

**SB 2284**

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Monday, February 6, 2023**

**Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent**

**Department of Public Instruction**

After watching Wednesday's hearing of SB 2284 regarding the selection process for the State Board of Public School Education, I feel it is imperative that I share some facts with you.

Testimony you heard that day was riddled with misinformation at best and is more accurately described as steeped in untruths and mischaracterization. I could not stand by and let them go uncorrected.

The State Superintendent is the Executive Director & Secretary for the State Board of Public School Education and is directed by the ND Legislature to carry out NDCC 15.1-01-01 (3), which states,

*"The governor shall appoint new board members from a list of names submitted by a committee consisting of the president of North Dakota united, the president of the North Dakota council of educational leaders, and the president of the North Dakota school boards association."*

I know that my **predecessor** did not follow the law as outlined in NDCC 15.1-01-01 (3), but upon discovery and working with this Governor, NDCC has been followed to the letter of the law.

This packet is being provided as evidence that the testimony given to your committee on Wednesday - stating that the law has not been followed in the past few years - was false and untruthful.

As mentioned, The State Board of Public School Education's most significant work is working with county superintendents and the recommendations coming from county committees appointed by county commissioners and county superintendents, mostly related to property annexations, school re-organizations, and school consolidations.

At first blush, it may seem harmless to change the boundary designations from **county jurisdictions** to **legislative districts**, but there is a clear through-line that exists from **county** jurisdictions to the State Board of Public School Education.

Visiting with the Association of Counties, they believe it is important they be involved in this work before any changes are made to this section of NDCC to ensure their members' interests are represented.

It may also appear to be a good idea to have local superintendents on the State Board of Public School Education, ...but it may not be.

County Commissioners do not appoint local school superintendents to sit on their County Annexation Committees, and they may have a good reason, or they may not – but no one has asked them.

Requiring that a certain number of members of the State Board of Public School Education be members of the North Dakota Council of Education Leaders Association of School Administrators drastically reduces the number of eligible applicants to this board, reducing the selection pool of applicants from a minimum of 17,000 qualified electors from each jurisdiction to approximately 28.

As the Executive Director & Secretary of the State Board of Public School Education, who is tasked by the legislature to “call meetings [of the State Board of Public School Education] as necessary, carry out the policies of the board, and employ personnel necessary to perform the board's duties.” I, too, need to be involved with the critical discussion and work of making any changes to the jurisdictional boundaries and the composition requirements of the board members.

Prior to the filing of SB 2284, I was not aware NDCEL was bringing this forth to the 68<sup>th</sup> Assembly to consider.

Given the urgency of getting this bill out of Committee on Monday, February 6, but clearly seeing the need to involve more stakeholders in this important and significant work, I respectfully request SB 2284 be amended before it moves out of the Senate in a defective state, to

Remove existing language in Section 1 and Replace it With:

4     **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY- STATE**  
2     **BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.**

2     During the 2023-2024 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the historical and current composition and geographical distribution of North Dakota's county and state boards of education. The study shall review the composition and geographical distribution of boards from other states and involve state, county, and local stakeholders in the review. The legislative management shall report its findings to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

After working with this bill's sponsor, Chairman Elkin, other key Senators, and the NDCEL Executive Director,

I also request the Committee:

## **Summary of Board of Public School Education Selection Process**

Attached are candidate nomination letters to the governor dated July 1, 2020; Dec. 20, 2021; and May 17, 2022. These affected five openings for the Board of Public School Education. All were signed by the president of North Dakota United, the president of the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, and the president of the North Dakota School Boards Association.

**May 17, 2022:** Nomination of five individuals for one seat, and three individuals for a second seat, on the board. Mike McHugh and Eric Nelson were appointed.

**Dec. 20, 2021:** Nomination of two individuals to serve the unexpired term of board member Maria Effertz Hanson, who resigned. Lyndsi Engstrom was appointed.

**July 1, 2020:** Nomination of Sonia Meehl for reappointment to the board. She was reappointed.

**July 1, 2020:** Nomination of eight individuals to succeed incumbent board member Dr. Brian Duchscherer. Burdell Johnson was appointed.

All of the nomination letters were signed by the president of North Dakota United; the president of the North Dakota School Boards Association; and the president of the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, as required by NDCC 15.1-01-01(3).

Attached is an email string that details the most recent process of gathering nominations for the board positions that were eventually filled by Mike McHugh and Eric Nelson. The president of the ND Council of Educational Leaders attempted to designate a substitute for the meeting at which the nominees were decided upon. She was informed that designees were not allowed.

Each of these Board of Public School Education openings were accompanied by press releases to advertise them and to announce the appointments themselves. These are attached.

**TO THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM**

We, the persons designated by North Dakota Century Code §15.1-01-01 (3) to prepare a list of names to be presented to you, from which you, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, are to appoint a member of the State Board of Public School Education, do hereby certify that we, by the action of the three signatories below, present these names, all of whom are eligible voters and reside in the counties of:

Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope, and Stark counties:

- Jeff Fastnacht, Mandan, assistant superintendent, Mandan Public Schools
- Lori Furaus, Mandan, Mandan School Board
- Marcus Lewton, Dickinson, superintendent, Dickinson Public Schools
- Mike McHugh, Mandan, education coordinator, North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
- Jennifer Steiner, Golden Valley, rancher, Lone Tree School District board member

Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, and Williams counties:

- Steve Holen, Watford City, superintendent, McKenzie County School District
- Eric Nelson, Williston, technology director, Creedence Energy Services
- Mark Vollmer, Minot, superintendent, Minot Public Schools

(NDCC §15.1-01-01(1)(c))

These names are presented to you for appointment to the State Board of Public School Education to fill the vacancy on the State Board of Public School Education as a result of the expiration of the terms of Steven Holen, Watford City, ND, and Jeff Fastnacht, Mandan, ND. Both terms will expire on June 30, 2022.

Witness our hands, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.

/s/Nick Archuleta

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, North Dakota United

/s/Karl Lembke

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, North Dakota School Boards Association

/s/Jennifer Fremstad

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM

We, the persons designated by North Dakota Century Code §15.1-01-01 (3) to prepare a list of names to be presented to you, from which you, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, are to appoint a member of the State Board of Public School Education, do hereby certify that we, by the action of the three signatories below, present the names of:

Elizabeth Crowston, Cavalier, Pembina County, North Dakota

Lyndsi Engstrom, Westhope, Bottineau County, North Dakota

Both of whom are eligible voters and reside in the counties of Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, McHenry, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Renville, Rolette, Towner, and Walsh (NDCC §15.1-01-01(1)(b)). Further, all are North Dakota School Boards Association members, as required (NDCC §15.1-01-01(3)) for this position.

These names are presented to you for your consideration of appointment to the State Board of Public School Education to fill the vacancy on the State Board of Public School Education due to the resignation of Ms. Maria Effertz Hanson. This term will expire on June 30, 2024.

Witness our hands this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

/s/Nick Archuleta

Nick Archuleta  
President, North Dakota United

/s/Karl Lembke

Karl Lembke  
President, North Dakota School Boards Association

/s/Jennifer Fremstad

Jennifer Fremstad  
President, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders

**TO HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM**

We, the persons designated by North Dakota Century Code §15.1-01-01 (3) to prepare a list of names to be presented to you, from which you, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, are to appoint a member of the State Board of Public School Education, do hereby certify that we, by action of the three signatories below, present the names of:

Marsha Lembke, Bismarck, ND

Jason Rohr, Jamestown, ND

Richard Diegel, Steele, ND

Donald Emch, Bismarck, ND

Kenneth Aune, Jamestown, ND

Burdell Johnson, Tuttle, ND

Andrew Jordan, Bismarck, ND

Nick Klemisch, Garrison, ND

all of whom are eligible voters and reside in the counties of Burleigh, Eddy, Foster, Kidder, McLean, Sheridan, Stutsman, or Wells (NDCC §15.1-01-01 (1) (d)).

These names are presented to enable you to fill the vacancy on the State Board of Public School Education as a result of the expiration of the term of Dr. Brian Duchscherer, whose term expired on June 30, 2020

Witness our hands, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2020.

/s/Nick Archuleta

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, North Dakota United

/s/ Holly Stromsodt

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, North Dakota School Boards Association

/s/Tonya Hunskor

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders

**TO HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM**

We, the persons designated by North Dakota Century Code §15.1-01-01 (3) to prepare a list of names to be presented to you, from which you, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, are to appoint a member of the State Board of Public School Education, do hereby certify that we, by action of the three signatories below, present the name of:

Sonia Meehl, Oakes, ND

who is an eligible voter, is a member of the North Dakota School Boards Association and resides in the counties of Dickey, Emmons, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, or Sargent (NDCC §15.1-01-01(1)(c)).

This name is presented to you for reappointment to the State Board of Public School Education to fill the vacancy on the State Board of Public School Education as a result of the expiration of Ms. Meehl's previous term, which expired on June 30, 2020.

Witness our hands, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2020.

/s/Nick Archuleta

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, North Dakota United

/s/ Holly Stromsodt

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, North Dakota School Boards Association

/s/Tonya Hunskor

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders

**Wetzel, Dale E.**

---

**From:** Fremstad, Jennifer <JFREMSTAD@west-fargo.k12.nd.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2022 10:02 AM  
**To:** Baesler, Kirsten K.; Neset, Maria O.; Karl Lembke; Archuleta, Nick; Draimee.copas1  
**Cc:** Wetzel, Dale E.; Carmichael, Patty A.; Fishbeck, Donna K.; Hanson, JoDee; Beehler, Jace; Assel, Dustin J.; Fishbeck, Donna K.  
**Subject:** RE: State Board of Public School Education applications

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I will make some changes to my schedule and attend. Thanks for checking this.

**Jenn Fremstad**

*Principal*

West Fargo High School

801 9<sup>th</sup> St E | West Fargo, ND 58078

P: (701) 356-2050



**From:** Baesler, Kirsten K. <kbaesler@nd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2022 10:01 AM  
**To:** Fremstad, Jennifer <JFREMSTAD@west-fargo.k12.nd.us>; Neset, Maria O. <mneset@nd.gov>; Karl Lembke <lembkekarl@gmail.com>; Archuleta, Nick <nick.archuleta@ndunited.org>; Draimee.copas1 <Draimee.copas1@ndcel.org>  
**Cc:** Wetzel, Dale E. <dewetzel@nd.gov>; Carmichael, Patty A. <pcarmichael@nd.gov>; Fishbeck, Donna K. <dfishbeck@nd.gov>; Hanson, JoDee <jodeehanson@nd.gov>; Beehler, Jace <jabeehler@nd.gov>; Assel, Dustin J. <djassel@nd.gov>; Fishbeck, Donna K. <dfishbeck@nd.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: State Board of Public School Education applications

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Jennifer,

The attorney general's office has reviewed the statute in full and only the three presidents listed can be part of the committee. No designees.

**Kirsten Baesler**  
State Superintendent  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440  
(701) 328-4570  
[kbaesler@nd.gov](mailto:kbaesler@nd.gov)  
[www.nd.gov/dpi](http://www.nd.gov/dpi)

**From:** Baesler, Kirsten K.

**Sent:** Saturday, May 14, 2022 7:27 PM

**To:** Fremstad, Jennifer <[JFREMSTAD@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:JFREMSTAD@west-fargo.k12.nd.us)>; Neset, Maria O. <[mneset@nd.gov](mailto:mneset@nd.gov)>; Karl Lembke <[lembkekarl@gmail.com](mailto:lembkekarl@gmail.com)>; Archuleta, Nick <[nick.archuleta@ndunited.org](mailto:nick.archuleta@ndunited.org)>; Draimee.copas1 <[Draimee.copas1@ndcel.org](mailto:Draimee.copas1@ndcel.org)>

**Cc:** Wetzel, Dale E. <[dewetzel@nd.gov](mailto:dewetzel@nd.gov)>; Carmichael, Patty A. <[pcarmichael@nd.gov](mailto:pcarmichael@nd.gov)>; Fishbeck, Donna K. <[dfishbeck@nd.gov](mailto:dfishbeck@nd.gov)>; Hanson, JoDee <[jodeehanson@nd.gov](mailto:jodeehanson@nd.gov)>; Beehler, Jace <[jabeehler@nd.gov](mailto:jabeehler@nd.gov)>; Assel, Dustin J. <[djassel@nd.gov](mailto:djassel@nd.gov)>; Fishbeck, Donna K. <[dfishbeck@nd.gov](mailto:dfishbeck@nd.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: State Board of Public School Education applications

Jennifer,

Thank you for letting me know about your conflict.

I will contact the assistant attorney general assigned to the State Board of Public School Education to determine if the ND Century Code allows a designee to serve on the committee instead of the President.



**Kirsten Baesler**  
State Superintendent  
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[www.nd.gov/dpi](http://www.nd.gov/dpi)

**From:** Fremstad, Jennifer <[JFREMSTAD@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:JFREMSTAD@west-fargo.k12.nd.us)>

**Sent:** Saturday, May 14, 2022 7:06 PM

**To:** Baesler, Kirsten K. <[kbaesler@nd.gov](mailto:kbaesler@nd.gov)>; Neset, Maria O. <[mneset@nd.gov](mailto:mneset@nd.gov)>; Karl Lembke <[lembkekarl@gmail.com](mailto:lembkekarl@gmail.com)>; Archuleta, Nick <[nick.archuleta@ndunited.org](mailto:nick.archuleta@ndunited.org)>; Draimee.copas1 <[Draimee.copas1@ndcel.org](mailto:Draimee.copas1@ndcel.org)>

**Cc:** Wetzel, Dale E. <[dewetzel@nd.gov](mailto:dewetzel@nd.gov)>; Carmichael, Patty A. <[pcarmichael@nd.gov](mailto:pcarmichael@nd.gov)>; Fishbeck, Donna K. <[dfishbeck@nd.gov](mailto:dfishbeck@nd.gov)>; Hanson, JoDee <[jodeehanson@nd.gov](mailto:jodeehanson@nd.gov)>; Beehler, Jace <[jabeehler@nd.gov](mailto:jabeehler@nd.gov)>; Assel, Dustin J. <[djassel@nd.gov](mailto:djassel@nd.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: State Board of Public School Education applications

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Due to another school obligation, I delegate my responsibility to Dr. Aimee Copas.

Jenn Fremstad  
Principal

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**From:** Baesler, Kirsten K. <kbaesler@nd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 4:10:49 PM  
**To:** Neset, Maria O. <mneset@nd.gov>; Fremstad, Jennifer <JFREMSTAD@west-fargo.k12.nd.us>; Karl Lembke <lembkekarl@gmail.com>; Archuleta, Nick <nick.archuleta@ndunited.org>  
**Cc:** Wetzels, Dale E. <dewetzels@nd.gov>; Carmichael, Patty A. <pcarmichael@nd.gov>; Fishbeck, Donna K. <dfishbeck@nd.gov>; Hanson, JoDee <jodeehanson@nd.gov>; Beehler, Jace <jabeehler@nd.gov>; Assel, Dustin J. <djassel@nd.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: State Board of Public School Education applications

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Yup, I agree GO can't pre-determine. Thanks.  
Some of the applicants are from Burleigh County and northeastern counties from the previous rounds, etc. We will sort them all into appropriate categories before sharing with the Committee members.



**Kirsten Baesler**  
State Superintendent  
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(701) 328-4570  
[kbaesler@nd.gov](mailto:kbaesler@nd.gov)  
[www.nd.gov/dpi](http://www.nd.gov/dpi)

**From:** Neset, Maria O. <mneset@nd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 3:38 PM  
**To:** Baesler, Kirsten K. <kbaesler@nd.gov>; jfremstad@west-fargo.k12.nd.us; Karl Lembke <lembkekarl@gmail.com>; Archuleta, Nick <nick.archuleta@ndunited.org>  
**Cc:** Wetzels, Dale E. <dewetzels@nd.gov>; Carmichael, Patty A. <pcarmichael@nd.gov>; Fishbeck, Donna K. <dfishbeck@nd.gov>; Hanson, JoDee <jodeehanson@nd.gov>; Beehler, Jace <jabeehler@nd.gov>; Assel, Dustin J. <djassel@nd.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: State Board of Public School Education applications

Thank you Kirsten. I believe previously we had to send all as the Governor's Office could not pre-determine who qualified. Thanks ☺

Cheers,  
Maria

Maria Neset  
Policy Advisor

## **Wetzel, Dale E.**

---

**From:** Wetzel, Dale E.  
**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 4:55 PM  
**To:** Baesler, Kirsten K.; Neset, Maria O.; jfremstad@west-fargo.k12.nd.us; Karl Lembke; Archuleta, Nick  
**Cc:** Carmichael, Patty A.; Fishbeck, Donna K.; Hanson, JoDee; Beehler, Jace; Assel, Dustin J.  
**Subject:** RE: State Board of Public School Education applications

Here are the eligible applicants for the Board of Public School Education:

Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope, and Stark group:  
Jeff Fastnacht, Mandan  
Lori Furaus, Mandan  
Marcus Lewton, Dickinson  
Mike McHugh, Mandan  
Jennifer Steiner, Golden Valley

Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, and Williams group:  
Steve Holen, Watford City  
Eric Nelson, Williston  
Mark Vollmer, Minot

Ineligibles (they live in the wrong counties)  
Elizabeth Crowston  
Richard Diegel  
Andrew Jordan  
Jeanette Mausehund

Eric P. Nelson and Mark Vollmer also indicated interest in the Board of Higher Education, but did not fill out the SBHE application. SBHE applicants must provide specific information, including:

1. Have you worked in the past two years for an SBHE institution?
2. Have you lived in North Dakota continuously for the past five years?
3. Where did you earn your bachelor's degree?



**Dale E. Wetzel**  
Public Information Specialist  
State Capitol, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440  
Office: (701) 328-2247  
Mobile: (701) 400-8557  
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Register here!

-----Original Message-----

From: Baesler, Kirsten K. <[kbaesler@nd.gov](mailto:kbaesler@nd.gov)>

Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 3:31 PM

To: Neset, Maria O. <[mneset@nd.gov](mailto:mneset@nd.gov)>; [jfremstad@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:jfremstad@west-fargo.k12.nd.us); Karl Lembke <[lembkekarl@gmail.com](mailto:lembkekarl@gmail.com)>; Archuleta, Nick <[nick.archuleta@ndunited.org](mailto:nick.archuleta@ndunited.org)>

Cc: Wetzels, Dale E. <[dewetzels@nd.gov](mailto:dewetzels@nd.gov)>; Carmichael, Patty A. <[pcarmichael@nd.gov](mailto:pcarmichael@nd.gov)>; Fishbeck, Donna K. <[dfishbeck@nd.gov](mailto:dfishbeck@nd.gov)>; Hanson, JoDee <[jodeehanson@nd.gov](mailto:jodeehanson@nd.gov)>; Beehler, Jace <[jabeehler@nd.gov](mailto:jabeehler@nd.gov)>; Assel, Dustin J. <[djassel@nd.gov](mailto:djassel@nd.gov)>

Subject: RE: State Board of Public School Education applications

Importance: High

NDCEL, NDSBA, and NDUnited Board Presidents, Please do not review these applications. Some applicants meet the county residence criteria; others do not meet the requirements. These applications appear to be ALL the applications in the system for this board and contain people who had applied for a previously vacant position.

As Executive Secretary of the Board of Public Schools, I will prepare a packet and send it with the meeting invite for this committee of NDCEL, NDSBA, and NDUnited Presidents.

Kirsten Baesler  
State Superintendent  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201  
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[www.nd.gov/dpi](http://www.nd.gov/dpi)

-----Original Message-----

From: Neset, Maria O. <[mneset@nd.gov](mailto:mneset@nd.gov)>

Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 3:19 PM

To: Baesler, Kirsten K. <[kbaesler@nd.gov](mailto:kbaesler@nd.gov)>; [jfremstad@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:jfremstad@west-fargo.k12.nd.us); Karl Lembke <[lembkekarl@gmail.com](mailto:lembkekarl@gmail.com)>; Archuleta, Nick <[nick.archuleta@ndunited.org](mailto:nick.archuleta@ndunited.org)>

Cc: Hanson, JoDee <[jodeehanson@nd.gov](mailto:jodeehanson@nd.gov)>; Beehler, Jace <[jabeehler@nd.gov](mailto:jabeehler@nd.gov)>; Assel, Dustin J. <[djassel@nd.gov](mailto:djassel@nd.gov)>; Carmichael, Patty A. <[pcarmichael@nd.gov](mailto:pcarmichael@nd.gov)>

Subject: State Board of Public School Education applications

Please see attachments.

**Wetzel, Dale E.**

---

**From:** Baesler, Kirsten K.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 6, 2022 10:53 AM  
**To:** Carmichael, Patty A.  
**Subject:** FW: State Board of Public Education

**Importance:** High



**Patty Carmichael**

Executive Assistant to State Superintendent Baesler  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440  
(701) 328-3264  
[www.nd.gov/dpi](http://www.nd.gov/dpi)



**From:** Neset, Maria O. <mneset@nd.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 6, 2022 8:52 AM  
**To:** Archuleta, Nick <nick.archuleta@ndunited.org>; jeff.fastnacht <jeff.fastnacht@msd1.org>; Karl Lembke <lembkekarl@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Chad Oban <Chad.Oban@ndunited.org>; Draimee.copas1 <Draimee.copas1@ndcel.org>; Alexis Baxley <alexis.baxley@ndsba.org>; Beehler, Jace <jabeehler@nd.gov>; Baesler, Kirsten K. <kbaesler@nd.gov>  
**Subject:** State Board of Public Education  
**Importance:** High

Good morning!

Just wanted to share our gratitude for your commitment to fulfilling the statutory duty of providing nominations to the Governor's for his consideration in regards to the State Board of Public Education. There are two positions that will require nominations and Governor Burgum would like to have a minimum of 3 applicants and a desired 5 applicants per board position for his consideration. I wanted to ensure this was shared with all of you for awareness. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Cheers,  
Maria

Maria Neset  
*Policy Advisor*

701.328.2289 • [mneset@nd.gov](mailto:mneset@nd.gov) • [www.governor.nd.gov](http://www.governor.nd.gov)

**Wetzel, Dale E.**

---

**From:** Wetzel, Dale E.  
**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2021 12:16 PM  
**To:** Baesler, Kirsten K.  
**Subject:** RE: Applicants for State Board of Public School Education

Part of the top of the memo message was cut off in your email  
Also, NDCEL lists Fastnacht as president, although that could be wrong  
Cheers



**Dale E. Wetzel**  
Public Information Specialist  
State Capitol, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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Office: (701) 328-2247  
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[www.nd.gov/dpi](http://www.nd.gov/dpi)



**From:** Baesler, Kirsten K. <kbaesler@nd.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2021 12:04 PM  
**To:** Archuleta, Nick <nick.archuleta@ndunited.org>; Karl Lembke <lembkekarl@gmail.com>; Jennifer Fremstad <jfremstad@west-fargo.k12.nd.us>  
**Subject:** Applicants for State Board of Public School Education  
**Importance:** High

Dec. 17, 2021

**TO:** Nick Archuleta, President, North Dakota United  
Karl Lembke, President, North Dakota School Boards Association  
Jennifer Fremstad, President, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders

**FROM:** Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Appointment to state Board of Public School Education Association Presidents,

13 applications submitted to the Governor's office for possible appointments. The application deadline passed on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

As you are aware, the presidents of North Dakota United, the Council of Educational Leaders, and the School Boards Association are responsible for suggesting potential appointees to the governor. The law ([NDCC 15.1-01-01](#)) does not specify a minimum or maximum number of suggested appointees.

Part of your responsibility is to determine which of these applicants are eligible for the position. The person who is chosen for this particular open position must be a member of the North Dakota School Boards Association and a resident of one

of these counties: Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, McHenry, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Renville, Rolette, Towner and Walsh.

The person who is chosen will finish the term of Maria Effertz Hanson. It ends June 30, 2024.

Applicants who indicated specific interest in the state Board of Public School Education are:

Jeanette Mausehund applied 5/19/2021

Andrew Jordan applied 5/19/2021

Richard Diegel applied 5/19/2021

Elizabeth Crowston applied 12/8/2021

Lyndsi Engstrom applied 12/5/20

Applicants during November and December 2021 who said they were interested in any board appointment:

Kent Kirkhammer 12/14/2021

Bryce Stein 12/14/2021

Jesse Mattern 12/13/2021

Jamison Marchand 12/8/2021

Joshua Janssen 11/29/2021

Kevin Dauphinais 11/17/2021

Linda Schwols 11/13/2021

Zachary Jacobson 11/2/2021

I look forward to meeting with you on Monday, December 20 at 4 pm in NDDPI's 11<sup>th</sup> floor conference room to determine the list of suggested appointees for Governor Burgum.

Thank you for your time, and Merry Christmas.

#

**Kirsten Baesler**  
State Superintendent

**Dr. Donna Fishbeck**  
Chief of Staff

**Laurie Matzke**  
Assistant Superintendent



**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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*For Immediate Release*

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Office 701-328-2247

Cell: 701-400-8557

Email: [dewetzel@nd.gov](mailto:dewetzel@nd.gov)

## **McHugh, Nelson Named to State Education Board**

**BISMARCK, N.D., June 23, 2022** – State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler on Thursday announced that Mike McHugh and Eric Nelson will be joining the North Dakota Board of Public School Education, which provides guidance and oversight for the state's K-12 system.

McHugh, of Mandan, is the aviation education coordinator for the state Aeronautics Commission, a certified career and technical education teacher, and a former aviation instructor in the Bismarck public schools. Nelson is a Williston resident and a senior technical adviser for Creedence Energy Services, which provides chemical treatment services for the oil industry.

The Board of Public School Education has seven members – the state superintendent of public instruction, who is the board's executive secretary, and six members who are appointed by the governor to represent groups of counties. The governor's appointees will serve six-year terms, which start July 1.

Gov. Doug Burgum named McHugh and Nelson as his choices on Thursday. Nelson will represent Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, and Williams counties on the board, while McHugh will represent Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope, and Stark counties.

Board of Public School Education appointees also are members of the state Board of Career and Technical Education, which oversees North Dakota's state CTE department. They also are in charge of the North Dakota K-12 Education Coordination Council, which reviews state education programs and encourages collaboration among agencies and interest groups.

###

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## **ND State Education Board Seeking Applicants**

**BISMARCK, N.D., March 23, 2022** – State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler on Wednesday invited North Dakotans from two groups of counties to apply for the Board of Public School Education, which plays a crucial oversight role in the North Dakota's education system.

The seven-member board oversees the development of a state learning continuum, which identifies essential skills that students should learn at specific points during their K-12 education. It has charge of the North Dakota K-12 Education Coordination Council, which reviews the effectiveness of state education programs and encourages collaboration among agencies and interest groups.

Board of Public School Education members also are part of the state Board of Career and Technical Education, which oversees North Dakota's state CTE department and its programs. Last year, the Legislature endorsed a large expansion of the state's career and technical education system, approving \$88.3 million in grants to develop, equip and maintain area career training centers.

Six members of the Board of Public School Education each represent groups of counties that are specified in state law. The governor appoints them to six-year terms. The state school superintendent is the board's seventh member and its executive secretary.

The members whose terms are ending represent:

- Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Ward, and Williams counties; and
- Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope, and Stark counties.

North Dakotans who live in one of the two groups of counties are encouraged to apply through the governor's website.

Under state law, the governor appoints new board members from a list of names submitted by a committee of three people: the presidents of North Dakota United, the state Council of Educational Leaders, and the North Dakota School Boards Association. The application deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

(Continued)

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Page 2  
Board of Public School Education

In addition to its other duties, the Board of Public School Education decides school district requests to dissolve, reorganize, or transfer property. Recently, the board reviewed and approved a plan to combine the Williston city school district and a neighboring Williams County district into a single entity, Williston Basin School District No. 7. The union took effect July 1, 2021.

###

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## Westhope School Board Member Chosen For State Education Board

**BISMARCK, N.D., Jan. 20, 2022** – State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler announced Thursday that Lyndsi Engstrom, a member of Westhope's school board, has been appointed to the North Dakota Board of Public School Education.

Engstrom succeeds Maria Effertz Hanson, of Velva, who resigned last month. Gov. Doug Burgum appointed Engstrom to complete Effertz Hanson's six-year term, which ends June 30, 2024. Engstrom will represent Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, McHenry, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Renville, Rolette, Towner, and Walsh counties.

Engstrom is director of research, design, and value at the Central Regional Education Association, which is one of seven regional service agencies that provide professional development and support to North Dakota schools. The CREA serves more than three dozen school districts, including Bismarck, Mandan, and Minot. Engstrom has served on the Westhope school board since 2017.

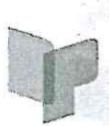
The Board of Public School Education supervises the development of a state learning continuum, which identifies critical skills for students to develop during their K-12 education. The board decides requests from school districts to dissolve, reorganize, or transfer property. It has charge of the North Dakota K-12 Education Coordination Council, which reviews the effectiveness of the state's education programs.

Members of the board also are automatically part of the state Board of Career and Technical Education, which oversees North Dakota's state CTE department and programs.

The Board of Public School Education has seven members. Six are appointed by the governor and represent groups of counties, which are specified in state law. The seventh is Baesler, who is the board's executive secretary. The state Department of Public Instruction provides administrative support to the board.

###

Kirsten Baesler  
State Superintendent  
Dr. Donna Fishbeck  
Chief of Staff  
Laurie Matzke  
Assistant Superintendent



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Dec. 17, 2021

TO: Nick Archuleta, President, North Dakota United  
Karl Lembke, President, North Dakota School Boards Association  
Jeff Fastnacht, President, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders

FROM: Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Appointment to state Board of Public School Education

Gentlemen,

I am sending along 13 applications for the opening on the Board of Public School Education. The application deadline passed on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

As you are aware, the presidents of North Dakota United, the Council of Educational Leaders, and the School Boards Association are responsible for suggesting potential appointees to the governor. The law (NDCC 15.1-01-01) does not specify a minimum or maximum number of potential appointees.

Part of your responsibility is to determine which of these applicants are eligible for the position. The person who is chosen must be a member of the North Dakota School Boards Association and a resident of one of these counties: Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, McHenry, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Renville, Rolette, Towner and Walsh.

The governor's website encourages North Dakotans to apply if they are interested in an appointment to any state board. We do not know if all of the applicants are eligible for, or interested in, this specific position.

The person who is chosen will finish the term of Maria Effertz Hanson. It ends June 30, 2024.

Applicants who indicated specific interest in the state Board of Public School Education are:

Jeanette Mausehund applied 5/19/2021  
Andrew Jordan applied 5/19/2021  
Richard Diegel applied 5/19/2021  
Elizabeth Crowston applied 12/8/2021  
Lyndsi Engstrom applied 12/5/2021

(Continued)

**Kirsten Baesler**  
State Superintendent

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Page 2

Board of Public School Education Applicants

Applicants during November and December 2021 who said they were interested in any board appointment:

Kent Kirkhammer 12/14/2021  
Bryce Stein 12/14/2021  
Jesse Mattern 12/13/2021  
Jamison Marchand 12/8/2021  
Joshua Janssen 11/29/2021  
Kevin Dauphinais 11/17/2021  
Linda Schwols 11/13/2021  
Zachary Jacobson 11/2/2021

As Ms. Effertz Hanson has left the board, it would be best to accomplish the task of getting a list of suggested appointees to the governor as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time, and Merry Christmas.

###

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## **Baesler Announces Opportunity to Join Influential Education Board**

**BISMARCK, N.D., Nov. 23, 2021** – State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler is encouraging residents of North Dakota's northern tier of counties to consider applying for the State Board of Public School Education, which plays an important role in the state's educational system.

The board's membership includes Baesler, who serves as its executive secretary, and six members who represent groups of counties that are specified in state law (NDCC 15.1-01-01(1)). All six members are appointed by the governor for six-year terms.

Incumbent board member Maria Effertz Hanson plans to resign. A resident of McHenry County, Effertz Hanson represents Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, McHenry, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Renville, Rolette, Towner, and Walsh counties on the board.

Effertz Hanson's successor must be a school board member and a resident of one of the 11 specified counties. The person will be chosen to complete Effertz Hanson's term, which ends June 30, 2024. State law says two of the six appointed board members must be a member of the North Dakota School Boards Association, and Effertz Hanson is one of the two NDSBA members now serving on the board.

Eligible North Dakotans who are interested in succeeding Hanson on the board should apply online through the governor's office. State law says the governor shall appoint new board members from a list of names submitted by a committee consisting of the president of North Dakota United, the president of the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, and the president of the North Dakota School Boards Association. The application deadline is Dec. 15.

The Board of Public School Education acts on requests from school districts to dissolve, reorganize, or transfer property. It supervises the development of a state learning continuum, which identifies skills that are crucial for the well-rounded education of a high school graduate. It has charge of the state K-12 Education Coordination Council, which reviews the effectiveness of North Dakota's education programs.

Most recently, the board reviewed and approved a historic combination of the Williston city school district and a neighboring Williams County district into a single entity, called Williston Basin School District No. 7. The reorganization took effect July 1, 2021.

(Continued)

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Page 2

Board of Public School Education

The Board of Public School Education's members automatically become part of the state Board of Career and Technical Education, which oversees North Dakota's CTE department and CTE programs.

The CTE board will have major new projects to consider soon. During its special session this month, the Legislature approved \$88.3 million in grants to develop, equip, and maintain area career centers. Individual grants may total up to \$10 million.

###

Kirsten Baesler  
State Superintendent



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## Johnson, Meehl Appointed To ND Board of Public School Education

**BISMARCK, N.D., July 31, 2020** – North Dakota State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler on Friday announced that Burdell Johnson, of Tuttle, and Sonia Meehl, of Oakes, have been appointed to the state Board of Public School Education.

Members of the seven-member board decide requests from school districts to reorganize, dissolve, and transfer property. They are automatically members of the Board of Career and Technical Education, which oversees North Dakota's state CTE department and CTE programs.

Meehl will be serving her second six-year term on the board. An Oakes farmer and former business owner, Meehl represents Dickey, Emmons, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, and Sargent counties on the board.

Johnson, a farmer, rancher and businessman from Tuttle in Kidder County, will be serving his first six-year term. He will represent Burleigh, Eddy, Foster, Kidder, McLean, Sheridan, Stutsman and Wells counties.

Gov. Doug Burgum appoints the six citizen members of the Board of Public School Education. Baesler is the seventh board member and serves as its executive secretary. The board's other six members represent groups of counties, which are listed in state law (NDCC 15.1-01-01(1)).

###

Kirsten Baesler  
State Superintendent



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## Candidates Named For State Education Board

**BISMARCK, N.D., July 1, 2020** – State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler said Wednesday that a selection committee has forwarded recommendations to Gov. Doug Burgum for appointments to the state Board of Public School Education.

The seven-member board acts on requests from school districts to dissolve, reorganize, or transfer property. Members automatically become part of the Board of Career and Technical Education, which oversees North Dakota's state CTE department and CTE programs.

The governor appoints board members to six-year terms. State law requires the presidents of North Dakota United, the North Dakota School Boards Association and the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders to submit lists of names for openings.

On Wednesday, the presidents agreed to forward the names of eight candidates to the governor to represent Burleigh, Eddy, Foster, Kidder, McLean, Sheridan, Stutsman and Wells counties. The governor will choose a person from among those candidates to represent that group of counties. The candidates are:

**Kenneth Aune**, Jamestown, band director at Jamestown Middle School;  
**Rick Diegel**, Steele, the superintendent of Kidder County public schools;  
**Donald Emch**, Bismarck, a retired schoolteacher and administrator;  
**Burdell Johnson**, Tuttle, a farmer/rancher and business owner;  
**Andrew Jordan**, Bismarck, the superintendent of Wilton public schools;  
**Nick Klemisch**, Garrison, the superintendent of Garrison public schools;  
**Marsha Lembke**, Bismarck, a retired former administrator for the North Dakota Department of Transportation; and  
**Jason Rohr**, Jamestown, a senior crop insurance specialist for AgCountry Farm Credit Services.

One candidate, incumbent board member **Sonia Meehl**, of Oakes, applied for a second term. Her name was forwarded to the governor to represent Dickey, Emmons, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, and Sargent counties.

Baesler is a member of the Board of Public School Education and serves as its executive secretary. Its remaining six members represent groups of counties, which are listed in state law (NDCC 15.1-01-01(1)).

###

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## **Baesler Announces Opportunity for Public Service in Education**

**BISMARCK, N.D., June 3, 2020** – State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler on Wednesday invited applications for two openings on the Board of Public School Education. The board facilitates cooperation among the state's various K-12 education organizations, and oversees North Dakota career and technical education programs.

Baesler is executive secretary of the board and is responsible for its administration. The board has seven members, including Baesler and six members that represent groups of counties. The groups are listed in state law (NDCC 15.1-01-01(1)).

Applicants are being sought to represent two groups of counties. The person must be an eligible voter and live in one of the counties in the group. The groups are:

1. Burleigh, Eddy, Foster, Kidder, McLean, Sheridan, Stutsman or Wells counties (NDCC 15.1-01-01(1)(d)); and
2. Dickey, Emmons, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, or Sargent counties (NDCC 15.1-01-01(1)(c)).

The application deadline for the two openings is 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 30. The one-page application form is posted on the Department of Public Instruction's website here:

<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/SFN%20Forms/SFN%2061841.pdf>

Applications should be sent to [dpi@nd.gov](mailto:dpi@nd.gov) at the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. Applications may also be mailed to the Department of Public Instruction, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 201, Bismarck, N.D., 58505.

"This is an opportunity for a North Dakotan who is interested in K-12 education to do important public service work that will benefit education," Baesler said.

Members of the Board of Public School Education are appointed by the governor and serve six-year terms. They meet on the third Monday of each month, except when the board has no pending business. Members are paid \$62.50 per day, plus expenses, for meetings and for performing duties as directed by the board.

(Continued)

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Page 2  
Board of Public School Education

The board oversees North Dakota's seven regional education associations, which provide professional development and learning opportunities for teachers, and the operations of the K-12 Education Coordination Council, which reviews North Dakota education services and programs and identifies opportunities for efficiency and collaboration.

Board members automatically become part of the Board of Career and Technical Education, which oversees North Dakota's state CTE department and CTE programs.

The Board of Public School Education also acts on requests from school districts to dissolve, reorganize, or transfer property between each other. In addition, its members participate in an education goals and objectives meeting each year with the Board of Higher Education, the Education Standards and Practices Board, and the state Board for Career and Technical Education.

###

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