enhance a district's long-term budget stability and strengthen community trust. <i>Mike Laverdure – Principal Architect, DSGW Architecture</i> <i>Katherine Gerzina – Associate Senior Architect, DSGW Architecture</i> <i>David Vig – Principal Mechanical Engineer, CMTA</i> <i>Jeff Olson – Superintendent, Four Winds Community School</i>	Prairie Rose Room 102
9:15 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Recruitment & Retention Through Personalized Learning for Teachers Professional Development (PD) is one of the best ways to support teachers. When done right, it's an opportunity to reinvigorate staff and create better learning experiences for students. But when budgets and time are tight, PD often becomes an extra burden rather than an exciting opportunity. Explore and discuss strategies to create meaningful, in-house professional learning opportunities that foster community collaboration and authentic learning experiences for students while reinvigorating educators. Reduce burnout, increase retention, and accelerate real-world learning experiences with personalized PD. <i>Darcy Bakkegard, Co-Founder & Director, The Educators' Lab</i>	Prairie Rose Room 103
9:15 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Same Students, Same Teachers, Better Results: Using Data and Relationships to Improve Outcomes As school boards and administrators work together to ensure that students and educators feel known, supported, and on a path for success, streamlined and effective systems help to accomplish these goals. Learn how one such system, the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) model, has helped improve outcomes in many North Dakota school districts, including Fargo Public Schools and Milnor Public Schools, through the use of data and relationships. <i>Dr. Cory Steiner – Superintendent, Fargo Public Schools</i> <i>Dr. Chris Larson – Superintendent, Milnor Public Schools</i> <i>Josh Omang – Associate Director of Engagement, BARR Center</i>	Prairie Rose Room 104

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Clinic Sessions 1		Room
9:15 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Software Unlimited, Inc. – School Accounting System User Forum Join us for a discussion focused on the future of your School Accounting System. We'll walk through important features and share a preview of what's coming next – a modern, streamlined user experience. This is also an opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, and connect with other users as we discuss how the system continues to evolve to better support your district's needs. <i>Corey Atkinson – Partner/Chief Business Officer, Software Unlimited, Inc.</i>	Prairie Rose Room 105
9:15 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Sustaining the Magic: Retaining the Educators We Have Educators make a life-altering difference every day. Drawing on her Ph.D. research in teacher retention, North Dakota Teacher of the Year Frannie Tunseth shares a message focused on the urgent need to wrap our arms around the incredible teachers already in our schools, honor their wisdom, lift each other up, and build supportive communities to sustain passion and protect the heart of the profession. <i>Frannie Tunseth – Interventionist, May-Port CG School District/ND Teacher of the Year</i>	Hall A
Clinic Sessions 2		
10:15 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Lessons Learned from Columbine Join Don Moseman for this powerful and deeply personal presentation. As a first responder who was on the scene during the Columbine High School attack on April 20, 1999, in Littleton, Colorado, Don will share the lasting emotional and psychological impact from the tragedy – not only on the victims and community, but on the first responders who rushed in that day. This session promises to be a life-changing experience for people involved in education, as Don takes you behind the curtain of one of the worst days in U.S. education history. <i>Don Moseman – Emergency Response Consultant, North Dakota Safety Council</i>	Prairie Rose Room 101

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Clinic Sessions 2		Room
10:15 a.m. - 11 a.m.	The Culture Cure: School Board and Superintendent Teamwork School culture starts at the top. The way a board and superintendent work together sets the tone for principals, teachers, staff, students, and the entire community. When leadership is aligned, roles are respected, and decisions are made with students at the center – schools are better equipped to handle whatever comes their way. <i>Joel Lemer – School Board President, Carrington Public Schools</i> <i>Janelle Helm – Superintendent, Carrington Public Schools</i>	Prairie Rose Room 102
10:15 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Driving Effective Partnerships Between your Local Schools, Local Employers, and Local Students As education continues to evolve, stronger partnerships between schools, employers, and communities are becoming essential to student success. This session explores innovative strategies for connecting classroom learning with real-world experiences through initiatives such as educator externships, job shadows, work-based learning opportunities, and dual-credit or early-entry programs. Participants will learn how effective school-industry partnerships can enhance student career readiness, strengthen local workforce development, and create meaningful benefits for students, schools, and employers alike. <i>Patrick Mineer – CEO & Founder, Golden Path Solutions</i>	Prairie Rose Room 103
10:15 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Child-Centered, Family-Focused, Shared Accountability – The Work of the North Dakota Children’s Cabinet The North Dakota Children’s Cabinet is establishing itself as credible partner in solving complex issues while also elevating best practices happening across our great state. This session will highlight the Cabinet’s year in review, the importance of cross-system partnerships, how we are working to align state and local efforts, all focused around initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for youth and families. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how the Cabinet’s efforts intersect with schools and your local communities. <i>Michelle Strinden – North Dakota Lt. Governor</i> <i>Maria Neset – Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Strinden</i> <i>Russ Riehl, Principal – Simle Middle School</i> <i>Chelsea Flory – Children & Family Services Director</i>	Hall A
10 a.m. - Noon	Business Manager Sessions	Prairie Rose Room 105



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11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Delegate Assembly | Hall A

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. | Lunch & Exhibitor Visits | Hall B

Clinic Sessions 3

Room

NDSBA Regional Meetings

Districts will join their NDSBA regional directors to discuss current topics, ask questions, and network with other board members. Come prepared with questions about NDSBA and local and statewide issues. Lead by NDSBA board members.

1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Northwest Regional Meeting <i>James Vannett, Nedrose NW Director – NDSBA Board of Directors</i>	Prairie Rose Room 101
1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Southwest Regional Meeting <i>Carrie Zachmann, Beach SW Director – NDSBA Board of Directors</i>	Prairie Rose Room 102
1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Northeast Regional Meeting <i>Lynn Carlson, Finley-Sharon NE Director – NDSBA Board of Directors</i>	Prairie Rose Room 103
1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Southeast Regional Meeting <i>Nathan Berseth, Richland 44 President – NDSBA Board of Directors</i> <i>Nikkie Gullickson, Fargo SE Director – NDSBA Board of Directors</i>	Prairie Rose Room 104

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Room

2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	StudentsFirst Governance Certification Program Discover NDSBA's new StudentsFirst Governance Certification Program, a professional development pathway designed to strengthen school board leadership and governance excellence. This session will provide an overview of the program's structure, certification requirements, and benefits, while highlighting how board members can build their knowledge and leadership capacity through focused learning and continuous improvement. Learn how the StudentsFirst approach supports effective governance and student success. Martin Bratrud – StudentsFirst Governance Coach/Glen Ullin School District	Prairie Rose Room 101
2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	North Dakota High School Activities Association: The Top 10 Overview of the top 10 questions NDHSAA receives from school board members. Matt Fetsch – Executive Director, NDHSAA	Prairie Rose Room 102
2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Welcoming New Educators to TFFR: A Coordinated Approach to new Member Education A strong start can help educators make informed retirement decisions throughout their careers. This session introduces the Teachers' Fund for Retirement (TFFR) redesigned new member education rollout: a new member presentation for district onboarding, a structured email series sent directly to new members in their first year, and a dedicated new member webpage. The session will highlight how districts and TFFR can work together to ensure new hires receive the information and support they need to confidently navigate their retirement benefits. Denise Weeks – Retirement Program Mgr., NDRIO-TFFR Jayme Heick – Retirement Program Specialist, NDRIO-TFFR Tami Volkert – Business Partner Officer, NDRIO-TFFR	Prairie Rose Room 105
2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Public Schools on the Ballot: Know Your Legislators, Know Your Impact Do you know your state legislators? Do you know how they do (or don't) support the hard work you do as a school board member? North Dakota's public schools - our students, their families, and the educators who come through their doors each day - are directly impacted by those who show up to vote in elections and the individuals elected at the ballot box. No matter what party or candidate you choose, The North Dakotans for Public Schools coalition encourages you and every North Dakotan to ask questions, be informed, and vote for individuals who will stand up for public schools and champion public education in their votes, words, and actions. In this session, ND4PS will share ways that the coalition is working to strengthen, protect, and celebrate our public schools through civic engagement, including highlighting the coalition's legislative voter guide, which provides information about where the candidates and incumbents on the ballot this November stand on issues important to public education. Erin Oban, ND4PS	Hall A



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Clinic Sessions 5

Room

3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	CREA Annual Meeting Connect with Central Regional Education Association's leadership to learn about CREA's governance framework and receive key insights on agency strategies for strengthening support for member schools. This session is open to members and non-member school representatives. Luke Schaefer – CEO, Central Regional Education Association	Prairie Rose Room 101
3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	North Dakota Small Organized Schools Annual Meeting NDSOS member schools are invited to attend this session that will include the annual meeting and election of board members. It will also include a brief summary of the programs and activities of the NDSOS over the past year and a discussion about the upcoming legislative session. <i>Mike Bitz – Executive Director, NDSOS</i>	Prairie Rose Room 102