



LEADERSHIP

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## MULLEN IN THE MIDDLE

### ONE DISTRICT'S STORY ON ADJUSTING TO OUR 'CURRENT' NORMAL

By Superintendent Chris Kuncl & NASB Region 15 Director Barb Svoboda

Wow, how quickly things can change! It just seems like yesterday that we were about to leave for the Boys State Basketball tournament when the news came out that they were limiting spectators.



#### Mullen Public Schools

##### Board of Education

Bryan Starr, President

Jason Coble

Mike French

Travis Hampton

Liza Simonson

Barb Svoboda

Chris Kuncl, Superintendent

Enrollment = 160

NASB Region #15

MPS covers 1,383.8 square miles, which is larger than the state of Rhode Island

[www.mullenpublicschools.org](http://www.mullenpublicschools.org)  
Go Broncos!

Well here we are, almost a month in. While this change has been difficult on all of us, we want to share a little of our story and shine some light on how Mullen Public Schools decided to come up with a plan that best meets the needs of our student population for remote learning.

But first, let us explain a few of the hurdles we had to overcome that other districts across Nebraska might not have to be worried about.

We are the only school in Hooker County, and also serve students who option in from four surrounding counties. The district covers 1,383 square miles, larger than the state of Rhode Island.

We have six "bus" routes which are mostly run with Suburbans across country roads, not actual school buses. Our yearly route mileage to and from school (this does not include any activity mileage) for the 18-19 school year was 133,826. The activity mileage for the same year was an additional 45,772.

Also, it just so happens to be CALVING season. Normally, most of our kids would be doing middle of the night checks and working on school work during the day. With students at home, they immediately got

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APRIL 2020

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Continue to check NASB's COVID-19 page for updates for you and your Board at [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)

#### NEW BOARD MEMBER FOLLOW UP

JUNE 11 | KEARNEY

#### ANNUAL NASB MEMBER GOLF OUTING

JUNE 11 | KEARNEY

#### NASB SUMMER CONFERENCE

LEGAL - POLICY - ADVOCACY - NETWORKING

JUNE 11-12 | KEARNEY

#### ALICAP SUMMER WORKSHOPS

JUNE 23 | LINCOLN

JUNE 24 | KEARNEY

JUNE 25 | GERING

#### CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

DUE JULY 1

#### NASB ORIENTATION

JULY 22 | LINCOLN

#### CANDIDATE WEBINARS

JULY 27 | SEPTEMBER 21 | OCTOBER 12

#### AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

#### FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 24 | KEARNEY

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

put to work around the clock. Calving season is exhausting, so extra help is welcome.

Here are a few more stories from our districts as we moved to remote learning.

Due to lack of sufficient internet in our area, specifically outside of town, one family has students who have to drive 7-8 miles from home to the top of a big hill where they can get cell service and a hotspot to use their Chromebooks.

Another family is needing to have content downloaded to a zip drive and other materials printed off because there is not enough band width for things like Zoom, if more than one person is trying to use the internet.

We are reminded that “school” is so much more than assignments and learning. “I miss my students. I miss the personal connection. To read the room. To adapt lessons to their needs,” said Spanish teacher, Dominique Werner. “On the positive, this is forcing me to think outside the box and come up with new ways to teach my content. I’m doing videos from around my house of daily items to try and mimic what students see and hear in the classroom.”

Another family who consists of a teacher and three students are finding ways to all get their work done. “This has been an adjustment, but I feel that our family has figured it out and learned that we just need to be patient. We are making the best of it and I feel like our kids are still getting educated.”

Finally, a fun anecdote from parents who are both working full time. Their first task when they receive their daughter’s 4th grade enrichment packet is to send a copy to Grandma, a retired teacher. The two then Facetime to do “school” together. It brings out the inner teacher in Grandma, and is an awesome way to connect with her granddaughter.

Now back to explaining our process.

On the morning of March 16, we met as a K-12 staff to talk about the new COVID-19 concerns sweeping the state. That morning, we decided to shut down the building and not allow students to return until the state and health districts deemed it safe to return. At that meeting, we tasked our K-5 staff and our 6-12 staff the responsibilities to develop a plan to provide the best possible remote education for our students. While planning for this undertaking, we kept in mind our internet issues, our special education population, student apathy, and parental support.

We determined that we would be able to meet the needs of more than a majority of our 6-12 students in our district if we continued an online learning plan that was graded. This would allow students to earn their credits and be provided with the knowledge to continue into the Fall semester of 2020-21. From a K-5 standpoint, we did not

feel that we could adequately meet the needs of all our younger population utilizing strictly online learning, which led us to enrichment packets.

No school district in Nebraska is the same as another, similar maybe, but not the same. As a school, we developed a plan that we feel is in the best interest of all our student’s specific needs.

Why grade, versus enrichment?

We believe it’s important to require grades because it sets expectations for student learning. Our belief is that without any expectations of student learning, we are just going to see an incredibly inequitable result.

As an instructional staff, our teachers have changed the entire forum on how they teach lessons, and their dedication has proven to net some great results! After the first few weeks, it appears more than a majority of our students are completing their work and being given grades that are very similar if not higher than they were graded during the third quarter. This speaks volumes to the work that the Mullen staff is doing during these uncertain times.

Our SPED students are doing a phenomenal job and their required needs are being met by our staff as well. While the teachers and students are getting most of the accolades, we have to say “Thank You” to all of the parents that are at home with your children, not just in our district, but across Nebraska, providing schedules, motivating your kids to get their work completed, and encouraging your kids to focus on their education. This has truly been a collaborative effort and it is very much appreciated.

While this is a great start, we understand there is always room for improvement, and that adjustments may need to be made as we move forward. This situation is not ideal, and there is nothing more we would want than to finish the year with our students in the building. It’s difficult for all of us right now as educators and as parents, but in the end, our kids are still experiencing a high quality education that will allow them to progress in their skills to their next grade level.



# WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR GRADUATION?

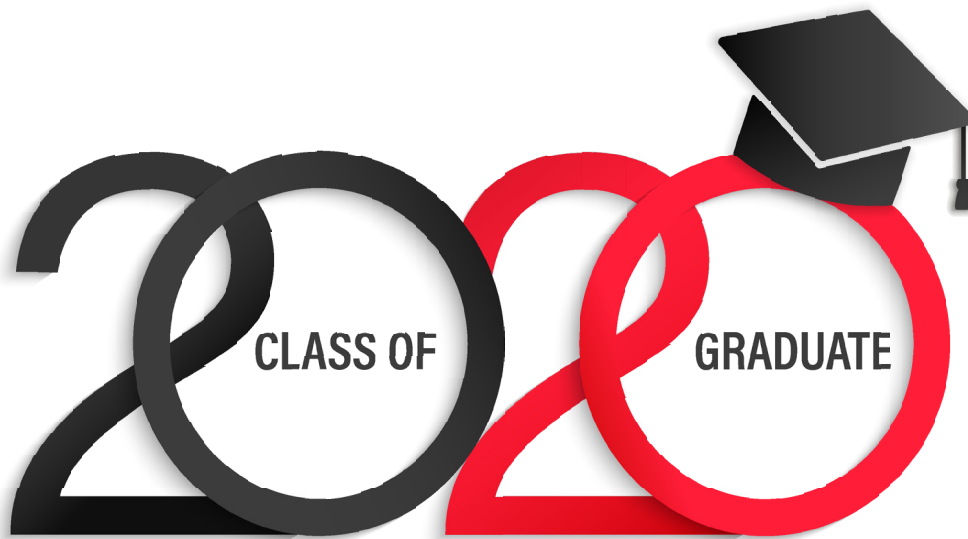
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"Norfolk has set July 26th for our graduation ceremony. Our hope is to hold a traditional ceremony, however, at this point, we are planning three options: a traditional ceremony, an alternate ceremony with limited attendance, and a virtual ceremony, depending on the DHM's at that time. We believe what is most important is for graduating Seniors and their families to know that we will have some kind of ceremony on July 26th."

"David City is proceeding with our May 16th graduation date. We will be recording the speeches of the students honored to speak, the superintendent, principal, and board president. Our IT team will take those speeches, our traditional Senior slide show, and pictures taken of the Seniors in their cap and gown and compile them for a broadcast to be streamed via Striv. Then, with approval from our county sheriff, we will have all the Seniors meet in their vehicles at a predetermined location and proceed with a processional/parade down a designated route through town to be led and followed up by county deputies. The idea is that the Seniors will be in their cap and gown possibly listening to Pomp & Circumstance broadcast over an unused FM station. Upon return to the beginning location of the parade, the Seniors will be handed their diploma through their car window."

"Bellevue has rescheduled graduation for August 1st."

"Central City is hoping to have graduation July 5th and will do what we can with any restrictions at that time."

"Omaha will be doing a virtual celebration in late May for students but have set tentative dates for early August pending conditions at that time."

"Mullen sent a Google survey to our 14 Seniors with three simple questions. Nearly all of them voted to postpone graduation until July 18th. It was more important to them to hold out for something that resembles a normal ceremony than to do it virtually in May."

"Bayard will recognize the Class of 2020 through a virtual ceremony to be streamed on the schools Striv account on May 16th. In addition, we are planning a community reception to honor the Class of 2020 on September 12th in coordination with Chimney Rock Pioneer Days."

"North Platte has set our graduation for Saturday, July 25th. Hopefully, we can do all our 300 Seniors at this time. We also have plans, if needed, to do the ceremony on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday if we are limited on the number of those allowed to attend the ceremony or ceremonies based on CDC guidelines. We also plan to send out a virtual graduation on our website on our original graduation date of May 10th. The superintendent will open with a few words, followed by the board president and high school principal, then show all of the Seniors graduation pictures with their name below, and the class song playing in the background."

"At Mitchell we are looking at a July 18th date."

"Ralston has two back-up dates, one in June and one in July. We're also pursuing a "virtual" graduation, which would feature speeches from administration and the board, and a slide show featuring every graduating student and their accomplishments, which will run on a local cable channel and be available to families via DVD."

"Lincoln has set a tentative date for July 26th, depending on the path of the virus. We did receive a question about graduates who will be leaving at the beginning of June for military service. We may have them take photos in their cap and gown and run a video at a ceremony."

"Nebraska City surveyed Senior families and they want a traditional ceremony even if it's late summer. A date has not yet been set but will be soon. With prom cancelled, we will be using some of the post prom funds to do things around town to honor our graduates."

"The Dundy County Stratton board has agreed to revisit the discussion monthly to see what limitations are still enforced. We very much want to have some type of ceremony for our Senior class. They deserve it."

"Hershey will be holding two ceremonies, the original one planned May 9th and another on August 1st. For the May 9th recognition, Seniors and immediate family members are invited to park in the school lot to receive their diploma and a balloon, wearing cap and gown. Balloons will be released at the end to resemble the release of graduation caps. August 1st will be an in-person graduation depending on DHM's at that time. Our board spent a considerable amount of time discussing this, and feel it is important that Seniors get their diplomas as previously planned May 9th."

"Giltner has decided to postpone graduation to a later time in the summer. Being a smaller district, we believe our students will appreciate the chance to still have a more traditional graduation, if possible."





NASB's COVID-19 Resources page continues to be updated with information to help you and your board. Newer items that have recently been added include:

A Video Thank You - From Your NASB Board of Directors

Resources on Public Meetings During COVID-19

Topics, Discussion Points & Questions Boards Should Be Asking Their Superintendent

A Policy Update During COVID-19

YouTube Videos with NASB Region Director Dr. Bob Rauner & Dr. Josue Gutierrez in English & Spanish

## AS WELL AS ...

A Letter From Commissioner Blomstedt to Nebraska's 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

A SafeSchools Update and Workers Comp Q&A from ALICAP

Leveraging Our Strengths as a Board/Superintendent Leadership Team

The Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act

NDE Resources ... Including Graduation Requirements, Continuity of Learning, etc.

DHHS COVID Tracking Site

Mental Wellness - Tips for Families during COVID-19

How to Speed up Your Internet to get the Most out of your Wi-Fi

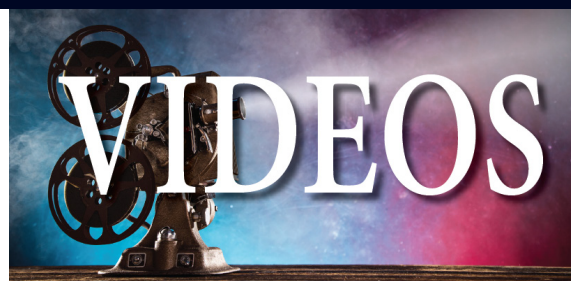
School Leaders Risk Management Association Checklist for Boards

NPERS - Information for School Plan Members & Employers

No Kid Hungry Emergency Relief Grants Available

EHA Links & Updates -- Legal Resources -- NSAA Statement

And more ...



Included on NASB's Covid-19 Resources page are a number of quick videos to help answer some of the questions you may all have as well. Please click on the below links to view each video!

THANK YOU - FROM YOUR NASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/406552146](https://vimeo.com/406552146)

A SAFESCHOOLS UPDATE FROM MEGAN BOLDT

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/402984480](https://vimeo.com/402984480)

A WORKERS COMP Q&A FROM MEGAN BOLDT

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/403746445](https://vimeo.com/403746445)

LEVERAGING OUR STRENGTHS AS A BOARD/SUPT LEADERSHIP TEAM FROM MARCIA HERRING

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/399264050](https://vimeo.com/399264050)

A POLICY UPDATE DURING COVID-19 FROM JIM LUEBBE

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/405915663](https://vimeo.com/405915663)

THE FEDERAL FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/403750045](https://vimeo.com/403750045)

TOOLS FOR SCHOOL BOARDS TO COPE WITH OUR CURRENT SITUATION FROM EHA'S LINDA KENEDY

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/402366802](https://vimeo.com/402366802)





While the Legislature is still in an indefinite recess, the Senators are still working and communicating with each other and with NASB. At this time, there is no timetable for a return to finish the last 17 days, but there are a few updates.

## A LETTER FROM SENATOR GROENE ...

Recently Senator Groene sent out an email to all Superintendents and Board Presidents regarding the Federal Cares Act distribution of funds to districts. In his letter he shared his desire that any savings from school closing as well as new federal dollars should be used for property tax relief. He also indicated his intention to seek legislation to transfer federal money to property tax relief, and attached an estimate of what each school should expect.

Senator Groene indicated the dollars will be distributed directly to districts, however our conversations with NDE have contradicted that assertion. NDE is under the impression that these federal dollars will be allocated to districts through NDE. We continue to work to get clarity on this issue.

## PRIORITIES ONCE THEY RETURN ...

Senators are starting to talk about bills that would need to pass this year as a result of the pandemic and leave other issues until next session. The education community discussion has centered around broadband access, lottery funds allocation (LB 920), and pay for noncertified employees as a priority for passage this year.

Despite the trying times, Senators Linehan and Groene continue to push a new version of school finance through LB 1106. Once we have a better idea of when the Legislature will reconvene, we will be reaching out to you to assist in advocating on this issue within the Legislature and the media.

## FINALLY SOME GOOD NEWS ...

The ballot initiative regarding property taxes has been suspended. According to the organizers, "With public gatherings and even personal contact limited, there is no reasonable expectation that we can finish the task, (to get the names of nearly 120,000 registered voters by July in order to put the issue on the November ballot) without needless risk to the health and safety of the general public."

## THANK YOU ...

Thank you all for your continued work in your communities and districts at this interesting time in our history. We encourage you to keep your focus there for the time being, and as we get closer to knowing when the Legislature will be reconvening, NASB will let you know how best to respond. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Colby, Matt, Vicki & John  
Your NASB Legislative Team



## LEVERAGING OUR STRENGTHS AS A BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

School districts across the nation are facing an unprecedented time of uncertainty and there is no playbook of answers for school district leaders to know what to do. While there are numerous factors that currently lie beyond our control, there is one element superintendents and boards can control, and that is how they lead together and leverage one another's strengths as a leadership team. The NASB Board Leadership Team has put together five leadership suggestions with links to additional resources in support of your work in creating cohesive board-superintendent leadership during this time of uncertainty.

### I. DO THE NEXT RIGHT THING

You are in the midst of crisis management, which warrants the need for strong leadership. But the core principles of good governance have not changed. Do not forfeit governance protocols and procedures -- code of conduct, chain of command, board policies, and state and federal laws -- for expediency or fear of the unknown. Do the next right thing.

### II. ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST

Your superintendent must manage your district right now. Continue to refer complaints, requests, and concerns to the superintendent and maintain open and candid communication with the superintendent. At some point, we will all return to a semblance of normalcy and the lingering questions that will stay with us are: Did we stay strong and unified as a board/superintendent leadership team and did we communicate smartly and timely with our internal and external stakeholders? Are the access points the community has to our work and the information they need --- meeting notices, agendas, meeting minutes --- available and up-to-date on our websites? Essentially --- did we provide our best and do our best, so everyone else could do their best?

<https://vimeo.com/405929301>

### III. PROVIDE A UNIFIED MESSAGE

It is important for the board and superintendent to share a consistent, positive, and calm message with the community. Your community needs to see the board and superintendent continuing to work as a consistent and stable team doing the right thing --- particularly when it comes to the Open Meetings Act and growing demand for transparency during the uncertainty. A strong and transparent board-superintendent leadership team allows the community the ability to provide public comment and witness the work the board and the superintendent are carrying out during this time.

[https://ago.nebraska.gov/news/attorney-general-guidance-executive-order-no-20%E2%80%944488-8bc1-1e8b27c19ce7.pdf?sfvrsn=5531e890\\_2](https://ago.nebraska.gov/news/attorney-general-guidance-executive-order-no-20%E2%80%944488-8bc1-1e8b27c19ce7.pdf?sfvrsn=5531e890_2)

### IV. IN THE ABSENCE OF COMPLETE INFORMATION – NEGATIVITY FILLS THE VOID

Part of your responsibility as a community leader is to stay informed with accurate and timely information. Read and have a clear understanding of the information shared by Governor Ricketts, the Federal government's response, emergency measure changes to the Open Meetings Act, directives and information provided by the Nebraska Department of Education, and other laws governing board meetings.

<https://governor.nebraska.gov/>

[https://nasb.envisiams.com/docs/default-source/covid19/fb807f8c-1906-4488-8bc1-1e8b27c19ce7.pdf?sfvrsn=5531e890\\_2](https://nasb.envisiams.com/docs/default-source/covid19/fb807f8c-1906-4488-8bc1-1e8b27c19ce7.pdf?sfvrsn=5531e890_2)

[https://ago.nebraska.gov/news/attorney-general-guidance-executive-order-no-20%E2%80%944488-8bc1-1e8b27c19ce7.pdf?sfvrsn=5531e890\\_2](https://ago.nebraska.gov/news/attorney-general-guidance-executive-order-no-20%E2%80%944488-8bc1-1e8b27c19ce7.pdf?sfvrsn=5531e890_2)

<https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/resources/>

### V. ASK SMART QUESTIONS

We may not have all the answers right now, but we have to ask ourselves and our superintendent the hard questions in order to anticipate and prepare to meet our current and future challenges with foresight and intention. Set aside the time needed to pause as a board-superintendent leadership team to take a strategic view of what you've been through, how you are handling the current moment's continuity of learning, and what needs to happen to prepare for the upcoming school year. (see Page 7)

[https://nasb.envisiams.com/docs/default-source/covid19/statement-on-continuity-of-learning-3-25-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=6664c2b8\\_2](https://nasb.envisiams.com/docs/default-source/covid19/statement-on-continuity-of-learning-3-25-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=6664c2b8_2)

As community leaders, we must ensure that our school districts continue creating cultures of excellence. Covid-19 did not take away the needs of our students to achieve and thrive; the ability of our school districts to meet the needs of our students continues, no matter what, continues to be grounded in the trust, communication, and relationship of the board-superintendent leadership team.

Thank you for the work you are doing for Nebraska's students. Your NASB Board Leadership Team - Marcia, Kori, Melissa and Karla – are here for you. Please call us if we can support you in any way 402-423-4951.



NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



# BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION

## LEADERSHIP

## INNOVATION

## VISION

## ENGAGEMENT

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As we maneuver through the uncharted territory of governance during a pandemic, NASB is working to support our members with effective information and direction. Topics the board may wish to consider discussing with the superintendent may include:

- Board Meetings
- Communications
- Grading
- Graduation
- Budget and Staffing
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
- Summer School Services
- Development of a Pandemic Plan for the Future
- AQuESTT
- Instruction and Learning
- Enrollment
- Spring Activities/Events
- Family Leave Act
- Unemployment Insurance
- Technology
- Preparing for the 2020-21 School Year

Download the full list of questions at NASB's COVID-19 Resources page at:

<http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/news-resources/covid-19-resources>

## MONTHLY BOARD REMINDERS FOR MAY

### PLANNING

- Monitor progress of district goals, link goals to discussion and action items
- Strategic Plan Progress Report

### BUDGET

- State Aid Certification and Distribution (May 1, 2020/LB 79-1022)
- Board/Administrators Budget Work Session

### POLICY

- Review board adopted student conduct policies and protocols (79-262) and review administrative procedures and responsibility for reporting to law enforcement (79-293)

### COVID-19 UPDATE

- Ratify decisions/action of the Superintendent under the Emergency Authority Resolution
- Review District Continuity Plan
- Review Rule 10 Affidavit

### AQuESTT

- Superintendent update from NDE regarding AQuESTT EBA/Classification for 2020-21 school year



## School Nurse Mentor Program

Are you interested in mentoring a new school nurse?  
If so, we want to hear from you!

### Program Description:

This is a new school nurse mentor program available to school nurses across the state of Nebraska.

School nursing is a challenging and rewarding profession. School nurses must maintain a broad knowledge base, have confidence in his/her assessment skills and be comfortable practicing independently. Because school nurses wear many hats and must be familiar with school and district policies, as well as, nursing best practice, it is important for new school nurses to have support from those who are experienced.

This mentor program has been created to provide new school nurses with support, encouragement, information, and resources to build their confidence, knowledge and expertise in the school nursing profession.

One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see and to help them navigate a course to their destination.

- John C. Maxwell

### Expectation:

For this program, a mentor is a school nurse who has practiced in a school setting for a minimum of five years and will commit *one year* to mentoring a school nurse who is typically in his/her first or second year of school nursing.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Applications for mentors are now being accepted for the 2020/2021 school year. If you are interested, please fill out and return the application (linked below). If you would like more information, please contact

Kim McClintick, MSN, RN - School Nurse Coordinator - Children's Hospital & Medical Center - 402-955-6875 - [kmclintick@childrensomaha.org](mailto:kmclintick@childrensomaha.org)  
Andrea Riley, BSN, RN - School Health Program Manager - DHHS, Division of Public Health - 402-471-1373 - [andrea.riley@nebraska.gov](mailto:andrea.riley@nebraska.gov)

[https://nasb.enviseams.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/school-nurse-mentor-program-introduction.pdf?sfvrsn=d8c37112\\_2](https://nasb.enviseams.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/school-nurse-mentor-program-introduction.pdf?sfvrsn=d8c37112_2)

# NUCA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: DUE JULY 1



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The National Utility Contractors Association of Nebraska (NUCA of Nebraska) is offering \$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors graduating from Nebraska high schools that are enrolling into a construction-related degree program (2-year or 4-year programs) which would include engineering, architecture, surveying, welding, mechanic or anything in the technical programs and trades.

Please have them fill out the linked scholarship application at:

[https://nasb.enviseams.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/nuca-of-nebraska-scholarship-application.pdf?sfvrsn=c1c99663\\_2](https://nasb.enviseams.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/nuca-of-nebraska-scholarship-application.pdf?sfvrsn=c1c99663_2)

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE JULY 1, 2020



One Source has worked to enhance safety throughout Nebraska schools for over 15 years. We understand the importance of protecting the safety of students and staff, starting with comprehensive screening.

**Mention this ad for 50% off your setup fee!**

education@onesourcebackground.com  
800.608.3645 ext. 5600  
onesourcebackground.com



## ... SEARCH, STRENGTHS & AWARDS

### GALLUP STRENGTHSFINDER

People look to their leaders for four critical things during challenging times: trust, compassion, stability and hope.

*Deliberative* – you inspire trust because you are cautious and considerate about sensitive topics.

*Empathy* – you can tell how someone feels and use your intuition to decide what to do.

*Discipline* – you create structure/routine and you make plans in advance.

*Positivity* – you give people and situations a glass-half-full reaction. You are hopeful and optimistic.

### AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Reminder to check your points and let Lisa know if you have any questions at [lsteinkuhler@NASBonline.org](mailto:lsteinkuhler@NASBonline.org)

### EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH SERVICE

Contact Shari at [sbecker@NASBonline.org](mailto:sbecker@NASBonline.org) with questions on openings or for a proposal to facilitate a search for your next Superintendent/ESU Administrator.

- Shari -

## ... ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

See the latest update on Page 5.

- Call Colby & Matt with any questions! -  
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## ... ALICAP & INSURANCE

ALICAP's Renewal Packet has been mailed out to the current membership and is due back to the NASB-ALICAP office by May 1st.

If you'd like your renewal questionnaire emailed to you, please contact [mboldt@NASBonline.org](mailto:mboldt@NASBonline.org)

Thanks, Megan!

## ... BOARD LEADERSHIP

Check out "At the Board Table" on Pages 6&7 to see all that the Board Leadership team is up to, including Monthly Board Reminders, and what you can expect from your Association.

Marcia, Kori, Melissa & Karla

## ... ENERGY PURCHASING

Our economy will certainly see a great deal of disruption in the year ahead. While districts need to have adequate supplies of natural gas assured for next winter, it's also important to lock these in at reasonable prices. One of the primary reasons for the creation of NJUMP and CJUMP was to provide price certainty to school districts and ESUs in their purchase of Natural gas. It provides a great assistance to your business managers at budget time to have a solid estimate of their utility costs.

Contact Jim to learn more!



**Paul Grieger**  
(800) 528-5145  
[pgrieger@dadco.com](mailto:pgrieger@dadco.com)



**Cody Wickham**  
(866) 809-5596  
[cwickham@dadco.com](mailto:cwickham@dadco.com)



**Andy Forney**  
(866) 809-5443  
[aforney@dadco.com](mailto:aforney@dadco.com)

## Building a Better Future with Nebraska's Public Finance Partner

**D.A. Davidson & Co.** has long been a leader in innovative debt financing for school districts. What we're most proud of are the relationships we've nourished and the strong community improvements that are made as a result.

Our public finance professionals take a personal interest and a hands-on approach, carrying our deals from start to finish. Because you deserve solutions tailored to fit you.

- School Bond Issues
- Tax Anticipation / Construction Notes
- Lease-Purchase Financing
- QCPUF Bonds
- Refinancing Bond Issues



**D | A | DAVIDSON**

450 Regency Parkway, Suite 400 | Omaha, NE 68114  
[dadavidson.com](http://dadavidson.com) | D.A. Davidson & Co. member FINRA and SIPC



## ... POLICY

As school safety plans and emergency plans become more complex, it's worth keeping them in mind when reviewing policies related to superintendent's and principal's duties. Depending on the size of your district and the number of school sites you have, these duties within the planning process can vary significantly from one district to another. As part of the update of those plans this summer, consider reviewing both these policies at the same time.

*Contact Jim to learn more!*

## ... TECHNOLOGY

Did you know that you can incorporate Zoom Meetings by including a link and password in your Meeting Header and Meeting Notes? Contact Nicole or Darion to learn more about how to accomplish this!

Darion - [dmiller@NASBOnline.org](mailto:dmiller@NASBOnline.org)

Nicole - [nkobus@NASBOnline.org](mailto:nkobus@NASBOnline.org)

## ... MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Hi Members: Thanks for all you are doing right now to support your schools. We hope to be able to see you all (in person) at events soon! We are in the process of making some decisions for the NASB Summer Conference and golf outing in June. Stay tuned for further details.

*Missing you, Sharon*



Virtual meetings are now standard with everyone home. Follow these video conferencing tips on staying connected and professional.

ENSURE YOUR TECHNOLOGY WORKS CORRECTLY

BE ON TIME

CHOOSE A QUIET LOCATION

PLACE KIDS/PETS IN ANOTHER ROOM

WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

FRAME THE CAMERA CORRECTLY

HAVE THE RIGHT LIGHT

LOOK INTO THE CAMERA

PAY ATTENTION

SAY YOUR NAME

HAVE AN AGENDA/BE PREPARED

MUTE YOURSELF WHEN NOT SPEAKING

UNMUTE YOURSELF BEFORE YOU TRY SPEAKING!

SPEAK UP

STAY ON TRACK

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Nebraska Association of School Boards | 1311 Stockwell Street - Lincoln, NE 68502 | Matt Belka, Editor | John Spatz, Publisher

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Join NASB, as we travel the state for various workshops, meetings and events throughout the year.  
*To learn more, and register, visit the Events tab of [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)*

<http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/events>

*To register for an NASB event, click on the 'My Membership' link, then navigate to the 'Events' dropdown and select 'Register'.  
If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 800-422-4572 for assistance.*

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO FOR YOUR BOARD, YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE ENTIRE STATE BY SERVING PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA.  
NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE ARE SEEING THE IMPORTANCE IN SCHOOL BOARDS STEPPING UP AS LEADERS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES!

WATCH: [HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/406552146](https://vimeo.com/406552146)

PLEASE BOOKMARK AND CONTINUE TO VISIT NASB'S COVID-19 PAGE REGULARLY AT [WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG)

THIS PAGE IS CONTINUALLY BEING UPDATED WITH ITEMS SPECIFIC TO YOU AND YOUR BOARD. ITEMS INCLUDE:

A LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER BLOMSTEDT TO NEBRASKA'S 1,700 LOCALLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

RESOURCES ON PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING COVID-19

TOPICS, DISCUSSION POINTS & QUESTIONS BOARDS SHOULD BE ASKING THEIR SUPERINTENDENT

YOUTUBE VIDEOS WITH NASB REGION DIRECTOR DR. BOB RAUNER & DR. JOSUE GUTIERREZ IN ENGLISH & SPANISH

A SAFESCHOOLS UPDATE AND WORKERS COMP Q&A FROM ALICAP

A POLICY UPDATE DURING COVID-19

NDE RESOURCES ... INCLUDING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, CONTINUITY OF LEARNING, ETC.

MENTAL WELLNESS - TIPS FOR FAMILIES DURING COVID-19

NO KID HUNGRY -- EHA LINKS & UPDATES -- LEGAL RESOURCES -- NSAA STATEMENT -- AND MORE ...

JUNE



NEW BOARD MEMBER FOLLOW-UP | JUNE 11 | KEARNEY

ANNUAL NASB MEMBER GOLF OUTING | JUNE 11 | KEARNEY COUNTRY CLUB

NASB SUMMER CONFERENCE | JUNE 11-12 | KEARNEY

LEGAL - POLICY - ADVOCACY - NETWORKING

Board Presidents: Check your inbox each month for the monthly 'NASB Update' to include in your meeting agenda.  
Please contact [mbelka@NASBonline.org](mailto:mbelka@NASBonline.org) with any questions, or if you are not receiving them.

# YOUR NASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF



## YOUR NASB LEADERSHIP TEAM



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Nebraska City



Brad Wilkins  
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Ainsworth



Kim Burry  
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Bayard



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Past President  
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Regions 3, 6 & 7  
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Director of Marketing,  
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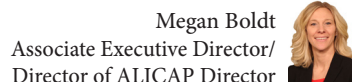
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Director of Policy Services



Lisa Steinkuhler  
Executive Admin. Assistant



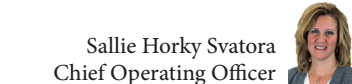
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Accounting Associate



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Education Leadership Search  
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## ACCOUNTING

Watts and Hershberger, P.C.  
Jim Watts - 402-483-7512  
jw1cpa@aol.com - gowh.com  
(CPA, Accounting)

## ARCHITECTS

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creeves@bv.com - bv.com  
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\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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308-384-4444 - cmbaarchitects.com  
(Architecture, Master Planning, Interiors, Bond  
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\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Carlson West Povondra Architects  
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jeckmann@cwparhitects.com  
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\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

DLR Group  
Vanessa Schutte - 402-393-4100  
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## AWARDS & PLAQUES

Awards Unlimited  
Tim Moravec - 402-474-0815  
tmoravec@awardsunlimited.com  
awardsunlimited.com  
(Trophies, awards, plaques, etc.)

## BUILDING CONTROLS/SERVICES

Control Management Inc.  
Nathan Haug - 402-571-9454  
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(Building Automation, Security and Energy  
Optimization for New and Existing Systems)

## BUILDING CONTROLS/SERVICES

Johnson Controls  
Jason Peck - 308-708-9479  
jason.peck@jci.com - jci.com  
(HVAC, Building Automation, Service  
Agreements, Security and Fire, among others)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

## CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Ayars & Ayars, Inc.  
Darl Naumann - 402-435-8600 - 402-570-9214  
dnaumann@ayarsayars.com - ayarsayars.com  
(Design-build leader building beneficial  
relationships, processes, and projects)  
\*GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

BD Construction  
Marsha Wilkerson - 308-234-1836  
mwilkerson@bdconstruction.com  
BDconstruction.com  
(Site Selection, Facility Planning, Engineering,  
Permitting, Build to Suit)  
\*GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Boyd Jones Construction  
Emily Bannick - 402-550-1808  
ebannick@boydjones.biz - boydjones.biz  
(Construction Management, Pre-Bond,  
Pre-Construction, Facility Evaluation,  
Early Stage Planning)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Cheever Construction  
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dklute@cheeverconstruction.com  
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Front Runner Fab., Inc.  
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(Bleacher design, sales, installation)

W. A. Klinger  
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mthompson@waklinger.com - waklinger.com  
(Pre-Construction, Construction Management,  
Design-Build, and General Contracting Services.)  
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David Goebel - 308-392-3283 - 402-370-8822  
dgoebel@ameresco.com - ameresco.com  
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Renewable Energy Solutions for Buildings)  
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Optimized Systems  
Mike Taylor - 402-981-1005  
mike.taylor@optimized-systems.com  
Optimized-Systems.com  
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Mechanical System Assessments, Troubleshooting)  
\* Silver Level Affiliate

TRANE  
Dave Raymond - 402-596-8000 - 402-452-7762  
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\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

## EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

Sheppard's Business Interiors  
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ksigmon@sbi-omaha.com - sbi-omaha.com  
(Furniture, Space Planning, Asset Management)

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Andy Forney - 402-392-7988  
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Carl Dietz - 308-289-3920 carldietz@fnni.com  
Matt Fisher - 308-380-3831 mfisher@fnni.com  
fncapitalmarkets.com  
(Public Finance, Election Guidance)  
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### FINANCIAL SERVICES

First Nebraska Credit Union  
Michele Byrnes - 402-492-9100  
marketing@firstnebraska.org - firstnebraska.org  
(Taking care of your financial needs!)

Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund - NLAF  
Barry Ballou - 402-705-0350  
balloub@pfm.com - NLAFpool.org  
(Liquid Asset Fund, financing programs)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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jay.spearman@psc.com  
(Lease Purchase, Construction Notes, Voted Bonds, Refunding Bonds, QCPUF Bonds)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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andrew.j.detlefsen@wellsfargo.com - wellsfargo.com  
(Financial Services, Banking)  
\* Silver Level Affiliate

### FOOD SERVICE

Lunchtime Solutions  
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deni@lunchtimesolutions.com  
lunchtimesolutions.com  
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\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Opaa! Food Management of Nebraska  
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### INSURANCE SERVICES

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nebraskablue.com  
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\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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hannah@teammates.org - teammates.org  
(Together we transform lives)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

### PLAYGROUND/SCOREBOARDS/SURFACING

Creative Sites, LLC  
Julie Kutilek - 402-614-4606 - 800-266-1250  
julie@creativesitesllc.com  
(Playground equipment, Site furnishings)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Crouch Recreation  
Eric Crouch - 402-496-2669  
eric@crouchrec.com - crouchrec.com  
(Playgrounds, Shelters, Scoreboards, Safety Surfacing & Site Amenities Manufacturers Rep)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Fisher Tracks, Inc.  
Jordan Fisher - 800-432-3191 - 515-432-3191  
jfisher@fishertracks.com - fishertracks.com  
(Installation, Refurbishment & Design Build of All-Weather Running Tracks)

### SAFETY & SECURITY SERVICES

One Source  
The Background Check Company  
Neal Josten - 402-933-9999 Ext 5600  
njosten@onesourcebackground.com  
onesourcebackground.com  
(Employment, Volunteer, Contractor Screening)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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president@cliweb.org  
Stacey Bruton - 620-794-1431  
info@cliweb.org - www.cliweb.org  
(ALL students deserve the respect of high expectations!)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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PRISM advisors  
Jason Richards - 402-593-8911  
jprichards@prism-advisors.com  
prism-advisors.com  
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\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

### TECHNOLOGY/SOFTWARE

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ccaples@sparqdata.com - sparqdata.com  
(Paperless Board Meetings, Staff Negotiations, Public Document Management, Document Imaging & Scanning)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

### THERAPY SERVICES

Central Nebraska Rehabilitation Services  
Mary Walsh-Sterup  
308-675-1853 ext. 3222  
mary@cnrehab.com - cnrehab.com  
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# NASB BOARD NOTES

A monthly publication from the Nebraska Association of School Boards



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## IN THIS EDITION

MULLEN IN THE MIDDLE: ONE DISTRICT'S STORY ON ADJUSTING TO OUR 'CURRENT' NORMAL  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR GRADUATION?  
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
AT THE BOARD TABLE  
BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION  
SCHOOL NURSE MENTOR PROGRAM  
NUCA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: DUE JULY 1  
TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS  
... AND MUCH MORE!

## AS WELL AS "THIS MONTH IN ..."

... ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
... ALICAP & INSURANCE  
... BOARD LEADERSHIP  
... ENERGY PURCHASING  
... MEMBER ENGAGEMENT  
... POLICY  
... SEARCH, STRENGTHS & AWARDS  
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APRIL 2020

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