



# bulletin



**NDSBA**  
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL  
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2023

*Excellence in North Dakota public education through local school board governance* ■ VOL XLVIII ISSUE 4

## Program in Grand Forks Public School District Earns 2023 NSBA Magna Award

NSBA's Magna Awards program is known for recognizing exemplary school district programs. The focus of the 2023 awards program was innovation in education and it honored districts that have implemented programs that solved district challenges with creativity and out-of-the-box strategies. Among the 2023 Magna Award winners is the Mentor Center in the Grand Forks Public Schools District.

The Mentor Center was one of the three award winners in the 5,000 to 20,000 enrollment category in the Silver Award winning programs. Only 18 districts in the nation receive a Magna Award each year. Along with the other winning districts, they were featured in the April 2023 issue of *American School Board Journal* and were recognized during the NSBA Annual Conference at the Magna Awards Master Class and reception.

The Mentor Center is a resource center for middle and high school students to receive academic support, social-emotional support, and enrichment. It originally started



as a pandemic response to help struggling students and quickly became a key element in students' lives, what sociologists term a "third place," a place in between school/work and home, somewhere that enriches lives and builds community. Not even a year after its open date of January 2021, the Mentor Center received the 2021 Governor's #InnovativeND Award for Collaborative Culture. The center has transformed into a broad program that offers and maintains a positive, welcoming environment for all, establishes expectations for students, is more integrated in the



work of the schools, and assists the district in its strategic goals for academic engagement and social emotional learning.

Congratulations Mentor Center on the well-deserved recognition! Thank you for the diligence and care that the program provides to students.

For more information on the Mentor Center, go to <https://www.gfschools.org/Page/9332>.

## NDDPI and NDSBA to Host Board Member Bootcamp

On Monday, August 7, 2023, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) and the North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) will team up once again to host a one-day school board member training. The training is a great opportunity for both seasoned and new board members to gain information and updates pertaining to educational topics.

The bootcamp will take place at the state Capitol in Bismarck from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT, and lunch will be provided. Registration for the FREE training can be found at <https://www.ndsba.laventurellc.com/2023bootcamp>.

**Please note: this training does not meet the new board member training required by law.**



## NDSBA Requesting Clinic Proposals

NDSBA is now accepting proposals for 2023 NDSBA Annual Convention clinic sessions. The proposal submission form can be found at [www.ndsba.org](http://www.ndsba.org) under QUICK CLICKS.

Consider sharing unique or successful things happening in your district or suggesting a speaker or topic you would like to see.

**Submissions are due by May 26, 2023.**



# Legal Spotlight

## How to Change the Size of a School Board

by Lexie Bergstrom, NDSBA Staff Attorney

Several districts have recently contacted us regarding the process to change the size of their school board. North Dakota law requires that school boards be made up of either five, seven, or nine members. The size of a board may be increased or decreased as districts expand, shrink, or reorganize.

Under North Dakota Century Code Section 15.1-09-01, the size of a school board may be increased to seven or nine members or decreased to seven or five members only if a petition is submitted to the board that is signed by the requisite number of qualified electors of the school district. The requisite number of qualified electors is equal to at least one-third of those who voted at the most recent annual school district election. The board may not initiate such a change or circulate a petition for this purpose. Rather, the

board must only act upon receipt of a petition containing the requisite number of signatures. Additionally, the school business manager is not required to verify the sufficiency of the petition prior to signatures being collected. The verification occurs following receipt of a petition containing at least the requisite number of signatures. Once the board receives a proper petition, the question is placed on the ballot at a special election called by the school board for this purpose. The change must be approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the school district voting on the question at the special election.

If a majority of the qualified voters in a school district elect to increase the size of the school board, the additional members must be elected to the board at the next annual school district election in the same manner as other board members. If the total number of board members after approval of the increase is seven, the terms of three members extend until the first annual election, the terms of two members extend until the second annual election, and the terms of the remaining two members extend until the third annual election. If the total number of board members after approval of the increase is nine, the terms of three members extend until the first annual election, the terms of three members extend until the second annual election, and the terms of the remaining three members extend until the third annual election.

The length of any term in existence before the change in board membership and held by a board member who is duly qualified may not be modified as a result of the change. If a majority of the qualified voters in a school district elect to decrease the size of the school board, no existing board member's term is cut short. The excess number of members serve out their existing

terms and then their seat circulates off of the board when next up for election.

Please note that it is not uncommon to consider increasing or decreasing a school board while also considering the process of reorganization. An election on a reorganization proposal takes the place of the petition and election requirements of increasing or decreasing a school board discussed above. Approval of a reorganization proposal has the same effect as if the approval were by the election provided for an increase or decrease of a board. Once reorganization is complete, any increase or decrease of the school board may occur through a change in the reorganization plan, which is addressed in NDCC 15.1-12-21.

Please contact NDSBA for further information regarding this topic.

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## BoardBook Premier

BoardBook Premier is available to North

Dakota school districts, political subdivisions, and businesses. BoardBook Premier is a paperless meeting and document storage program designed by school boards and is the new standard in board agenda preparation and decision making.

Visit [www.ndsba.org](http://www.ndsba.org) for more information.



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## HR Collaborative's 2023 Six-Session Summer Virtual Series

In our March *Bulletin*, the first session of the HR Collaborative's six-session Summer Virtual Series, a question-and-answer session with Labor Commissioner Nathan Svihovec, was listed to start at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7. The time has changed to **2 p.m.** on Wednesday, June 7. This first session will be moderated by a member of the HR Collaborative's

Technical Assistance Committee who will ask previously submitted attendee questions from 2-2:45 p.m. and then open it up for on-the-fly questions from 2:45-3:15 p.m.

If you would like to submit a question for Svihovec to answer during this session, please send it to the HR Collaborative at [HRCollab@ndirf.com](mailto:HRCollab@ndirf.com) by Wednesday, May 17.

All other previously listed sessions from the March Bulletin will continue with their scheduled 10 a.m. start

time. This year's upcoming series will cover the following topics: trending employment issues, behavioral based interviewing, mindfulness, and remote work.

As in years past, the cost to attend this series will be \$50. Registration will open Monday, May 1, 2023, at [www.hrndgov.org](http://www.hrndgov.org).

Links to each session's video recording will be emailed to all who register for the series.

## NDDPI Seeking Applications for Summer Food Service Program



The Department of Public Instruction is seeking applications from organizations interested in operating North Dakota's Summer Food Service Program. The program offers meals to children when school is not in session.

Potential sponsors include residential summer camps, private nonprofit

organizations, public schools, nonprofit private schools, and local, municipal, county, tribal or state government units. Eligibility rules require that at least 50 percent of the children who are served meals – or who are living in the area – must be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, based on local school or census data.

Applicants may email the NDDPI's Child Nutrition and Food Distribution unit at [dpicnfd@nd.gov](mailto:dpicnfd@nd.gov) or contact

Melissa Anderson, assistant director at the Department of Public Instruction, by phone at 701-328-2263.



### Lakota School District

Contact: Jason Sorlien

Email: [jasonsorlien@polarcomm.com](mailto:jasonsorlien@polarcomm.com)

Website: <https://lakota-nd.schoolloop.com/>

Administrator Application, Cover Letter, Resume, Certificate of Teaching and Supt. Credentials, 3 Letters of Recommendation  
Deadline: April 21, 2023

Position Begins: July 1, 2023

### Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock School District

Contact: Tad Larson

Email: [tad.larson@k12.nd.us](mailto:tad.larson@k12.nd.us)

Website: <https://www.hmb.k12.nd.us/>

Application: Cover Letter, Resume, 3 Letters of Recommendation

Deadline: May 1, 2023

Position Begins: July 1, 2023

### North Star School District

Contact: Nancy Resier

Phone: 701-968-4416

Email: [Nancy.reiser@k12.nd.us](mailto:Nancy.reiser@k12.nd.us)

Website: <https://northstarnd.sites.thrillshare.com/>

Deadline: Open Until Filled

Position Begins: July 1, 2023

## 2023 IgniteND Conference



The IgniteND Conference will be held June 7-9, 2023, at Bismarck State College. The three day conference can be attended virtually or in-person opportunity for educators, administrators, tech coordinators, parents, and policymakers to network and engage on 21st-century topics - including computer science and cybersecurity. If they're aiming to have every student be cyber-educated, this is a great event for them to attend! The registration fee is \$149 per person; however, The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction has agreed to cover registration fees for ALL North Dakota teachers. For more information and registration go to <https://ignitend.com/>.



## Business Manager Certification Program Accepting Applications

The North Dakota School Business Manager Certification Program (NDSBMCP) is now accepting applications for new students to begin courses in the fall. This certification program is a two-year, 61 credit professional development program geared towards new and long-standing business managers.

The NDSBMCP application form can be accessed at <http://ndsbmcp.org/index.php/handbooks-and-forms/>. Fifteen applicants are needed to start a class. Students are encouraged to submit the completed application by **August 31, 2023**. Prospective students can visit the NDSBMCP website at <http://ndsbmcp.org/> or contact [patty.verdouw@ndsba.org](mailto:patty.verdouw@ndsba.org) for more information on the program.



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**2023 NDSBA Annual Convention**

October 26-27, 2023  
Bismarck Hotel, Bismarck

**2024 NDSBA Negotiations  
Seminar**

February 1-2, 2024  
BSC National Energy Center of  
Excellence, Bismarck

**Board Member Bootcamp**

August 7, 2023  
State Capitol, Bismarck

**Brunch & Learns**

**May Brunch & Learn**

May 17, 2023  
Legislative Wrap Up  
Zoom

**June Brunch & Learn**

June 21, 2023  
Get in the know about GF Public  
School's Mentor Center  
Zoom