

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
Meeting of the Government Affairs Committee
Tuesday, August 30, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Holly Stromsodt at 2:02 p.m. Participating in the conference call were the following:

Committee Members

Holly Stromsodt, Chair, Finley-Sharon
Karl Lembke, Bismarck
Patti Stedman, West Fargo
Sonya Hansana, Hazen
Robin Nelson, Fargo
Cynthia Schabb, Grand Forks
Mike Lautenschlager, Lewis & Clark
Collette Hertz, Harvey

Staff

Alexis Baxley

Member absent

Jason Rohr, Jamestown

RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE FOUR YEARS OLD AND SCHEDULED TO BE DROPPED

1. COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS. NDSBA shall support the state ensuring program funding equity for school districts, including full funding of the costs associated with English language learners. *Adopted in 2014; readopted in 2018.*
2. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LOAN PROGRAM. NDSBA shall support increasing the total funds available for the School Construction Loan Program. *Adopted in 2014; readopted in 2018.*
3. TEACHERS' FUND FOR RETIREMENT. NDSBA shall support any of the following solutions to help address this critical issue:
 - 1) A separate state appropriation that gives each school district an annual amount equal to 5% of their certified staff payroll, until such time as the rollback occurs to the pre-2008 contribution levels.
 - 2) A series of catch-up allocations from the state's general fund sufficient to fund the plan to 100%.
 - 3) A rollback to the pre-2008 contribution levels when the TFFR plan is funded at 70% with the post- 2008 increased contribution rates paid by state funds until the plan is 100% funded.
 - 4) Agreement to study the present funding system for TFFR and explore other possible solutions with appropriate stakeholders. Comprehensive study should include potential costs considerations, funding sources, legal implications, and impact on employees, employers, and the state. *Adopted in 2014; readopted in 2018.*
4. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. NDSBA shall support separate state funding for preschool programs meeting prescribed standards. *Adopted in 2010; readopted in 2014 and 2018.*

5. FUNDING ADEQUACY, BOARD TAXING AUTHORITY, AND PROPERTY TAX REDUCTIONS. NDSBA will support direct state funding of K-12 education at a level adequate to reduce reliance on local property taxes. *Adopted in 2006; readopted in 2010, 2014, and 2018.*
6. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING. NDSBA will support legislation that will allow all school districts in North Dakota an equal opportunity to participate with after-school programming. *Adopted in 2006; readopted in 2010, 2014, and 2018.*
7. NORTH DAKOTA STATE STANDARDS. NDSBA shall support the ongoing implementation of North Dakota State Standards. *Adopted in 2014; amended and readopted in 2018.*
8. SCHOOL SAFETY. NDSBA shall support legislation that would expand the ability of school districts to discuss school safety and security in executive session. *Adopted in 2018.*

Nelson moved to recommend resolutions 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 for readoption. Hansana seconded the motion, and it carried.

Lembke moved to recommend resolution three for readoption as amended (amendments follow). Stedman seconded the motion, and it carried.

3. TEACHERS' FUND FOR RETIREMENT AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM. NDSBA shall support adequate and sustainable funding for TFFR and PERS programs. ~~any of the following solutions to help address this critical issue:—~~
 - 1) ~~A separate state appropriation that gives each school district an annual amount equal to 5% of their certified staff payroll, until such time as the rollback occurs to the pre-2008 contribution levels.—~~
 - 2) ~~A series of catch-up allocations from the state's general fund sufficient to fund the plan to 100%.—~~
 - 3) ~~A rollback to the pre-2008 contribution levels when the TFFR plan is funded at 70% with the post-2008 increased contribution rates paid by state funds until the plan is 100% funded.—~~
 - 4) ~~Agreement to study the present funding system for TFFR and explore other possible solutions with appropriate stakeholders. Comprehensive study should include potential costs—considerations, funding sources, legal implications, and impact on employees, employers, and the state.—~~

Adopted in 2014; readopted in 2018.

NEW RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

A resolution to expand the criteria for eligible individuals who can receive sign-on bonuses under the School Board authority provision granted in North Dakota Century Code 15.1-09-33.1.

WHEREAS, the current criteria for eligible individuals who can receive sign-on bonuses under current school board authority is limited to the position of a classroom teacher which does not delineate differing needs based on the role (defined as the grade-level and/or subject matter being taught);

WHEREAS, the current criteria for eligible individuals who can receive sign-on bonuses under current school board authority does not allow current LEAs to recruit critically short and necessary non-classroom positions such as school psychologists;

WHEREAS, historical data continue to show a consistent trend of data magnifying discrepancies in the ability to fill positions based on roles, not positions such as special education being harder to fill than general education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NDSBA support legislation to expand the criteria for eligible individuals who can receive sign-on bonuses under the School Board authority provision granted in North Dakota Century Code 15.1-09-33.1

Nelson moved to adopt a resolution to be submitted by the Fargo School Board. Hertz seconded the motion, and it carried.

Having completed committee business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Alexis Baxley, Recording Secretary