History of ND State Board of Public School Education Membership

Summary:

The ND school administrators' association has suggested members for the Board of Public School Education since it was founded in 1955 (suggestions that, for most of that time, the governor was free to ignore). The law has NEVER required school administrator membership on the board. It HAS required that two ND school board members be members of the Board of Public School Education.

When the board was founded, its governor appointees were drawn from judicial districts. Since 1979, they have been drawn from six groups of counties. These groups have not been changed since then.

Board of Public School Education Established 1955 (S.L. 1955, Chp.132)

Members: Governor (Chairman), attorney general, superintendent of public instruction. Additional two members chosen by the North Dakota Education Association and the North Dakota School Officers' Association, currently known as the School Business Managers' Association (one each) at their annual conventions. The teacher and administrator positions are chosen for two-year terms.

Appointed board members paid $10 for each day they worked as a board member.

1963 (S.L. 1963, Chp. 43)

Members: Superintendent of public instruction and "one qualified elector from each judicial district within the state," who are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the North Dakota Senate.

Governor to nominate members from lists of three candidates ***for each position***, with each list proposed by the president of the North Dakota state's attorneys association, the president of the North Dakota school administrators association, and the president of the North Dakota school boards association.

All governor appointees are chosen for six-year terms in such a fashion so that two members' terms expire on June 30 of every even-numbered year.

Two board members required "at all times" to be members of the school boards' association.

Superintendent of public instruction required to serve as executive director and secretary of the board.

Board elects its own chairman annually.

Appointed board members' pay increased to $15 a day.

1971 (S.L. 1971, Chp. 172)

Appointed board members' pay increased to $30 a day.

1979 (S.L. 1979, Chp. 225)

Board members appointed from groups of counties, rather than from judicial districts. North Dakota has 53 counties. The groups of counties are the same today (NDCC 15.1-01-01). The law says the district representatives must be "from" the district.

District 1 (7): Barnes, Cass, Grand Forks, Griggs, Nelson, Steele, Traill.

District 2 (11): Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, McHenry, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Renville, Rolette, Towner, Walsh.

District 3 (8): Dickey, Emmons, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent.

District 4 (8): Burleigh, Eddy, Foster, Kidder, McLean, Sheridan, Stutsman, Wells.

District 5 (6): Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, Williams.

District 6 (13): Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope, Stark.

1981 (S.L. 1981, Chp. 182)

Appointed board members' pay increased to $50 a day.

1991 (S.L. 1991, Chp. 168)

The president of the North Dakota Education Association replaces the president of the North Dakota State's Attorneys Association as a person who suggests three candidates for the governor to choose from for every open spot on the Board of Public School Education. The North Dakota School Boards Association and the North Dakota School Administrators Association remain as the other two organizations that suggest appointees.

The requirement that Board of Public School Education members be confirmed by the ND state Senate is dropped.

1999 (S.L. 1999, Chp. 196)

Specifies that the appointed board members must be eligible to vote in North Dakota, and that they "must reside in one of the counties they represent." Previously, the residency requirement was implied but not explicit.

Law now says the governor must appoint new board members "from a list of three names submitted by a committee consisting of the president of the North Dakota Education Association, the president of the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, and the president of the North Dakota School Boards Association."

The new law incorporates the NDCEL name. It previously said the committee had to submit "three names for each position to be filled." So, if there were two vacancies, six names needed to be submitted. Now, two vacancies can be filled from a list of three names.

Appointed board members' pay increased to $62.50 a day.

2013 (S.L. 2013, Chp. 151)

Removes the requirement that the nominating committee submit "three names" for the governor to choose from for vacancies on the board. It now says, "the governor shall appoint new board members from a list of names." The nominating committee is the same, as is the requirement that at least two board members be members of the North Dakota School Boards Association.

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