

DECEMBER 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

106TH LEGISLATURE, 2ND SESSION  
BEGINS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020

### PRESIDENT'S RETREAT

January 26 - 27 | Nebraska City

February 16-17 | Sidney

February 16-17 | Kearney

### BUDGET & FINANCE WORKSHOP

January 29 | Norfolk

February 5 | Kearney

### NSBA ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

ELECTION 2020: CHAMPION OUR CHILDREN

February 2-4 | Washington, D.C.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WEEK

February 9-15

*'Thank You School Boards!'*

### LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE

February 9-10 | Lincoln

### NAEP STATE CONVENTION

MARCH 31 - APRIL 1 | GRAND ISLAND

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## WARMEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM NASB

BY JOHN SPATZ

A new year is an incredible opportunity to take stock in what you have, to look ahead at what is in store, but also to look back on what you did to get you where you are today.

For the past two years, during the Delegate Assembly, held the Friday morning of the State Education Conference, I have been privileged to give a 'State of the Association' to all of those in attendance. Here are the highlights, and many of the incredible things that NASB, the Board and staff have been a part of in the past year.

- NASB has embarked on a New Strategic Plan
- We have added new staff in Board Leadership (Karla Kruse) and Education Leadership Search (Anne Silknitter)
- The Whole Child Project has moved under the Board Leadership department
- NASB has undergone building renovations, adding new technology and video capabilities for enhanced meetings, webinars and communication
- Many of you experienced this year's State Education Conference, at the new, downtown site, allowing for much more growth and opportunities
- NASB recognized 13 boards for earning the Board of Excellence Award and 1 board, Gretna Public Schools, for earning the President's Board Award
- Facilitated Gallup staff in-services and several Gallup board retreats

Sharon Endorf, Director of Member Engagement, has traveled to over half of Nebraska's districts and ESUs since she began the role in the summer of 2018. Being present in your district is important to us, and Sharon has received great suggestions and helpful feedback from members on each visit.

Shari Becker, Director of Education Leadership Search Service facilitated searches for Ainsworth, Callaway, Crete, Crofton, ESU #13, Freeman, Garden County, Gothenburg, Maxwell, Norris, Sandhills, Winside, and York prior to the 2019-20 school year, and is currently working with Auburn,

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Bertrand, Chadron, Crawford, Elba, Elm Creek, Fort Calhoun, Kimball, Nebraska City, Rock County, Valentine and Wood River.

Matt Belka, Director of Marketing, Communication & Advocacy, has completely revamped and refreshed the NASB website, streamlining functionality with a cleaner look and navigation, with documents and downloads now linked using Envisi AMS. NASB has begun to produce quick videos (23 to date), from the office, the Capitol and even Philadelphia. Look for even more in 2020 from NASB's new video production room. NASB also helped facilitate Op-Ed's and media requests on funding, transparency, etc. for legislative purposes, helping districts share their stories. Our social media continues to grow too, with 1,850 followers on Twitter, and an average of 20 new followers per month. Our Facebook page is nearing 800 likes/follows as well.

NASB's Board Leadership team, made up of Marcia Herring, Melissa Lusk, Kori Stanosheck, and Karla Kruse, have some impressive numbers as well: 34 Board Retreats (Goals, Roles and Responsibilities, Board Self-Assessment); 5 Community Engagement (Engage stakeholders including board, administrators, teachers, classified staff, students, and patrons); 17 Strategic Planning (3 to 5-year long term district plan); 4 Leadership Encompass 360 (Superintendent Evaluation 360); 18 Online Superintendent Evaluations (Board's Superintendent Evaluation tool implemented through our online process and compiled summary); 5 Online Board-Self Assessments; and Educational Workshops including the Candidate Seminar, New Board Member Workshop, President's Retreat, NASB Member Orientation, and NAEP State Convention.

Colby Coash has school board level advocacy and engagement at an all-time high. NASB followed 106 bills; took a position on 57 bills; over 20 school board members from across Nebraska testified in front of legislative hearings from small and large communities; the NASB Legislation Committee held weekly Legislative calls, and as one senator put it, "It is important to have the voice of the locally elected official during the legislative process on school related issues."

Jim Luebke continues to heat it up on all things NJUMP and CJUMP, your natural gas purchasing programs. NJUMP, which operates in Southeast Nebraska, has 60 members and provided \$923,000 in savings the past 3 years to its participants. CJUMP, which operates in Northern and Western Nebraska, has 48 members, which have saved about 5% a year on their natural gas costs.

ALICAP and Megan Boldt have had a very successful year as well. ALICAP is currently up to 170 members, and this year's dividend of \$2.15 million given back to members was the highest in the last decade. They had a .93 work compensation modifier, meaning ALICAP schools are paying 7% less for Work Comp Coverage, as compared to other schools in the state, on average. Loss control is working! Important for 2019, ALICAP offers Flood coverage up to \$50 million which a number of districts were able to take advantage of. A key focus for 2020 will be centered around cyber liability and sexual abuse. One item of note too, nationally, reinsurance for property is getting tougher and tougher.

Sparq Data Solutions continues to grow.

- Sparq Meetings has 173 Nebraska users including: 17 cities, 3 counties, and 3 public power districts
- Sparq has developed a direct relationship with the school board associations in South Dakota, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. These Associations will now make Sparq meetings available to their members
- Sparq has partnered with the Texas Association of School Boards to make Sparq



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- meetings available for the 11 state school board associations they partner with
- Sparq Negotiations has 146 total subscribers
- Sparq has acquired a company in Dallas, Texas, called CTS, which provides an online policy service to 9 state school board associations. We will soon make this new online policy service available to Nebraska schools, which will integrate directly with Sparq meetings using a single sign-on
- Envisi AMS is growing as well, with our partners in Kansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, and North Carolina. The Envisi AMS platform was developed by Sparq, and we are currently negotiating with Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan as well



Looking forward to 2020, NASB will engage our new strategic plan. In the new plan, you will see an emphasis on supporting schools as they try to address some of the challenging issues we are facing. Issues like the behavioral health of students and staff will be important as we have seen issues like depression and anxiety grow in our schools. Solutions to these issues will need to involve multiple partners and a focus on brain science and healthy cultures in schools. You will hear more about resiliency, mindfulness, and other health issues as we work to provide tools to improve the health environments in our schools. Also, as part of our strategic plan you will see NASB partner with non-traditional organizations in an effort to help address the workforce shortage areas in the state.

In closing, the staff and board of the NASB want to thank you for the work you do in your local districts. Your efforts have a major impact on the future of our children and state. We look forward to seeing you in 2020 and continuing our work to make Nebraska's education system the best in the nation.



## YOUR 2020 ADVOCACY HANDBOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE

DIRECT DOWNLOAD

[http://nasb.enviseams.com/docs/default-source/advocacy/2020-nasb-advocacy-handbook.pdf?sfvrsn=46837b05\\_2](http://nasb.enviseams.com/docs/default-source/advocacy/2020-nasb-advocacy-handbook.pdf?sfvrsn=46837b05_2)

ADVOCACY HANDBOOK PAGE OF NASBONLINE.ORG

<http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/advocacy-handbook>

With the official approvals taking place by you and your peer school board members at this year's Delegate Assembly, we are now able to post the 2020 Advocacy Handbook, to be used as a guideline during the upcoming Legislative Session which begins Wednesday, January 8th. The Advocacy Handbook includes NASB's legislative and leadership initiatives, as well as tips for effective advocacy and much more, is now available to view, download and print at the Government Relations section of the NASB website.

We look forward to working for and with you this session ... do not hesitate to reach out to NASB at anytime with questions on particular bills, initiatives, becoming more engaged, or the overall legislative process in general.

Matt, Colby, John & Vicki  
Your NASB Legislative Team



## HOW SCHOOLS CAN LEVERAGE SOLAR ENERGY AND BATTERY STORAGE TECHNOLOGY TO CONSERVE ENERGY AND STRETCH BUDGETS

As school business offices nationwide explore ways to reduce costs and maximize budgets, many have embraced solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays as a solution to manage their electricity costs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The price of solar has fallen rapidly over the past decade<sup>1</sup> and is now competitive with traditional forms of generation such as fossil fuels<sup>2</sup>, making the once prohibitively expensive technology accessible for school districts with tight budgets.

### *Solar PV Project Arrangement: Energy Performance Contract vs. Power Purchase Agreement*

Solar projects can be completed under several different financing arrangements. Which option makes the most sense for your district depends on a couple of factors, including the district's preference on system ownership and if the district requires aid from the state to assist with installation costs.

#### Energy Savings Performance Contract

One way that school districts can bring solar PV projects to their schools is through an Energy Savings Performance Contract, or ESPC. Under an ESPC, a school district contracts with an Energy Services Company, or ESCO, to conduct an energy audit of their facilities and identify potential energy conservation measures, or ECMs to be installed. Instead of the district paying the capital costs of equipment and installation up front, financing is arranged with the help of the ESCO, if desired by the district. Using the energy cost savings generated by the ECMs, the debt for the equipment and upgrades is paid off over the term of the contract, typically 10-20 years.

As long as there is a rooftop (or rooftops) of adequate size and condition to make installation economically and technically feasible, solar PV can be incorporated into an ESPC as an energy conservation measure. The power generated by the PV system is used to offset energy purchased from the grid thus reducing the building's overall energy load and creating energy cost savings.

#### Power Purchase Agreement

Another approach that schools can take to implement a solar project at their facilities is a Power Purchase Agreement, or a PPA. Under a PPA, a school district contracts with a solar developer to install a solar system on

the school's property. The developer handles upfront costs in addition to owning and operating the system throughout the term of the contract (typically 20-25 years). The developer then sells the clean power generated by the panels back to the district, typically at a lower rate than the local utility's retail electricity price. This enables the school district to offset its utility bill and invest the money it saves elsewhere in the educational mission.

The PPA model makes sense for schools because the district assumes very little financial burden and risk for the project. Since the developer owns the project, they finance the construction and are at risk for any shortfall in production. At the end of the PPA term the developer decommissions and removes the system or depending on the contract terms, the district may have the option to purchase it from the developer.

#### Solar as an Educational Tool

Regardless of the financial structure your district chooses for its solar project, students and faculty will benefit from the addition of solar PV as a learning tool. As school business officials, you are always looking for innovative new ways to save your districts money so you can focus on delivering the best education possible to students. Embracing solar energy in your district creates a unique opportunity to fulfill both of those missions at once. Many solar PV systems include a performance monitoring system and can be integrated with an interactive kiosk that students and staff can use to monitor and analyze the energy produced by their system. The solar PV production data can be seamlessly integrated into the science education curriculum, and students will benefit from learning about renewable energy and solar PV technology through hands-on experience.

#### *Improve the Business Case for Solar by Pairing It with Storage*

When evaluating a potential solar project for your school district, it is also worth considering an energy storage system to maximize the benefits of the solar project. Battery energy storage systems (BESS) allow facilities to optimize energy use by storing energy generated onsite and using intelligent controls to determine how and when to dispatch the stored energy. Just as the cost of solar has declined significantly over the past decade, the energy storage market is currently experiencing



rapid growth due to falling prices, making it an increasingly cost-effective option to mitigate one of the biggest roadblocks to widescale adoption of renewable energy, intermittence. PV systems need sunshine to generate energy, meaning they don't produce energy on cloudy days. By incorporating an energy storage system into your solar project, excess energy can be stored and deployed later so you can use clean energy even when the sun is not shining. This translates to greater utility bill savings by reducing or eliminating demand charges, because energy from the battery is used during periods of peak demand when electricity purchased from the grid is most expensive.

In addition to creating additional energy cost savings, a solar plus storage system can bolster schools' resiliency against severe weather and other events that disrupt the utility grid. Energy storage allows the school to draw energy from its BESS rather than relying solely on electricity from the grid. This means in the event of a power outage on the grid, school operations can continue uninterrupted, ensuring the safety of students and staff and avoiding costly school closings. For schools that serve as town emergency shelters or have other public safety functions, battery storage can provide an additional resiliency benefit to the entire community.

*This article was originally published in part in ASBO New York by Matthew Furdyna, Account Executive at Ameresco. Ameresco, Inc. is a Gold Level Affiliate with NASB and an exhibitor for many years at NASB events. To learn more about energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions for school districts in Nebraska, contact David Goebel, NE Area Manager for Ameresco at [dgoebel@ameresco.com](mailto:dgoebel@ameresco.com)*

1 | Solar Energy Industry Association. Solar Industry Research Data. Retrieved from <https://www.seia.org/solar-industry-research-data>

2 | Mahajan, Megan. Forbes. Plunging Prices Mean Building New Renewable Energy is Cheaper than Existing Coal. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/energyinnovation/2018/12/03/plunging-prices-mean-building-new-renewable-energy-is-cheaper-than-running-existing-coal/#680af3a331f3>

## 2020 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 9-10 | CORNHUSKER MARRIOTT HOTEL LINCOLN

### LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

6:00 PM

Reception, Dinner & Program

**"Been There, Done That. Why School Finance Reform Is So Hard."**

Former Speaker Greg Adams - Executive Director of the Nebraska Community College Association

*Hospitality event to follow hosted by First National Capital Markets*

### LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

8:00 AM

Registration

8:30 AM

Welcome & Introductions | Stacie Higgins, NASB President

The Governor's Office, Speaker, key committee chairs and a number of other senators have been invited to share their respective views throughout the morning. See what key bills are still in play from 2019, and get a first hand look at any new bills introduced in the second half that will have an impact on public education in Nebraska during this year's legislative session.

12:00 PM

Lunch with the Senators

1:30 PM

Adjournment

## BUDGET & FINANCE WORKSHOPS

JANUARY 29 | NORFOLK - LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER

FEBRUARY 5 | KEARNEY - HOLIDAY INN

**"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." --Benjamin Franklin**

School finance is a complex task. The Leadership Team, comprised of both the board and Superintendent/ESU Administrator is responsible for managing the finances within their district/ESU. This evening workshop will feature former superintendents Carl Dietz and Matt Fisher, two school finance experts, who will share their experiences.

This workshop will be suited for both new board members and administrators just learning the process, as well as seasoned veterans who have been through this annual process.

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Did you know ... 10 of the current 49 Senators first sat in your chair as a school board member? This is the seventh installment where we sit down with a former sbm now serving as a state senator to learn about the transition, how their experience on the school board has helped them inside the Capitol, and get their thoughts on some of the key items regarding public education in Nebraska.

Next up is Senator Mark Kolterman.

Senator Kolterman was elected to the Nebraska State Legislature in 2014 and re-elected in 2018 to represent District 24 consisting of Polk, Seward and York counties. Prior to being elected to the Legislature, Senator Kolterman served on the Seward Board of Education. Now, on to the questions ...

*Starting off, which is more fun school board or state legislature?*

The State Legislature. I enjoy the variety and diversity of issues we encounter.

*How did your experience as a school board member help you this past year?*

Being a member of the school board taught me the importance of

being able to collaborate with colleagues and work with those you may not agree with on every policy or issue.

*What have you learned as a senator that you wish you would have known when you served as a school board member?*

No one understands the TEEOSA formula. It's so complicated that it takes a rocket scientist to figure it out.

*What do current school board members need to know about interacting with senators?*

It's important to be passionate about issues that are meaningful to you, your district and your students, but that needs to be tempered with an understanding that every advocate feels the same and that senators are pulled in many directions, dealing with seemingly endless pieces of legislation and policy issues.

*How has your perspective of school finance changed as a result of your new role?*

There is a fairness issue in school finance. There are schools/districts that receive very little state aide, while others receive a large percentage. To me there is not a fair distribution and this can be detrimental to our students.

*When you were a school board member, what priority issue(s) did you want the Legislature to address?*

Funding issues have always been a concern, as well as school

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curriculums and making sure our students are properly prepared to be productive participants in society.

*What are your priorities as it relates to education?*

Figure out a fair way to fund education across the state.

*How can a current school board member support you in advancing areas of mutual importance?*

Establish a good relationship with your legislator and participate in open communication and dialogue.

*Final thoughts?*

When seeking solutions, there needs to be a collaborative effort between local school boards, the state board, the education committee and the legislative body as a whole. Finding a satisfactory outcome is more likely when there is productive and respectful collaboration.

A large, stylized red checkmark is the central graphic element, overlaid on a background image of two young girls sitting at a desk, looking at a book. The checkmark is positioned diagonally, with its top right corner pointing towards the top right of the page. The background image shows two young girls with blonde hair, wearing plaid shirts, sitting at a desk and looking at a book. The girl in the foreground is smiling and looking towards the right. The girl behind her is also looking at the book. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting.

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## With your help, NASB is an advocate for public education and local school governance ... and YOUR collective voice in the Legislature

As NASB represents the state's 260+ member districts and ESUs, relationships and communication are the keys to the success of the Association's advocacy work. NASB advocates for the standing positions and legislative resolutions approved by delegates all from member boards at the annual NASB Delegate Assembly held in conjunction with the State Education Conference each November. It is here, and throughout the year, where our focus is to work for and with you on all of the issues that impact public education.

### Can YOU really make a difference? YES YOU CAN!

You are an elected official and a community leader. As a school board member, you are in an excellent position to educate and influence the legislative process, and are seen as a key resource on education policy for your district. We encourage all boards to include a legislative update as a part of each meeting, and to discuss/share key legislative information with key individuals in the community. Remember that advocacy is year-round, not just during the session itself. Bookmark the Government Relations page of [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org) for updates and information, and make sure to utilize NASB's *Legislative Notes*, summarizing all of the pertinent items related to public education in Nebraska. Another great resource is [www.NebraskaLegislature.gov](http://www.NebraskaLegislature.gov).

**NO ONE IS MORE QUALIFIED TO TALK ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT, YOUR COMMUNITY, AND YOUR NEEDS RELATED TO PROVIDING A QUALITY EDUCATION THAN YOU!**

### ADVOCACY IS ON-GOING. STAY UP TO SPEED ON THE LEGISLATURE YEAR-ROUND.

- ✓ Become familiar with your Senator & their staff -- Don't take for granted the access we have as Nebraskans to our Senators & Federal Representatives. It is not like that everywhere. Take advantage of it! Be involved. Build the relationship. Be ENGAGED!
- ✓ Have a "legislative update" agenda item at each board meeting, and share key legislative information with your board, and your community.
- ✓ Pass board policy specific to how you deal with legislative issues.
- ✓ Utilize NASB's Legislative links, communication, the *Legislative Notes* newsletter, track specific bills, follow along on social media, and study the annual Advocacy Handbook.
- ✓ Reach out to NASB's Legislative Team, and/or a member of the NASB Legislation Committee. Attend the various Legislative Lunches throughout the year across Nebraska.
- ✓ Stay up to speed with your local newspaper, social media, senator emails/newsletters, etc.

### ASK YOURSELF: WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR YOUR DISTRICT?

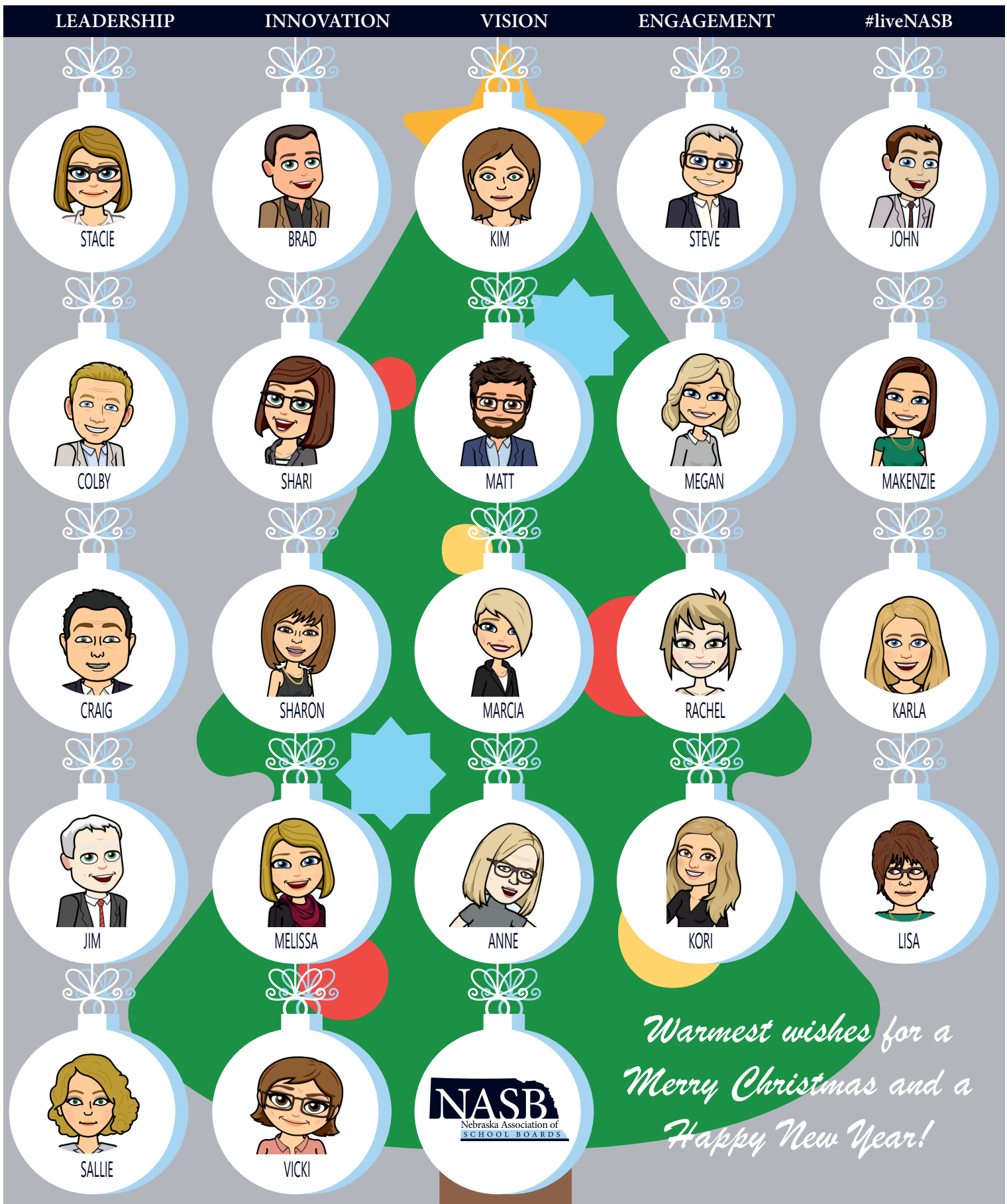
The Legislature needs to know school board members want to be involved!

NASB LEGISLATIVE TEAM: JOHN SPATZ, COLBY COASH, MATT BELKA & VICKI WALTER-WINTERS

### WHAT CAN NASB DO FOR YOU?

ASSIST YOU IN PREPARING TESTIMONY, TALKING POINTS, EMAILS, OR OP-ED'S  
FACILITATE SENATOR INTRODUCTIONS, MEETINGS AND/OR VISITS AT HOME OR THE CAPITOL  
FEATURE YOUR DISTRICT VISITS WITH SENATORS  
BRIEF YOUR BOARD AT A MEETING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM NASB!



## ... ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Have you made room in your agenda to discuss legislative proposals, updates, etc?

The 2020 Legislative Session begins Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

The 2020 *Advocacy Handbook* is now posted under the Government Relations tab of the NASB website, containing all of the items approved by YOU and your peers at the Delegate Assembly! It includes NASB's legislative and leadership initiatives, tips for effective advocacy, and much more. Please feel free to view, download, print and share!

- Call Colby with any questions! -

## ... ALICAP & INSURANCE

Happy Holidays to all of our ALICAP Members! We wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. May 2020 be the best year yet!

Thanks, Megan!

## ... ENERGY PURCHASING

Industry projections show America's natural gas exports more than doubling in volume between 2016 and 2020. This fact, along with increased domestic industrial and utility demand for natural gas indicate that the long decline we have experienced in natural gas prices may be reaching its end. Increased supplies from fracking and less instability in supplies due to the location of sources on the mainland instead of in the Gulf of Mexico have greatly lowered natural gas prices from a dozen years ago when our gas purchase programs were beginning. In the future, the expertise provided by NJUMP and CJUMP consultants will be extremely important to help us secure reliable natural gas supplies at competitive prices for our districts and ESUs.

Contact Jim to learn more!

## ... MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

December visits have included Callaway, Franklin, Hershey, Maxwell, Ogallala, Paxton, South Platte, and Sutherland.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2020, both in your communities, and at NASB's upcoming events ... Mark your calendars and register for:

### PRESIDENT'S RETREAT

January 26-27 in Nebraska City

February 16-17 in Sidney

February 16-17 in Kearney

### BUDGET & FINANCE

January 29 in Norfolk

February 5 in Kearney

### LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONFERENCE

February 9-10 in Lincoln

- Sharon -



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## 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.

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## ... SEARCH, STRENGTHS & AWARDS

### EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH SERVICE

Application deadline coming soon for Crawford, Nebraska City and Rock County. Also accepting applications for Bertrand, Fort Calhoun, Kimball and Wood River.

View Superintendent openings through NASB or apply now at [www.nasbsuptsearch.org](http://www.nasbsuptsearch.org)

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

We welcome Anne Silknitter to the NASB Search Team!

### GALLUP STRENGTHSFINDER

If you have *Command*, practice words, tone and techniques to turn your ability to confront into real persuasiveness.

Those with *Individualization* enjoy picking their friends the perfect Christmas gift.

- Shari -

## ... POLICY

Every school board should have a policy detailing the basic steps that need to be completed during the board's annual organizational meeting in January. One important point that sometimes gets overlooked is the necessity of passing a resolution for the re-adoption of all existing policies, regulations, and handbooks for the governance of the district. This ensures the board has a relatively recent decision in its minutes confirming that these documents constitute the district's governance policies should anyone wish to contest whether the various rules and regulations still apply.

Contact Jim to learn more!

## ... TECHNOLOGY

### DID YOU KNOW?

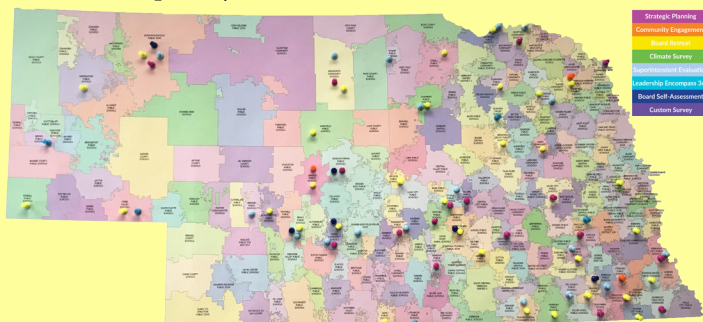
You can create projections based off of potential Base Salary, EHA Deductible, and other benefits changes within Sparq Negotiations? Reach out to us for more information!

Through Sparq Meetings, you can update attendance in the middle of a meeting if a board member has to step away or leave early?

Welcome to our new Sparq Meetings subscribers: ESU 1, Kimball Public Schools, and Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

## ... BOARD LEADERSHIP

2019 was quite the year. For us, it was all about you! You challenged us to roll out a 360-superintendent evaluation, partner with UNL and Sutton Public Schools on a student resiliency study, and continue to refine our strategic planning and data collection capabilities. In celebration want to share some statistics that recap this year and excite us to continue this work in 2020.



This map hangs in Board Leadership and each color-coded pushpin represents work the department has done in a district including: 17 Strategic Plans; 27 Board Retreats; 22 Online Superintendent Evaluations; and 7 Online Board Self-Assessments.

We've traveled 24,426 miles to districts (or, Scottsbluff to Omaha 54 times!) We've worked with districts as small as Chambers, Newman Grove, & Brady, and as large as Bellevue, Grand Island, & South Sioux City.

Because of you, we have been able to impact over 50,000 students in 59 districts. We have loved being a part of your journey to strengthen your district's leadership and, ultimately, improve the achievement of your students. We wish you the best of the holiday season and we look forward to all that 2020 will bring!

Marcia, Kori, Melissa & Karla

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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)*

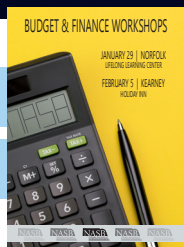
<http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/events>

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.

106th Legislature, 2nd Session Begins Wednesday, January 8, 2020

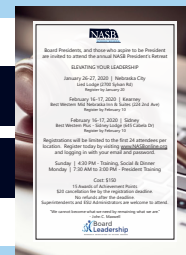
President's Retreat | January 26 - 27, 2020 | Nebraska City

President's Retreat | February 16-17, 2020 | Sidney & Kearney



Budget & Finance Workshop | January 29, 2020 | Norfolk

Budget & Finance Workshop | February 5, 2020 | Kearney



NSBA Advocacy Institute | February 2-4 | Washington, D.C.

School Board Member Week in Nebraska | February 9-15, 2020



Legislative Issues Conference | February 9-10, 2020 | Lincoln

## FINISHING STRONG IN THE SECOND HALF!

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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Steve Blocher  
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West Point

## YOUR REGION DIRECTORS



Region 1  
Neal Kanel  
HTRS



Region 2  
Sarah Centineo  
Bellevue



Regions 3, 6 & 7  
Shavonna Holman  
Omaha



Regions 3, 6 & 7  
Ricky Smith  
Omaha



Regions 3, 6 & 7  
Nancy Kratky  
Omaha



Regions 4 & 5  
Bob Rauner  
Lincoln



Regions 4 & 5  
Kathy Danek  
Lincoln



Region 8  
Jay Irwin  
Ralston



Region 9  
Alan Moore  
ESU 3



Region 10  
Paul Brune  
Heartland



Region 11  
Jim Vlach  
Lyons-Decatur Northeast



Region 12  
Lisa Wagner  
Central City



Region 13  
Marilyn Bohn  
Ravenna



Region 14  
Sandy Noffsinger  
Dundy County Stratton



Region 15  
Barb Svoboda  
Mullen



Region 16  
Patti Gubbels  
Norfolk



Region 17  
Richard Dohma  
Ponca



Region 18  
TBD



Region 19  
Stacy Jolley  
Millard

## YOUR NASB STAFF



John Spatz  
Executive Director



Shari Becker  
Director of Education  
Leadership Search Service



Craig Caples  
Director of Technology



Karla Kruse  
Board Leadership/ALICAP  
Admin. Assistant



Kori Stanosheck  
Board Leadership  
Engagement Associate



Matt Belka  
Director of Marketing,  
Communications & Advocacy



Sharon Endorf  
Director of  
Member Engagement



Jim Luebke  
Director of Policy Services



Lisa Steinkuhler  
Executive Admin. Assistant



Megan Boldt  
Director of ALICAP Insurance



Marcia Herring  
Director of Board Leadership



Melissa Lusk  
Board Leadership  
Development Associate



Sallie Svatora  
Director of Operations



Colby Coash  
Associate Executive Director/  
Dir. of Government Relations



Makenzie Brookhouser  
Events Manager &  
Accounting Associate



Rachel Horstman  
Business Manager



Anne Silknitter  
Education Leadership Search  
Service Associate



Vicki Walter-Winters  
Legal Admin. Assistant

LEADERSHIP	INNOVATION	VISION	ENGAGEMENT	#liveNASB
<b>ACCOUNTING</b> Watts and Hershberger, P.C. Jim Watts - 402-483-7512 jw1cpa@aol.com   www.gowh.com (CPA, Accounting)	<b>BUILDING CONTROLS/ SERVICES</b> Control Management Inc. Nathan Haug - 402-571-9454 nathan@cmiomaaha.com www.cmiomaaha.com (Building Automation, Security and Energy Optimization for New and Existing Systems)	<b>ENERGY SERVICES</b> CTS Group Randy Harrick - 402-680-6390 rherrick@ctsgroup.com www.ctsgroup.com (Provides safe, secure learning and working environments) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b> First National Capital Markets Tobin Buchanan - 308-352-8328 tbuchanan@fnni.com Carl Dietz - 308-289-3920 cardietz@fnni.com Matt Fisher - 308-380-3831 mfisher@fnni.com www.fncapitalmarkets.com (Public Finance, Election Guidance) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	
<b>ARCHITECTS</b> BCDM Architects Patrick Carson - 402-391-2211 pcarson@bcdm.net - www.bcdm.net (Architectural Services)	<b>CONSTRUCTION SERVICES</b> BD Construction Marsha Wilkerson - 308-234-1836 mwilkerson@bdconstruction.com www.BDconstruction.com (Site Selection, Facility Planning, Engineering, Permitting, Build to Suit) *GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	Johnson Controls Jason Peck - 308-708-9479 jason.peck@jci.com - www.jci.com (HVAC, Building Automation, Service Agreements, Security and Fire, among others) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	First Nebraska Credit Union Elly Heckel - 402-492-9100 marketing@firstnebraska.org www.firstnebraska.org (Taking care of your financial needs!)	
BVH Architecture Cleve Reeves - 402-475-4551 creeves@bvh.com - www.bvh.com (Architecture) *Silver Level Affiliate	Boyd Jones Construction Emily Bannick - 402-550-1808 ebannick@boydjones.biz www.boydjones.biz (Construction Management, Pre-Bond, Pre-Construction, Facility Evaluation, Early Stage Planning) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	TRANE Dave Raymond 402-596-8000 - 402-452-7762 dave.raymond@trane.com www.trane.com/omaha (Building Construction & Energy Services) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund - NLAF Barry Ballou - 402-705-0350 balloub@pfm.com www.NLAFpool.org (Liquid Asset Fund, financing programs) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	
CMBA Architects Brad Kissler - 308-384-4444 kissler.b@cmbaarchitects.com Jim Brisnehan - 308-384-4444 brisnehan.j@cmbaarchitects.com Troy Keilig - 308-384-4444 keilig.t@cmbaarchitects.com www.cmbaarchitects.com (Architecture, Master Planning, Interiors, Bond Promotion/Community Engagement) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	Cheever Construction Douglas Klute - 402-477-6745 dklute@cheeverconstruction.com www.cheeverconstruction.com (Construction Services)	<b>EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE</b> Sheppard's Business Interiors Ken Sigmon - 402-393-8888 ksigmon@sbi-omaha.com www.sbi-omaha.com (Furniture, Space Planning, Asset Management)	Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust Becky Ferguson - 402-323-1334 becky.ferguson@ubt.com www.npait.com (Cash management tool for short-term and long-term funds) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	
Carlson West Povondra Architects Jamie Eckmann - 402-551-1500 jeckmann@cwparchitects.com www.cwparchitects.com (Architecture, planning, feasibility studies) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	<b>ENERGY SERVICES</b> Ameresco, Inc. David Goebel - 308-392-3283 402-370-8822 dgoebel@ameresco.com www.ameresco.com (Capital Improvements, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Solutions for Buildings) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b> Ameritas Investment Corp. 800-335-9858 (Bonds, Refunding Bonds, QCPUF Bonds, TANs, NASB Lease-Purchase) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	Union Bank & Trust Health Benefit Solutions Jennifer Ainsworth - 402-323-1815 jennifer.ainsworth@ubt.com www.ubt.com/health (Financial Services, Banking) * Silver Level Affiliate	
DLR Group Vanessa Schutte - 402-393-4100 vschutte@dlrgroup.com www.dlrgroup.com (Architecture, engineering, Ed. facility planning)	Heartland Pella Windows & Doors Dennis Feeken - 800-334-2271 dennisfeeken@heartlandpella.com www.heartlandpella.com (Commercial Window & Door Solutions)	D.A. Davidson & Co. Paul Grieger - 402-392-7986 pgrieger@dadco.com Cody Wickham - 402-392-7989 cwickham@dadco.com Andy Forney - 402-392-7988 aforney@dadco.com www.dadavidson.com (Bonds/Election Services, Lease Purchase) * GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE	Wells Fargo Bank Andrew J. Detlefsen - 402-434-6701 andrew.j.detlefsen@wellsfargo.com www.wellsfargo.com (Financial Services, Banking)	
<b>AWARDS &amp; PLAQUES</b> Awards Unlimited Larry King - 402-474-0815 larryking@awardsunlimited.com www.awardsunlimited.com (Trophies, awards, plaques, etc.)				

# NASB AFFILIATES

## LEADERSHIP

## INNOVATION

## VISION

## ENGAGEMENT

## #liveNASB

### FOOD SERVICE

Lunchtime Solutions  
Deni Winter  
605-235-0939 Ext 106  
deni@lunchtimesolutions.com  
www.lunchtimesolutions.com  
(Progressive Food  
Service Management)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Opaa! Food Management of Nebraska  
Greg Frost - 636-812-0777  
www.opaafood.com  
(Contract Food Service  
Management)

Taher, Inc. - Food Service Management  
Tom Johnson - 952-945-0505  
t.johnson@taher.com  
www.taher.com  
(Providing a fresh take on Food  
Service Management)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

### INSURANCE SERVICES

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska  
Courtney Ray - 402-458-4823  
courtney.ray@nebraskablue.com  
www.nebraskablue.com  
(Group health insurance)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

National Insurance Services  
Steve Ott - 800-627-3660  
sott@nisbenefits.com  
www.nisbenefits.com  
(Group LTD, Life, Vision,  
Special Pay Plans, HRA's)

Public Risk Management  
Sheri Shonka  
402-884-3751 - 877-649-4612  
sheri.shonka@prmne.com  
www.alicap.org  
(ALICAP, Insurance services)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

### LEGAL SERVICES

Mueller Robak, LLC  
William Mueller - 402-434-3399  
mueller@muellerrobak.com -  
(Lobby firm)

### MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION

Rasmussen Mechanical Services  
Jennifer Coggins - 712-323-0514  
jennifer.coggins@rasmech.com  
www.rasmech.com  
(Your Single Source Service  
Provider)

### MENTORING

TeamMates Mentoring  
Hannah Miller - 319-610-8538  
hannah@teammates.org  
www.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 and  
site furnishings)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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

### SAFETY & SECURITY SERVICES

One Source  
The Background Check Company  
Neal Josten  
800-608-3645 ext. 5600  
njosten@onesourcebackground.com  
www.onesourcebackground.com  
(Employment, Volunteer,  
Contractor Screening)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

VideoTronix Inc.  
David Harvey - 402-210-2839  
david.harvey@vtisecurity.com  
www.vtisecurity.com  
(IP Video Surveillance, Networks,  
Access Control, Storage)

### STUDENT INFORMATION SERVICES

JMC Computer Services  
Paul Freid - 651-345-4654  
Paul@jmcinc.com  
www.jmcinc.com  
(Easy ADVISOR reporting and  
student information management)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

### TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING

PRISM advisors  
Jason Richards - 402-593-8911  
jprichards@prism-advisors.com  
www.prism-advisors.com  
(PEOPLE, PROCESS & SYSTEMS.  
IT strategic planning and project  
management through RFP to  
implementation)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

### TECHNOLOGY/ SOFTWARE

Sparq Data Solutions  
Craig Caples - 402-423-4951  
ccaples@sparqdata.com  
www.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  
www.cnrehab.com  
(Providing PT, OT and Speech  
therapy in the school system)

### TRANSPORTATION

Body Worx Inc.  
Josh Goodbrake - 308-293-3109  
josh.bodyworx@gmail.com  
www.bodyworxrepair.com  
(Commercial Vehicle Collision  
Center Specializing in School  
Busses and Motor Coaches)  
\*Silver Level Affiliate





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# NASB BOARD NOTES

A monthly publication from the Nebraska Association of School Boards



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## IN THIS EDITION

WARMEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM NASB  
YOUR 2020 ADVOCACY HANDBOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE  
GREEN YOUR SCHOOLS WHILE CUTTING COSTS  
FINISHING STRONG IN THE SECOND HALF!  
FROM SCHOOL BOARD TO THE STATE CAPITOL WITH SENATOR KOLTERMAN  
ADVOCACY/2020  
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM NASB!  
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  
... TECHNOLOGY