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NOVEMBER 2017

Excellence in North Dakota public education through local school board governance ■ VOL XLII ISSUE 11

Election Results

At the election held on Friday, October 27, the following members were elected to serve on the NDSBA Board of Directors:



Jim Johnson (Fargo) – President



Mike Lautenschlager (Lewis & Clark, Berthold) – Vice President



Kim Bernstein (Bottineau) – Northwest Director



Karl Lembke (Bismarck) – Southwest Director



Holly Stromsodt (Finley-Sharon) – Northeast Director



Jim Rostad (Minot) – Past President



Patti Stedman (West Fargo) – Southeast Director

Completing the NDSBA board are the following:

Resolutions Passed by NDSBA Delegate Assembly

The Delegate Assembly voted on proposed resolutions during this year's Annual Convention. Below are resolutions adopted by delegates at the business meeting on October 27.

RESOLUTIONS READOPTED AS WRITTEN

TAXING AUTHORITY OF THE STATE

NDSBA shall oppose any attempt to limit the taxing authority of the state.

RESOLUTIONS READOPTED AS AMENDED

REGIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS

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

TAXING AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL BOARD

NDSBA shall oppose any attempts to further limit or eliminate the taxing authority of school districts.



NSBA 2018 Annual Conference Registration and Housing

The NSBA Annual Conference and Exposition will be held April 7-9 in San Antonio, Texas. Join us in San Antonio for a robust offering of over 25 educational programs including three inspirational general sessions that will give you new ideas and

tools to help drive your school district forward.

Conference registration and housing reservations are now open. Register online at www.nsba.org/conference.

comments of counsel

■ Amy De Kok, NDSBA Legal Counsel



NDSBA Legal Services Program

NDSBA provides several valuable resources, tools, and benefits to our members as part of your association dues. One such resource is NDSBA's Legal Services Program. School board members, superintendents, other administrators, and business managers are welcome to contact me by telephone or email to ask questions or obtain information regarding legal issues facing your districts. Members are invited to take advantage of this service as it can help reduce the chance that a district will become involved in litigation or, at a minimum, it may put the district in a better position in the event a complaint is filed or litigation occurs in the future.

It is important to understand what NDSBA's Legal Services Program is able to provide to members, as well as what its limitations are. Generally, I am able to provide consultation

to schools and their representatives regarding day-to-day legal issues including, but not limited to, personnel matters, open meetings and open records, board procedure, negotiations, student discipline, special education issues, and school facility improvement and construction. Our staff can also provide general guidance on proper references to and interpretation of provisions of the North Dakota Century Code, as well relevant case law. The Legal Services Program generally does NOT include the following:

- Legal representation at the local level (board meetings, hearings, or in court)
- Negotiation of contracts or negotiated agreements between identifiable parties

- Legal representation when the other side has an attorney
 - Legal representation when the other side is another member school district
- In these situations, please feel free to contact me and I will provide you with a referral to one of the attorneys on our list of Legal Services Affiliates. The attorneys in our Legal Services Affiliation regularly provide support and legal services to school districts in North Dakota. If you are uncertain as to whether an issue or situation is covered by our Legal Services Program, please give me a call or send me an email and I will assist you, if appropriate, or refer you to outside legal counsel. At NDSBA, we believe that preventive legal maintenance is a key element in reducing litigation involving North Dakota school boards and school districts. Contacting NDSBA Legal Services could be the difference between a favorable outcome and a costly lawsuit.

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EDITOR

Alexis Baxley

PUBLISHER

North Dakota School Boards Association
PO Box 7128
Bismarck, ND 58507-7128

TELEPHONE 1-800-932-8791

LOCAL (701)255-4127

FAX (701)258-7992

WEB SITE www.ndsba.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alexis Baxley, Bismarck

OFFICERS

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Kim Semenko Receives Barb Norby Scholarship



Williston School Board President Kim Semenko received the 2017 Barb Norby Scholarship Award at the North Dakota School Boards

Association Annual Convention on October 26, 2017.

Kim is currently serving her third year as president and serves on the district's finance committee and building committee.

Kim brings many experiences to the school board as a former business owner and volunteer in the community and private organizations. She has also served as a school board

member for St. Joseph's Elementary School and as a supervisor for Williston Township.

Kim has dedicated countless hours to her role as board president and consistently works for the betterment of students in the district.

The Barb Norby Scholarship Award was created by the North Dakota

School Boards Association Board of Directors in tribute to Barb Norby's valuable service to the association and honors a board member each year who demonstrates admirable school board leadership. The scholarship provides registration and an expense allowance to attend the National School Boards Association Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C., or the Annual Conference held each spring.



Jamestown High Principal Wins Prestigious Milken Award

State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler congratulated Jamestown High School Principal Adam Gehlhar for receiving the prestigious Milken Educator Award, which has been described as the “Oscar of teaching.”

Gehlhar was presented with the honor during an assembly at Jamestown High, where he is in his second year as principal. He is the first North Dakota Milken recipient since 2009 and the third in the past 10 years.

The high school assembly’s purpose was vaguely described to preserve the surprise for Gehlhar, who will receive an unrestricted \$25,000 prize from the Milken Family Foundation. The foundation chooses award recipients from across the country.

“I’m still kind of in disbelief,” Gehlhar said afterward. “I don’t know that I deserve all that honor or credit. It is not about me, it is about the kids.”

Robert Lech, superintendent of the Jamestown School District, called Gehlhar “a brilliant educator” and “a very innovative principal, and I think what’s important about how he innovates is that he understands how change needs to happen. He focuses first on making the case about why change needs to happen. That’s a really important piece that is missed sometimes.”

Baesler, who spoke at the ceremony, said she first met Gehlhar several years ago when he was teaching in the West Fargo School District.

“I recognized his energy, his vision, his innovative approach to making sure that he was reaching students where they needed to be met, to expand their learning, and really apply the knowledge that they were learning in the classroom,” Baesler said.

Gehlhar was a teacher and administrator in West Fargo’s public schools before he moved to Jamestown. He began as an instructor at the district’s STEM Center (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and later worked as an assistant principal at West Fargo High School and Cheney Middle School. In West Fargo, Gehlhar created an

internship program through which students worked with a number of businesses and professionals, including engineers, architects and lawyers. He organized “You’re Hired,” a day-long exercise in which teams of students used an engineering design process to solve problems.

Gehlhar is an alumnus of North Dakota State University, where he

earned a bachelor’s degree in social science education and a master’s in secondary education leadership. He served for 12 years in the Army National Guard, including two combat tours in Iraq. A combat engineer and squad leader, Gehlhar was named the 2005 Soldier of the Year for the 141st Engineer Combat Battalion.

Candidates for the Milken award are picked through a confidential process and interviewed by state education officials. The Milken Family Foundation makes the final choices.

Elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and other education professionals are eligible. To be chosen, candidates must show exceptional educational talent and accomplishments both inside and outside the classroom.

The Milken Educator Awards program was established in 1987. Fifty-three educators, including Gehlhar, have received Milken awards since North



Dakota joined the program in 1992. Before Gehlhar, the most recent honoree was Barry Olson, a science teacher at Fargo’s Ben Franklin Middle School, who won the award in 2009. Olson was one of a group of North Dakota Milken award winners who attended the ceremony.



NDSBA Seeks Member Input

The North Dakota School Boards Association is updating its strategic plan, and we need your help. The work we do is driven by you – our members. In order to ensure we are meeting your needs and providing the best value for your membership, we need your input.

Over the next few months, we’ll be sending out four short surveys via email. Each survey will be conducted via SurveyMonkey, have no more than 25 (mostly multiple-choice) questions, and cover a different aspect of our organization. The first and second surveys are already live.

Please take the time to complete these surveys. Your thoughts are integral in shaping our strategic plan and making sure we are providing the services you need. Board members, administrators, business managers, and any personnel who deal with NDSBA are encouraged to take the surveys.

The surveys can be completed at the below links:

Survey 1 – Membership Needs & Satisfaction - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDSBA1>

Survey 2 – Events & Seminars - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDSBA2>

Links for the remaining surveys will be sent to NDSBA members via email. If you have not received these links or have questions, please contact us at 1-800-932-8791. Your feedback is greatly appreciated!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Board Members Receive Service Awards



NDSBA recognizes board members for their professional development and service on two levels: Veteran Board Member and

Master Board Member. A point system has been adopted whereby each opportunity carries a specific value. When a board member has earned 100 points, a certificate is awarded designating the individual as a Veteran Board Member. When 200 points are earned, the designation is Master Board

Member and a certificate and lapel pin are awarded. Board members who participate in national meetings earn their certificate "with distinction."

2017 NDSBA Service Award

Recipients

Veteran Board Members: Lisa Amundson, Richland School District; Louis DeCouteau, Solen School District; and Anthony Roorda, Montpelier School District

Master Board Member with Distinction: Les Winning, Griggs County Central School District



mark your calendar

2018 NDSBA Negotiations Seminar

February 8-9, 2018

Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2018 NSBA Annual Conference

April 7-9, 2018

San Antonio, Texas

2018 NDSBA Annual Convention

October 25-26, 2018

Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck



Left to Right: Lisa Amundson, Anthony Roorda, Les Winning, NDSBA President Jim Johnson.



Louis DeCouteau receiving award from President Jim Johnson





2017 Convention Photos

