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NDSBA
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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Excellence in North Dakota public education through local school board governance ■ VOL XLVIII ISSUE 7

ClassLink Funded by Legislature

This session, the ND Legislature funded a single sign-on (SSO) technology called ClassLink for all K-12 public schools. This is a solution that allows students, teachers, and parents to have one login and one password for everything. Users will also be able to streamline their access to digital resources and enhance their overall educational experience, all the while increasing the cybersecurity of schools. Currently, more than 34 ND schools have implemented or are in the process of implementing ClassLink. Some key advantages of using ClassLink in K-12 education include:

1. NO MORE STICKY NOTES WITH MULTIPLE LOGINS AND PASSWORDS: ClassLink allows users to access multiple applications with a single set of login credentials. Students and teachers can log in once and gain access to a multitude of tools and resources. This convenience saves time and reduces frustration, particularly for younger students who may struggle



with multiple passwords.

2. ENHANCED SECURITY = PEACE OF MIND: With ClassLink, schools can implement multi-factor authentication (MFA), to strengthen security. This reduces the risk of unauthorized access and potential data breaches, ensuring that students' and teachers' personal information and academic data remain protected.

3. SMARTER MANAGEMENT: ClassLink allows schools to centrally manage user accounts, permissions, and access rights. When a student or teacher joins or leaves the school, their access can be easily provisioned or revoked, ensuring that only authorized individuals have access to the appropriate resources. This centralized user management system simplifies administrative tasks and reduces the IT burden associated with managing multiple accounts.

4. EASY TO UNDERSTAND DATA: The built-in analytics feature allows administrators and teachers to keep track of digital resources so they can determine which learning applications are adding value.

5. PARENT PORTAL: Gives families one place for quick access to attendance, grades, lunch accounts, and other digital apps and resources. With SSO access to everything they need, families can stay connected and involved with school life.

Overall, ClassLink offers numerous advantages that allow teachers, parents and students to work smarter, not harder. These benefits contribute to a more efficient and productive learning environment, enabling educators and students to focus on what really matters.

ClassLink is available to ND districts at NO COST thanks to the ND Legislature's investment. For more information email Lisa Feldner at lisa@olsoneffertz.com.

NDSBA Seeking Committee Members

NDSBA is seeking board members to serve on various committees prior to and at the 2023 Annual Convention. These committees are an important part of NDSBA's Delegate Assembly and Election procedures. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/UaLaHb7e7HKcDmLv7>. Board members will be appointed to the following committees in the coming months:

Government Affairs Committee

The Government Affairs Committee

meets once in late August via conference call to discuss and approve any resolutions submitted to NDSBA. Approved resolutions are then submitted to the Delegate Assembly for final consideration.

Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating committee meet once via conference call prior to the October convention. The committee reviews all candidate applications for positions on the NDSBA Board of Directors and approves which candidates will be placed on the ballot

for election at the October convention.

Credentials Committee

Credentials Committee members assist NDSBA staff in seating delegates at the Delegate Assembly during the October convention.

Ballot Counting Committee

Members of the Ballot Counting Committee tally votes and certify election results for board of director positions at the October convention. They are also available to tally ballot votes during the Delegate Assembly, if necessary.

Welcome!

NDSBA would like to welcome all of the newly elected school board members who were seated this month. Your board service will be challenging but rewarding. NDSBA is here to serve you as you serve the learners in your district, and we look forward to meeting you at the New Member Seminar!



Legal Spotlight

Head Lice in Schools: Management and Prevention

by Lexie Bergstrom, NDSBA Staff Attorney

Head lice infestations

can be a common occurrence in schools, particularly among young children. These tiny insects can cause discomfort and annoyance, leading to potential disruptions in the learning environment. To effectively manage and prevent head lice outbreaks, school districts often turn to the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In the past, it was not uncommon for districts to have policies in place directing staff to send students home if they had head lice and instruct them not to return until after every louse and nit was killed. However, these “no-nit” policies are no longer recommended; in fact, the CDC advocates that “no-nit” policies should be discontinued. This article will further explain more appropriate head lice management and prevention in schools.

To effectively manage head lice

infestations, schools should adopt policies that primarily focus on minimizing disruptions to the learning environment while preventing the spread of lice among students. For instance, schools should provide educational materials and information about head lice to parents and guardians. This includes explaining how to identify, treat, and prevent infestations, as well as dispelling common misconceptions. Additionally, schools should establish open lines of communication with parents, healthcare providers, and school staff. Collaboration is essential to promptly identify infested students, provide treatment recommendations, and minimize the spread of lice. However, it is important to maintain the privacy of students with head lice. The identity of affected students should not be disclosed to avoid stigmatization or unnecessary embarrassment and due to student privacy protections under FERPA, unless an exception applies (e.g., release to educational officials with a legitimate need to know). NDSBA has a template policy regarding head lice (FCAC) which addresses prevention and management of head lice in schools.

While managing head lice infestations is crucial, implementing preventive measures can greatly reduce the likelihood of outbreaks. Preventative measures in schools include: avoiding head-to-head contact; directing students to avoid sharing personal items that come into contact with the head, such as hats, combs, brushes, or hair accessories; and encouraging parents to routinely check their children’s hair for signs of lice or nits.

As stated above, the CDC advises against “no-nit” policies that require students to be free of nits before returning to school. Such policies have been shown to be ineffective in preventing the spread of lice, as many nits are not viable due to their distant proximity to the scalp.

Additionally, nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people. Moreover, head lice have not been shown to spread disease. Instead of “no nit” policies, infested students should be allowed to remain in school while receiving treatment at home. Keeping students at home for an extended time due to head lice is unnecessary and burdensome to those students and their families.

Head lice infestations can present challenges for schools, but effective management policies can prevent the spread of lice among students. By fostering a culture of understanding and collaboration, schools can create an environment that supports the well-being and education of all students while minimizing disruptions caused by head lice infestations.

Please feel free to contact NDSBA for further information regarding this topic.

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NE and SW Director Openings

The Northeast and Southwest Director seats on the NDSBA Board of Directors will be open during the election at the 2023 Annual Convention in October. Both successful candidates will be eligible for two, two-year terms. If you are interested in being a candidate for one of the positions, you must (1) be from the Northeast or Southwest regions and (2) fill out a corresponding regional Candidate Information Form that can be attained from the NDSBA office. The form must be received in the NDSBA office by Friday, August 18, 2023. The Nominating Committee will review applications and select candidates to be placed on the ballot for the election held during the Annual Convention on October 26-27, 2023, in Bismarck. Candidates slated for election by the Nominating Committee will have time to make brief comments at the first business session on Thursday afternoon, October 26. Contact the NDSBA office for more information.

NDDPI Be Legendary School Board Leadership Grant Opportunity

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction's (NDDPI) Be Legendary School Board Leadership Institute is well into its second year. Using federal aid, NDDPI launched this initiative, with an endorsement from NDSBA to help school governing teams continually sharpen and cultivate their focus on one primary objective: improving student outcomes.

School board members are important leaders in their school systems and hold the power to dramatically improve student achievement, but many boards spend most of their time focusing on adult tasks and topics – like budget, operations, and personnel and facility management – and a very small amount of time focusing on student outcomes. We know that student outcomes don't change until adult behaviors change.

The Be Legendary School Board Leadership Institute is a two-day training that gives school boards and education leaders the tools they need to adopt a student outcome-focused governance model and, ultimately,

enhance academic achievement.

"The training is a mind shift for boards and superintendents," said Marcus Lewton, superintendent of Dickinson Public Schools. "Student achievement should be the focus of every adult in the school system."

Since launching this initiative, 27 North Dakota school boards have been successfully trained. Of the initial participants, 95% said they would recommend the training to other school boards and leadership teams.

"Student outcomes in North Dakota would improve if all school boards and superintendents went through this training," said a Rugby Public Schools board member.

NDDPI has a goal to provide every North Dakota school board with this training. The North Dakota legislature recognized the value of the Be Legendary School Board Leadership Institute and allocated funding to work toward that goal. Another round of competitive grants are now open until **September 15** for the 2023-2024 school year. **NDDPI will cover half of the cost of certification** and additional discounted rates are

available when two or more school boards attend training together.

In addition to the two-day institute, school boards can also elect to participate in a year of continued coaching, which is a critical component to help boards grow, thrive, and be the most successful. Thanks to available funding, NDDPI is able to offer this incentive, a \$24,000 value, at **NO COST** to participating boards. The agency views this as an investment that benefits all North Dakota students.

Although the Be Legendary School Board Leadership Institute was created to address pandemic-related learning loss, the training is designed to help all school boards make advancements in student achievement, regardless of the starting point. This results in meaningful change for students over time.

If you have questions or would like additional information about the Be Legendary School Board Leadership Institute, please contact Joe Kolosky at (701) 328-2755.



2023-24 NDSBA DUES STATEMENTS were sent at the end of May to district business managers.

School districts in North Dakota have long benefited from the support, training, information, and legislative advocacy provided by the North Dakota School Boards Association. When public school boards join together, they make a difference in their own effectiveness and overall support for public

education.

NDSBA INFORMATION FORMS were sent to district business managers at the end of June.

The information is vital to ensure: (1) all NEW board members, superintendents, and business managers receive our emails as soon as they are a member of the board or district, (2) we have the correct board president, board members, superintendent, and business manager, and (3) mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses

for board members and staff are up to date.

POLICY SERVICES RENEWAL INVOICES, along with an explanation of the different types of services available, were mailed to each district's Policy Services contact in mid-July. Your Policy Services membership will ensure that you have the latest policy updates.

Keep your school district up to date by submitting payments promptly.

NDSBA and NDDPI Board Member Bootcamp Registration Still Open

Registration for the 6th annual North Dakota School Board Association and North Dakota Department of Public Instruction co-hosted Board Member Bootcamp is still open. The one-day school

board member training will take place on Monday, August 7, 2023, 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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

 **mark
your calendar**

**2023 NDDPI & NDSBA Board Member
Bootcamp**

August 7, 2023
State Capitol, Bismarck

**2023 Governor's Summit on
Innovative Education**

August 15, 2023
Cheney Middle School, West Fargo

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



Convention Reminders

NDSBA Standing Resolutions

Member boards have until August 25 to submit a

resolution using the format found on the NDSBA website. Please view current Standing Resolutions before submitting. Both Standing Resolutions and Beliefs and Policies are on the NDSBA website at <https://www.ndsba.org/wp/beliefs-and-policies/>.

Submit proposed resolutions by email to Taylor Lassiter at taylor.lassiter@ndsba.org.

2023 NDSBA Board Member Service Awards

A copy of a qualifying board member's points form must be received in the NDSBA office by Friday, September 22, for board members to be recognized at the 2023 Annual Convention. Forms are available under "Resources" on the NDSBA website, along with a point tracking spreadsheet.

When 100 or 200 points have accumulated, the form should be submitted to NDSBA, 1224 West Owens Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501 or by email to Taylor Lassiter.



Richardton-Taylor School District: Interim Position

For more information or to inquire, contact: Alexis Baxley
Email: alexis.baxley@ndsba.org

Drayton School District

Contact: Angela Aasand
Phone: 701-454-3324
Deadline: Open Until Filled
Position Begins: TBD