

NDSBA Business Session and Delegate Assembly Minutes October 24-25, 2024

The 2024 North Dakota School Boards Association First Business Session was called to order by President Patti Stedman at 4:24 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2024.

The Standing Rules were unanimously adopted as presented via voice vote.

The report of the Nominating Committee was given by Chair Jennifer Carlson, Fordville-Lankin School District:

Nominee for President: Lucas Greff, Mott-Regent;

Nominee for Vice President: Nathan Berseth, Richland 44

Nominees for Northwest Director: Michael Lautenschlager, Lewis and Clark and James Vannett, Nedrose and;

Nominees for Southeast Director: Jacob Kubela, Wahpeton and Nikkie Gullickson, Fargo.

There were no nominations from the floor. The candidates each gave a short speech and were asked questions regarding their leadership.

President Stedman called for Past President Karl Lembke, chair of the Government Affairs Committee, to come forward and give the resolutions report.

Past President Karl Lembke, chair of the Government Affairs Committee, presented seven resolutions recommended for re-adoption as written, one resolution recommended to be dropped, and one new resolution recommended to be adopted.

President Stedman thanked the Government Affairs Committee members for their work in reviewing all proposed resolutions. One additional resolution was offered from the floor for consideration and to be voted on at the Friday, October 25, 2024, Business Session.

President Stedman moved on to the next agenda item of introducing the newly created Legacy of Service Awards and recognizing Brad Bachmeier, the artist who commissioned the awards. Stedman then handed the presentation of the awards to NDDPI Student Cabinet and Watford City High School senior, Aidan Pelton. The following board members were honored with the Legacy of Service Awards in the Steadfast Commitment category:

LYLE FEY, ASHLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT – 21 YEARS OF SERVICE
MIKE SCHWEHR, BARNES COUNTY NORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT – 26 YEARS OF SERVICE
DAVID SEYFRIED, CENTRAL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT – 22 YEARS OF SERVICE
ROBERT LEAKE, EMERADO SCHOOL DISTRICT – 30+ YEARS OF SERVICE
JIM JOHNSON, FARGO SCHOOL DISTRICT – 23 YEARS OF SERVICE
RODGER AFFELDT, GARRISON SCHOOL DISTRICT – 22 YEARS OF SERVICE
DIANNE HENSEN, GLENBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT – 20 YEARS OF SERVICE
ERIC LUNN, GRAND FORKS SCHOOL DISTRICT – 24 YEARS OF SERVICE
BILL PALMISCNO, GRAND FORKS SCHOOL DISTRICT – 31 YEARS OF SERVICE
RICK FOSS, GRENORA SCHOOL DISTRICT – 32 YEARS OF SERVICE
LAVERN JOHNSON, GRENORA SCHOOL DISTRICT – 30 YEARS OF SERVICE
MATHEW ASP, HANKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT – 20 YEARS OF SERVICE
DAVID MUEHLER, HANKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT – 23 YEARS OF SERVICE
CINDY STREMICK, LANGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT – 22 YEARS OF SERVICE
MICHAEL LAUTENSCHLAGER, LEWIS & CLARK SCHOOL DISTRICT – 28 YEARS OF SERVICE
ROSEANN JOHNSON, MANDAREE SCHOOL DISTRICT – 23 YEARS OF SERVICE
MARTY BEARD, MANNING SCHOOL DISTRICT – 26 YEARS OF SERVICE
LINDA MACDONALD, MANNING SCHOOL DISTRICT – 36 YEARS OF SERVICE
WILL MACDONALD, MANNING SCHOOL DISTRICT – 26 YEARS OF SERVICE
DENNIS ERICKSON, MAX SCHOOL DISTRICT – 33 YEARS OF SERVICE
BRIAN SCHANILEC, MIDWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT – 21 YEARS OF SERVICE
JIM ROSTAD, MINOT SCHOOL DISTRICT – 20 YEARS OF SERVICE
RUSSELL CAIN, ST. JOHN SCHOOL DISTRICT – 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
BENJAMIN GRESS, SWEET BRIAR SCHOOL DISTRICT – 22 YEARS OF SERVICE
RICK TWEETEN, WASHBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT – 20 YEARS OF SERVICE
RICHARD KOSKI, WING SCHOOL DISTRICT – 21 YEARS OF SERVICE
NEIL MEIDINGER, ZEELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT – 26 YEARS OF SERVICE
FRANCIS MEIER, ZEELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT – 29 YEARS OF SERVICE

A round of applause was given to the Steadfast Commitment recipients. The following board member was honored with the Legacy of Service Award in the Profound Impact category:

FRED FOX, WHITE SHIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT – 16 YEARS OF SERVICE

A round of applause was given to the Profound Impact recipient.

President Stedman made announcements and then declared the assembly in recess until 3:30 on Friday, October 25.

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President Stedman called the second business session to order at 3:48 p.m. on Friday, October 25. Stedman thanked convention sponsors and called for the Credential Committee report.

The report of the Credential Committee was given by Chair Lynn Carlson, Finley-Sharon School District: The Credentials Committee reported a total of 43 delegates present at the meeting.

President Stedman thanked the Credentials Committee and the Ballot Counting Committee and then read the election results given to her by the Ballot Counting Committee:

Lucas Greff, Mott/Regent School District, elected as President

Nathan Berseth, Richland 44 School District, elected as Vice President

James Vannett, Nedrose School District, elected as Northwest Director

Nikkie Gullickson, Fargo School District, elected as Southeast Director

President Stedman thanked those who ran and congratulated those newly elected. Moving on to action on resolutions, President Stedman invited Past President Karl Lembke to present the following:

RECOMMENDED FOR RE-ADOPTION AS WRITTEN

1. State Aid for Growing School Districts
2. State Technology Infrastructure Maintenance and Operation
3. State Funding of Special Education and Gifted and Talented Programs
4. Business Manager Certification Program
5. Collective Bargaining
6. School Lunch Program
7. Posting Of Bills in An Alternate Format

It was moved by April Dutchuk, Killdeer School District and seconded by Brad Brummond, Park River to re-adopt the resolutions as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDED TO BE DROPPED

1. Deadline For Negotiations

It was moved by Terry Snider, Grand Forks Air Force Base School District and seconded by James Vannett, Nedrose School District to drop the resolution. Motion passed unanimously. **After the conclusion of the meeting and upon the review of the list of delegates, it was revealed that**

James Vannett of the Nedrose School District was not a delegate and could not take any official action during the business meetings. The Deadline for Negotiations resolution will have to be re-voted on by the delegate assembly to be dropped.

NEW RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

A resolution to support the preservation of public dollars for public schools and opposes legislation diverting public dollars to non-public schools through the implementation of funding mechanisms such as voucher programs, education savings accounts, and tax credit scholarship programs.

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of society. A strong public school system contributes to lower unemployment, reduced crime, improved public health, and a strong workforce.

WHEREAS, public schools are democratically controlled. Public school boards are elected by the citizens of the district and accountable to district taxpayers. North Dakota law requires meetings of a public school board to be open and accessible to the public. In addition, members of the public are able to obtain any records of a public entity that are not confidential or exempt as a matter of law. Non-public school board members are not elected by the taxpayer. Similarly, non-public school boards are not required to hold their meetings in public or disclose their records.

WHEREAS, public school districts are open and accessible to all students. Public school districts are required to follow the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As such, public school districts must identify and evaluate students who may have disabilities, vary instruction based on need, employ interpreters, and attend to any other accommodations and modifications required to make schools, facilities, and activities accessible for all students. Non-public schools are not held to these same standards. Similarly, non-public schools have the ability to deny a student admission for any reason.

WHEREAS, public school districts are subject to both state and federal accountability standards. Public school districts must implement high quality, valid, reliable, and fair annual assessments aligned to North Dakota State standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science. Public school districts are expected to demonstrate growth towards meeting and exceeding expected levels of student achievement. Similarly, all North Dakota public schools are required to collaborate with Cognia in the Continuous School Improvement process and create a strategy map of the specific schools' educational priorities. Public schools identified for comprehensive and targeted support are required to create additional plans. All records of a public school district regarding accountability, support, and improvement are available to the public. Information regarding non-public school achievement data does not have to be made available to the public.

WHEREAS, funding for public school districts promotes equity among larger and smaller districts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NDSBA supports the preservation of public dollars for public schools and opposes legislation diverting public dollars to non-public schools through the

implementation of funding mechanisms such as voucher programs, education savings accounts, and tax credit scholarship programs.

It was moved by Nikkie Gullickson, Fargo School District and seconded by Lynn Carlson, Finley-Sharon School District to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The action from the Government Affairs Committee concluded and the assembly moved on to the resolution that was brought to the floor. President Stedman called Past President Lembke back up to the podium to present the resolution and give instruction on its proceeding after the reading. Past President Lembke read the following presented resolution from the floor:

A resolution to support the recommendations of the School Construction Coalition and the necessary legislation to implement the recommendations.

WHEREAS, North Dakota lacks standards for public school facilities. The 2025 Legislative Assembly needs to adopt or authorize the Department of Public Instruction to adopt, a set of minimum standards for public school facilities.

WHEREAS, to ensure adequate and equitable public school facilities the 2025 Legislative Assembly must fund a statewide facility condition assessment program.

WHEREAS, a state funding program is critical to provide financial support for public school facility improvements.

WHEREAS, legislative changes are necessary to strengthen the ability of public school districts to finance the construction of school facilities. The school district debt limit is artificially low and inadequate to permit financing of facilities. Current voter requirements for general obligation bonds mandate a supermajority which is often unachievable. The approval requirement can be set as a simple majority. School districts are permitted to levy 12 mills for miscellaneous purposes. Schools district must be allowed to borrow against the 12 miscellaneous mills for specific building needs. All school districts need authority to levy 10 mills for a building fund without a vote, similar to counties. The school bond referendum ballot language is confusing and ought to revert to the prior format. The special reserve fund should be amended to permit a transfer of funds to the building fund.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NDSBA supports minimum standards for public school facilities, a statewide facility condition assessment program, a state funding program for public school facility improvement and the strengthening of financing options for public school districts.

It was moved by Brian Seyer, Oakes School District and seconded by Brian Nolan, Hazen School District to adopt the resolution as presented, opening the up for discussion to the delegate assembly.

President Stedman asked if there was any discussion from the assembly. Mike Lautenschlager, Lewis and Clark School District, spoke briefly about the importance of local control and motioned to amend the resolution as follows:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSBA supports the broadening of the financing and funding sources for public school facility improvement.

The amendment to the resolution was seconded by Marlana Knudson, May-Port CG School District.

Lucas Greff, Mott/Regent School District and NDSBA Vice President asked for the amendment to be re-read in its entirety with the amendment. President Stedman read the amended resolution as follows:

A resolution to support the recommendations of the School Construction Coalition and the necessary legislation to implement the recommendations.

WHEREAS, North Dakota lacks standards for public school facilities. The 2025 Legislative Assembly needs to adopt or authorize the Department of Public Instruction to adopt, a set of minimum standards for public school facilities.

WHEREAS, to ensure adequate and equitable public school facilities the 2025 Legislative Assembly must fund a statewide facility condition assessment program.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSBA supports the broadening of the financing and funding sources for public school facility improvement.

There came discussion from the crowd on whether a motion and second were necessary to pass the amended resolution. Past President Karl Lembke confirmed no, there was not a need for another motion or second and that President Stedman could call for ayes and nays.

The aye votes carried, and the motion passed to adopt the amended resolution.

There was no Unfinished Business.

There was no New Business.

President Stedman recognized and thanked Past President Karl Lembke for his service on the NDSBA Board of Directors, as well as Bismarck School Board member, and presented him a clock plaque for his service.

President Stedman also recognized and thanked Northwest Director Jim Rosted for his service on the NDSBA Board of Directors, as well as Minot School Board member, and presented him a North Dakota plaque for his service.

President Stedman welcomed Lucas Greff to the stage to pass the gavel and welcome him as the new NDSBA Board of Directors President. Incoming President Greff thanked outgoing President Stedman for her service as president of the NDSBA Board of Directors and presented her a plaque for her service.

Incoming President Greff announced door prize winners.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.