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NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2019

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

2019 Annual Convention Focuses on Mental/Behavioral Health and Building Relationships

NDSBA's Annual Convention will be held October 24-25 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. The New Member Seminar and School Law Seminar begin at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 24, and run until 2:45 p.m.

The Convention will open with Governor Doug Burgum and keynote speaker Matt Havens on Thursday afternoon at 3:00, followed by the first business session. Friday begins with general session speaker Principal Salome Thomas-EL, who will speak about leadership and resiliency. Friday continues with a full day of educational clinic sessions and will wrap up with our final business session and Delegate Assembly.

Since individual board members will not be able to attend all sessions, we encourage you to review the clinic session schedule in advance, choose which sessions are of interest to your board, split up to attend as many



Matt Havens



Salome Thomas-EL

different sessions as possible, and gather to share what you've learned later.

Friday clinic sessions include the following topics:

9:30-10:15

- Interpreting ND State Assessment Reports
- Role of School Resource Officers
- Strategic and Operational Planning
- Deeper Dive with Principal EL
- North Dakota Behavioral Health Transformation
- Rural Education Topics

10:30-11:15

- Strategies that Work: Engaging Families and Forming Meaningful Partnerships
- North Dakota eCare School Health Program
- Looking Back: Lessons in Leadership
- Value of a Quality Emergency Plan
- Turn Best Practice into Common Practice in Your Board Room
- New Digital/Career Tech Learning Opportunities

11:30-12:15

- School Boards & Administration: Building a Powerful Team
- Parliamentary Procedure
- School Finance 101
- Restorative Practices & the School Community
- Small Organized Schools Annual Meeting

1:15-2:00

- Innovating Your School's Health Insurance Plan and Business Services
- Teacher Pathways

- 2019-20 Interim Funding Formula Study
- 10 Things That Bug Us About Each Other
- Size-based Networking Round Tables
- Increasing Board Efficacy in Indian Country

2:15-3:00

- ND Insurance Reserve Fund Update
- Armed First Responder Program Update
- Deviation from the Norm
- Conversation with State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler
- School Construction Approval and Loan Program
- What's New at TFFR? 2019 Update

Sara Medalen Named 2020 ND Teacher of the Year

Governor Doug Burgum and State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler announced that Sara Medalen, a reading and math interventionist at Minot's Sunnyside Elementary School, is the North Dakota Teacher of the Year for 2020.



"Sara Medalen goes above and beyond to engage her students with hands-on, innovative experiences that instill courage and curiosity and prepare them to be lifelong learners and problem

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Annual Convention Registration

Registration for the 2019 NDSBA Annual Convention is still open. Registration is available online only at www.ndsba.org.



Legal Spotlight

Enforcing Immunization Requirements in Schools

by Amy De Kok, NDSBA Legal Counsel

A common question I receive from school districts this time of year is: When may a school exclude a student from school for lack of compliance with immunization requirements? The answer is that North Dakota law actually requires a school to deny admission to a child who has not provided certification of receipt of age-appropriate immunizations. The same is required for students receiving home-based education of which the district is charged with monitoring.

The school immunization requirements are set forth in NDCC 23-07-17.1. The law allows a child to provisionally enter school upon submitting written proof from a licensed physician or authorized representative of the Department of Health stating the child has started receiving the required immunization or written consent for the child to receive the needed immunization from a local health service without charge. A child is exempt from the immunization requirements under NDCC 23-07-17.1 provided the child, through the child's parent/guardian, submits either: (1) a

certificate from a licensed physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization would endanger the child's life or health, or (2) a certificate signed by the child's parent/guardian whose sincerely held religious, philosophical, or moral beliefs are opposed to such immunization and not a pretense for avoiding legal requirements. Exemption forms must be kept on file with the immunization records at the child's school.

So, what steps should or can a district take to enforce the immunization requirements? The ND Department of Health has issued administrative rules outlining school immunization requirements (NDAC ch. 33-06-05) as well as guidance to schools including a timeline, due dates, and sample forms. The guidance suggests that schools notify parents of the school immunization requirements for the next school year in the spring of the previous school year or during the summer. Students who are not up to date with school immunization requirements as of the first day of the school year should be given a non-compliance letter detailing the

required immunizations. Any child not adhering to the recommended schedule shall provide proof of immunization or a certificate of immunization by October first or within thirty calendar days of enrollment if enrolling after October first or be excluded from school. To be clear, **exclusion from school is required under state law.** The excluded child may be admitted back to school upon compliance with the immunization requirements.

North Dakota law does not require the board of a school district to adopt an immunization policy, but each school district is required to adopt a policy relating to significant contagious diseases. Specifically, the policy must govern the disposition and handling of children attending school, employees of the school district, or independent contractors under contract with the district who are diagnosed as having a significant contagious disease as defined under law.

Please contact NDSBA for additional information and resources regarding school immunization requirements.

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Student Immunization Policy



Recently, the North Dakota School Boards Association office has received multiple inquiries from districts for an immunization policy because of a recent statement

added to the MIS01 Fall Report in the Department of Public Instruction's State Automated Reporting System (STARS). This statement requests districts to certify and affirm compliance that they:

- Have a policy ensuring all students are in compliance with school

immunization requirements;

- Have a plan requiring the completion of all necessary immunization certifications;
- Have a plan addressing students who have not completed or submitted the necessary immunization certifications; and
- Are following the plan per NDCC 23-07-17.1 and ND Administrative Code 33-06-05.

At a minimum, under North Dakota State law, schools are required to adopt a policy on significant contagious

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State Law Requires New Board Members to Attend Seminar

North Dakota Century Code § 15.1-09-32 requires new school board members to attend an in-service training workshop hosted by the North Dakota School Boards Association or its designee within one year of assuming office. NDSBA will host a seminar for new board members in conjunction with the annual convention on October 24, 2019. Topics will include the role of a school board member, duties of the school board, and school finance. A panel of experienced school board members will also present their experiences. You may register at the door if you have not yet pre-registered.

■ ND Teacher of the Year

solvers,” Burgum said. “We thank Ms. Medalen and all of the finalists for their passion and dedication to empowering students with the knowledge and skills they need to reach their fullest potential.”

“Sara Medalen is one of the best our North Dakota teaching profession has to offer,” Baesler said. “She is an exceptional instructor who has tremendous love, respect, devotion, and high expectations for all her students. She supports and brings out the best in her students and her colleagues. Sara is an exemplar of what the North Dakota Teacher of the Year is.”

Medalen assists students who are struggling with reading or math at Sunnyside, which is a grade K-5 school in Minot. She has also started programs to encourage reading, leadership development, and physical fitness. Among them are Books and Braids, in which young girls sign up for appointments for Medalen to braid their hair before school while they read aloud from a book. Girl Power is a group of young students who do charitable projects and hear presentations from female role models, including public officials, first responders, business people, and athletes.

“One of the goals for Girl Power is to empower girls to make a positive difference in their lives and in the lives

of others,” Medalen said. “I hope that I can carry that through in this role as North Dakota Teacher of the Year as well. I'm excited and looking forward to becoming the 2020 spokesperson for the future of our students and schools.”

Medalen oversees STEAM Saturdays (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Mathematics), which encourages students to collaborate, use critical thinking and problem-solving skills, take risks, and learn from failure. Medalen also founded Strides for Sunnyside, a running group for students, to promote physical activity and help students learn about healthy habits.

Five finalists were selected for the 2020 honor: Medalen; Jessica Brandt, a Title 1 English and reading teacher at Casselton's Central Cass School; Dr. Karyn Chiapella, a special education teacher and intervention specialist at the Scranton Public School; Susan Lillian McPherson, an English Learner teacher at Northern Cass Public School in Hunter; and Sara Thompson, an instructional coach and reading specialist at Sweetwater Elementary School in Devils Lake. Baesler honored and celebrated each of the finalist candidates in their home schools earlier this month.

Congratulations to Ms. Medalen, the 2020 ND TOY finalists, and each of their school districts!

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If your board votes to bring a resolution to the convention floor for consideration by the Delegate Assembly, the

following process must be followed:

1. Have 400 copies of your resolution ready to distribute at the close of the First Business Session on Thursday afternoon.
2. At the Second Business Session on Friday afternoon, the chair will ask if there are resolutions that were distributed on Thursday. At that time, a delegate from your board must come to the microphone and move the resolution. A delegate from a different board must make the second.
3. Once a motion and second have been made, your resolution will be discussed and voted on by the Delegate Assembly.

New School Information Now Available on ND Education Dashboard

State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler announced earlier this month that a new year's worth of North Dakota school performance and accountability information has been integrated into the state's "education dashboard" website. The education dashboard can be found at <https://insights.nd.gov/Education>.

The dashboard allows North Dakotans to look up an assortment of information by school and district, as well as at the state level. For example, North Dakota State Assessment results in mathematics, science, and English are available, as are results for the ACT college entrance exam, which is taken in high school. The dashboard also has information about school enrollment, demographics, graduation rates, and absenteeism; improvements in student assessment results; and the results of engagement surveys, which measure levels of student enthusiasm about their education.

Baesler said the information is gathered, reviewed, and later vetted again by the school districts themselves before it becomes part of the dashboard. The newest information is from the 2018-19 school year.

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■ Student Immunization Policy

diseases (NDCC 23-07-16.1) to protect the health and safety of all district students, staff, and independent contractors. Districts may choose to adopt additional policies related to student immunization, but this is the only policy required by law.

NDSBA has created policy **ACBB, Significant Contagious Diseases**, to assist in fulfilling this legal obligation and the requirement in the MIS01 Fall Report. NDSBA also has multiple accompanying templates available for its members to help familiarize themselves with current immunization laws and protect the district's staff and students from the spread of diseases.

They include administrative regulation, **ACBB-AR, Responding to Potential Health Threats**, and exhibits **ACBB-E1, Universal Precautions and Sanitary Clean Up**, and **ACBB-E2, Laws on Immunizations, Contagious Disease, Reportable Disease, and Significantly Contagious Disease**. NDSBA and NDDPI are working together to clarify the language included in next year's MIS01 Fall Report.

For additional information on these NDSBA policy templates or to request a copy, please contact NDSBA at 1-800-932-8791 or rebecca.duben@ndsba.org.

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NDSBA is Now on Twitter!

NDSBA is now on Twitter. Follow us at @ndschoolorboards for events, policy, and other education-related updates.



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■ Education Dashboard

“The dashboard offers North Dakotans a one-stop location to review important information about the performance of their public schools,” Baesler said. “Our taxpayers invest about \$1 billion annually in our public school system, and they deserve easy access to information about how well it is working.

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“We expect to make future improvements to our dashboard and add even more information to it. We also welcome suggestions about what types of information North Dakotans would like to know about their schools so we can add it to the dashboard.”

NDSBA Seeks Student Artwork

NDSBA is seeking holiday-themed student artwork to be featured on our holiday cards. Artwork should be landscape-oriented and 5.5 x 4.75 inches. The student whose artwork is chosen will be recognized in the December issue of the *Bulletin* and receive a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card. NDSBA will also make a \$200 donation to the student’s classroom.

Artwork can be submitted in two ways:

1. Original artwork can be mailed to NDSBA, PO Box 7128, Bismarck ND 58507.
2. High quality scans (300 dpi or greater) of original artwork can be emailed to linnae.brew@ndsba.org.

All submissions should include the name and grade of the student, the name of the student’s teacher, school name, and school district. Artwork must be received in the NDSBA office **by November 1**.



2019 NDSBA School Law Seminar
October 24, 2019
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2019 NDSBA New Board Member Seminar
October 24, 2019
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2019 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 24-25, 2019
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

2020 NDSBA Negotiations Seminar
February 6-7, 2020
BSC National Energy Center of Excellence, Bismarck

2020 NSBA Annual Conference
April 4-6, 2020
Chicago, Illinois

2020 NDSBA Annual Convention
October 29-30, 2020
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck



MEET THE NDSBA CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT



Holly Stromsodt – Finley-Sharon

Holly was elected to the Finley-Sharon School Board in 2012 and currently serves as president. She has served as NDSBA's Northeast Director from 2015-2018 and NDSBA's president since 2018. She also served on the NDSBA Legislative Committee. Holly recently became a member of the newly formed K-12 Education Coordinating Council.

Holly graduated from Griggs County Central High School and received her B.S. degree in Business Administration from Valley City State University. She is a 1999 graduate of the Dakota School of Banking and a 2003 graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado. Holly has been with the Citizens State Bank of Finley for 23 years. She is the EVP/CFO and was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2015. She has previously served on the North Dakota Bankers Association (NDBA) Board of Directors and currently serves on the NDBA Legislative Committee.

Holly grew up near Hannaford. Holly and her husband Mike have three children. Holly is active in her community serving as treasurer for the Finley-Sharon Dollars for Scholars, treasurer for the Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone, and treasurer for the Steele County Job Development Authority. She is active in her local church helping with Family Faith Formation and assisting with the local high school Christian youth group.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT



Karl Lembke – Bismarck

Karl was elected to the Bismarck School Board in 2014 and re-elected to a second term. Karl has attended the NDSBA convention every year since being elected to the school board and has attended the National School Boards Association Annual Conference. He served as NDSBA's Southwest Director before being elected vice president last year.

Karl graduated from Century High School, attended Bismarck State College, and went on to graduate from the University of Mary with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He is married and has three children. Karl is an insurance agent with Vaaler Insurance. His past work experience includes medical and pharmaceutical sales, professional fundraising, and work as a lobbyist at the North Dakota State Legislature.

Karl is active in his community by serving on the Bismarck Mandan Chamber of Commerce Local Issues Committee, University of Mary Alumni Committee, ND Kids First Foundation, and Bismarck-Mandan Development Association. He has also served on the ND Dietetic Practices Board, Parent Advisory Committee at Century High School, Bismarck Baseball Boosters, Century High School Baseball Boosters, and Bismarck Public Schools Foundation Board.

CANDIDATE FOR NORTHEAST DIRECTOR



Steve Halldorson – Devils Lake

Steve was first elected to the Devils Lake School Board in 2005 and is completing his 5th term. He served as vice president for four years and president for three years. Currently, he is the vice president for his local REA, having been president for three years. Steve is completing his first year as NDSBA's Northeast Director. He has served on the Government Affairs, Credentials, and Ballot Counting Committees.

Steve has served on numerous local organizations including Devils Lake Recreation Committee, Lake Region Skating Club, Blue Line Club, Middle School Exploratory Committee, and his children's Parent Teacher Organization. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus. Steve is employed with Altru Health System as a facilities technician. He has been married to his wife, Donna, for 31 years. They have three adult children: Nicholas, Alex, and Shana. They have one grandson Aidan and one granddaughter Everette.

CANDIDATE FOR SOUTHWEST DIRECTOR



Lucas Greff – Mott/Regent

Lucas has been on the Mott-Regent School Board for six years. He has served as vice president and president and has served on the Policy, Building, and Curriculum Committees in that time. He was elected to complete a vacated term as NDSBA Southwest Director in 2018. He is currently serving as the president for the Roughrider Area Career and Technical Center (RACTC), a role he has held the past four years.

Lucas grew up on the family farm and graduated from Regent Public School in 2000. He attended college at Valley City State and Dickinson State. He joined the North Dakota National Guard in 1999 and is a currently serving member. Lucas has been married to Angela since 2003 and they have five children. He currently ranches on the family farm and is Active Duty Military for the National Guard.

CANDIDATES FOR NORTHWEST DIRECTOR



Blaine Huff - Kenmare

Blaine was elected to the Kenmare School Board in 2012. He currently serves as president and has also served as vice president. He has served on every committee, including as lead negotiator and building chair on a large building project. Blaine has attended several NDSBA conventions, law seminars, negotiations seminars, and has attended the national conference the last two years.

Blaine graduated from Kenmare High School in 1993 and attended NDSU - Bottineau. He briefly worked in construction before taking a position at the Gooseneck Implement Company in Kenmare. He currently operates his family's fourth-generation farm in the Donnybrook area. Blaine has served on the Carbondale Township board since 2005 and has been the chairman for several years. He is currently finishing his second term on the Ward County FSA board and has been chairman the past four years. Blaine grew up on the family farm. He has been married to his wife Dorinda for 13 years, and they have four children and two grandchildren.



Monica Mason - Fessenden/Bowdon

Monica graduated from Carrington High School and attended Minot State University. She is currently vice president of the Fessenden -Bowdon School Board, where she has served for over 10 years. She is on the curriculum and finance/insurance committees. Monica has attended NDSBA conventions and other school-related meetings over the years.

Monica is an active community member. She has served on the playground committee for the Fessenden-Bowdon School and helped start the daycare committee in Fessenden. She started the 4-6 grade volleyball program in Fessenden and is currently the B squad volleyball coach for the Harvey Wells County sports co-op.

In addition to being a full-time mom to four children, Monica has worked for an attorney in Harvey, was the Deputy Clerk of Court in Wells County, and is currently an Insurance Agent/Branch Supervisor for an Independent Agency in Harvey. She is taking classes to attain her AINS designation in General Insurance.



Jim Rostad - Minot

Jim has a passion for his community and for public schools. Jim has been on the Minot School Board a total of 19 years, serving as board president since 2012. Jim also serves as the liaison to Minot Air Force Base School Board and has worked extensively with North Dakota's congressional delegation to secure funding for federally impacted schools on behalf of both Minot Public Schools and Minot AFB. As board president, Jim played an integral role in the decision-making process as the Minot district recovered from the devastating 2011 flood all while experiencing rapid increase in enrollment due to the booming activity of the oil and gas industry in western North Dakota. In 2015 Jim's leadership was recognized when the Minot PTA presented him with their Lifetime Achievement Award.

In his retirement from a career in the auto body industry, Jim finds it fulfilling to serve his community in leadership roles. He was elected to the Ward County Commission in 2016 and serves on several county subcommittees. He is also a past president of the Minot Area Development Corporation and has a great deal of experience working with community and state elected officials for the greater good of the community. Jim served on the NDSBA's Government Affairs Committee for several years during the Hoeven and Dalrymple administrations. He was elected as the Northwest Director of the NDSBA board in 2010 and served as president from 2014-2016. During his tenure on the board, Jim was supportive of NDSBA improving and expanding their policy and legal services to districts across the state.