



FEBRUARY 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Due March 6

NASB LEGISLATIVE LUNCHES

MARCH 16 | Holdrege

MARCH 16 | York

NAEP STATE CONVENTION

MARCH 31 - APRIL 1 | GRAND ISLAND

NSBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 4-6 | Chicago

#liveNASB

## MORRILL PROVIDING AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL TO ALL CHILDREN OF THE DISTRICT

By Joe Sherwood, Superintendent; and Sunny Edwards, Early Childhood Director

*“It’s old news that early childhood education is one of the best investments any educational system can make, so here’s the question: Where is early childhood education in your [district’s priorities]? The failure to focus on early childhood education – perhaps the single greatest return on investment any educational system can have – is illustrative of the broader error in accountability in which we chase metrics rather than make decisions based upon value for students and communities.”*

Dr. Douglas Reeves

On a fair August day in 2017, in the farthest west school district eight miles east of Wyoming, little children, moms and dads, and extended family converged on a new building opening where Morrill students had once come to school for 80 years. In what used to be the elementary and secondary buildings now sits a new 11,000 square foot building to educate children from six weeks to pre-kindergarten.

Fourteen eager staff in five classrooms welcomed these children and families to the new facility. As superintendent I was as excited, if not more than all of the children, as the school board and I had been working on building this program for the previous two years.

In the fall of 2015, the Morrill School Board and administration held our first meeting to gather input from district stakeholders on several issues. A couple of the questions discussed that night were: “What services are we not providing that you wish that the school district would consider?” and “What would you like us to do with the vacant property where the old cafeteria was?”

With nearly 100 people present, the resounding message to the board was to use the property for an early childhood building to provide access to affordable childcare and preschool to all children in the district which includes the communities of Morrill, Henry and Lyman of Scotts Bluff County and reaches up into southern parts of Sioux County.

At the time there were two home-based childcare providers, serving less than 15 children

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Morrill Public Schools**

Board of Education  
Dave Sherrod, President  
Dick Burford  
Jim Hessler  
Lisa Kaufman  
Art Steiner  
Bill Watson

Joe Sherwood, Superintendent

Enrollment = 350  
NASB Region #18  
[www.mpslions.org](http://www.mpslions.org)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

total. The district had one classroom in the elementary building for preschool to serve 3 and 4-year-olds twelve hours per week, only during the school year. This did not adequately address the needs of our community, and the stakeholders communicated these needs.

Research began immediately. A team, including the home based childcare providers, were invited to be a part of visitation groups that toured five regional preschool and childcare centers. From there the team sat down and sketched a proposal to the school board for what we thought would be the best facility in the area, yet a modest request from our taxpayers. We met with engineers and proposed a design that met the NDE Rule 11 early childhood requirements and the Nebraska DHHS licensed child care expectations. We selected a bid of \$1.5 million, and when all was said and done, the finished product was not only done ahead of schedule, but included additional features added during construction, and below budget.

The board determined for the first couple of years that the superintendent would serve as the Early Childhood Director as the new facility also houses the district office. While we advertised for certificated early childhood teachers to start the fall of 2017, we only had two certificated teachers for five classrooms. NDE and the State Board of Education granted us a year-by-year waiver concerning the requirement to have certificated teachers with an early childhood endorsement in each of our classrooms, which was very beneficial.

Local revenue generated from several sources has been a huge help. We partner with Head Start, and are also licensed by DHHS therefore children may qualify for subsidy. We have a sliding scale for families not qualifying for Head Start or subsidy – families that qualify for reduced price lunch are granted one-half price tuition. Those who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch pay full-price tuition. Children who have an IEP but don't qualify for Head Start or subsidy have their costs covered by our special education resources.

Remember the quote at the beginning of this article? According to the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission (Jan-20)

- 75% of children under 6 live in homes where all adults work
- 84% of counties don't have enough child care to meet the needs
- In 2016, 4,000+ parents were forced to leave a job, not accept a job, or change jobs because of child care problems
- Only 15% of parents statewide report being satisfied with the quality of early care and education in the city or area they live.



The Commission also wrote, *“The single most important building block of brain architecture and childhood development is reliable, positive, and consistent interactions between the developing infant or child and familiar, caring adults.”*

THIS is why Morrill Public Schools has prioritized early childhood education starting at six weeks.

We believe there will be a wonderful return on our investment. We have students that have been in our building now for three years, that came to us, non-verbal, emotionally and socially dysregulated, and now they are ready to be kindergarten learners.

Clearly, when 75% of children live in homes where all adults work, and 85% of families are unsatisfied with the quality of care, we need high quality early childhood services. The Commission is challenging law and policy makers and community leaders to address the need to develop a highly qualified effective workforce.

Sunny Edwards joined Morrill Schools in August 2019 as an Early Childhood Certificated Professional. She began as our infant room teacher, building lead teacher and coach. Within a few weeks it became evident that her knowledge, skill set, and passion for best practice was invaluable to all the children in our entire program. She then launched into the eight month Management Training Program developed by NDE required by the Nebraska DHHS for all center-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



# MORRILL PROVIDES CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL (CONT.)



LEADERSHIP

INNOVATION

VISION

ENGAGEMENT

#liveNASB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

based childcare providers. Sunny transitioned to full-time Early Childhood Program Coordinator that December.

As all Early Childhood educators know, the majority of their time is spent on the floor. To the untrained eye, it appears to be play, and in a sense, it is. It has been said “Play is the work of childhood.” This work is built on the foundation of strong, nurturing relationships. In the Commissions finding that “reliable, positive, and consistent interactions between the developing infant or child and familiar, caring adults” – RELATIONSHIPS are the single most important building block of brain architecture and childhood development.

“If a child doesn’t know how to read, we teach. To swim, we teach. To multiply, we teach. To drive, we teach. To behave, we teach.”

Per Rule 11, we are hiring trained professionals, certificated teachers, or those in the process toward certification. NDE and the State Board of Education have proposed a revision that, if signed by the Governor, would allow all Nebraska districts to do what Morrill and ESU 13 have been permitted to do for the past several years.

In every classroom we implement teacher collaboration, parent/teacher leadership committees, on-site coaching, module training, observation tools, behavioral plan creation and implementation with families. We are a licensed day care center, meeting the requirements set by DHHS. We partner with Head Start, meeting all of their requirements, as 20 of our preschool students have a seat funded by Head Start. Our objectives for development and learning span birth through third grade enabling teachers to track children’s development and learning along the way. The objectives cover ten areas of development and learning, including Math, Social-Emotional, Language and Literacy, and so on, with a total of 38 objectives as data collection points, focusing is on the whole child’s growth and development.

There are many other very important parts that we are adding into the framework like Zumbini, Circle of Security, Zones of Regulation, Anne Meeker-Watson Musical Therapist musical sets, Second Step social emotional support, and more.

Knowing the WHY has been an intricate part of every discussion, professional development session, family engagement and so on. Our



sights are set on developing a highly qualified effective workforce in a developmentally appropriate environment. We focus on the WHY, not just the WHAT of Early Childhood education and it is elevating our workforce, children, and families.

Our building is open year round from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, M-F, except major holidays and a few days for staff development. We provide care-taker services to the moms, dads, and guardians of 75 children as an extension of the family.

We partner with the primary care givers, while they are at work, to extend the secure base and safe haven that every child needs in order to engage in confident risk taking as they play, explore and develop into healthy, fully developed, learning ready children.

We provide consistent, reliable, caring, and highly qualified adults who are equipped and effectively attending to all the developmental dimensions appropriate to the ages and stages, reflective of the individuality of each child and their family.

If you were intrigued by this article and want to learn more, feel free to contact us by emailing [joe.sherwood@mplsions.org](mailto:joe.sherwood@mplsions.org)

*Joe & Sunny, along with school board president David Sherrod, will be presenting more on this topic at the Spring NRCSA Conference in Kearney on March 26-27*



# NASB IN D. C. - EQUITY, ADVOCACY & THE HILL

LEADERSHIP

INNOVATION

VISION

ENGAGEMENT

#liveNASB



A number of your sbm peers and education leaders hit up Washington, D.C. for the NSBA Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute a few weeks back, and were then able to spend a day on The Hill speaking to the offices of all our federal representatives.

Here are some photos and a quick rundown from Ellie Higgins, a current Junior at Nebraska City Public Schools, who has the benefit of knowing the current NASB President fairly well, and convincing her as well as her teachers that missing a few days of school for some hands on history homework is a fair tradeoff.



Ellie

How was DC?

Awesome! It was a very cool experience to see so many people who are passionate about public education. I loved watching advocacy in action. Watching the school board members speak to our senators and representatives was incredible, but it was even more incredible watching them work together to find solutions to difficult problems. It was very inspiring and I hope I can go back!



# We ♥ NE Schools

Having served so many Nebraska schools over the last 15 years, we understand how important it is to protect your schools' students and staff.

Not already a One Source client?  
Mention this ad and get your account  
setup for **FREE!**

[education@onesourcebackground.com](mailto:education@onesourcebackground.com)  
800.608.3645 ext. 5600  
[onesourcebackground.com](http://onesourcebackground.com)

From your NASB Board Leadership Team

## MONTHLY BOARD REMINDERS

**March 2, 2020** - Last day for **non-incumbents** (new filers) to file for office on primary election.

*\*ESU filing deadline for incumbents is July 15, 2020 and non-incumbents must file by August 3, 2020.*

**NASB Event** – NASB Membership Renewal (2% savings if membership is received by April 1)

**Planning** – Receive progress updates on District Goals and/or Strategic Plan progress

**Budget** – Board-Administrator Budget Work Session

**Curriculum** – Review School Improvement Plan and Alternative Education Program

**Policy Review** – Monthly agenda item to review, update, and adopt board policies

## BOARD CANDIDATE ENGAGEMENT

Did you know that 2020 is an election year? In case you missed that memo, the deadline for board incumbents has passed and the filing deadline for non-incumbents is fast approaching. The NASB Board Leadership staff advocates for each superintendent and board president to initiate a positive working relationship with the non-incumbents:

- Contact the County Election Commissioner and/or County Clerk to determine who has filed
- Conduct a meet and greet at the district office by inviting each non-incumbent board member to a meeting with the superintendent and board president. Agenda might include:
  - Share a copy of the Board Member Code of Ethics/Conduct and the Annual Board Calendar
  - Discuss and determine the interests or motivations the non-incumbent intends to bring to his/her role as a board member
  - Invite each non-incumbent to observe monthly board meetings immediately
  - Encourage the non-incumbent to self-educate by familiarizing himself/herself with:
    - 1) District website and district policy
    - 2) Minutes from the past year's board meetings and workshops
    - 3) Geographic and building boundaries of the school district
  - Exchange contact information
  - Allow time for the non-incumbent to ask questions and encourage him/her to sustain connections so that the district may support them as they learn about serving as a board member and the demographics and qualities of the school district

By initiating and building a positive working relationship with the non-incumbent, this enables the board and superintendent to accelerate the growth and quality of the future working relationship. Of course, following official election to the board, the Association advocates for the superintendent and board to lead the newly elected board members through a comprehensive district orientation process, attend the NASB New Board Member Workshop in your area, and other learning opportunities to help them grow in their new role. This initial engagement creates a positive first impression of the district and leadership team.

## PREPARING TO SERVE

What can you expect from your Association? The NASB Board Leadership Team will provide Board Candidate Webinars (July 27, September 21, and October 12) which will educate potential board members on how they can be most effective in carrying out the proper roles and responsibilities, chain of command, etc. The General Election will be followed by six (6) New Board Member Workshops scheduled (Gering, North Platte, York, Broken Bow, West Point, and La Vista) in early December.

*Look for more information in the coming months. ~Marcia, Kori, Melissa, and Karla*



# WHAT'S NEXT? ENGAGED MEMBERS TAKE OVER LIC

LEADERSHIP

INNOVATION

VISION

ENGAGEMENT

#liveNASB



With an agenda packed with Speakers, former Speakers, the Lt. Governor, Committee Chairs, and more, this year's Legislative Issues Conference answered some pressing questions, while posing a few new ones. Hundreds gathered to hear about this year's landscape, NASB's gameplan, and to network, and ask questions of their state senators.

Sunday evening we heard from former Speaker Greg Adams, on why school finance is so hard. "It's not complicated .... it's complex!" he said in explaining the TEEOSA formula. He went on, "Equalized and equal are not the same thing. Don't ever forget that. You hand out as much as you can, and sometimes that means somebody gets more and somebody gets less."

Monday began with a welcome from NASB President, Stacie Higgins, "I'm excited how this year's agenda has shaped up. Over the last few years, we have increased our engagement with our state senators, strengthening those relationships, and opening up new lines of communication. But what's next? While in Washington D.C. last weekend for the NSBA Advocacy Institute, it dawned on me that we as school board members need to stop thinking and acting like we are a special interest group. We are so much more than that. As a staff member from Congressman Jeff Fortenberry's office commented, "As a school board member, you have a better pulse on the community than any other group we meet with."

Higgins went on to say, "Embrace your role as community leaders, continue to educate your Senators on education. Don't assume they know what is going on inside your buildings. Don't let them tell what they think is your story. More and more, we as school leaders are being sought out by the policy makers themselves earlier in the process, to get the true pulse of our schools."

From there, it was a morning filled with great discussion & engagement from Lt. Governor Mike Foley, Senators Mike Groene, Lou Ann Linehan, Tom Brewer, Lynne Walz, and Speaker Jim Scheer, as well as presentations by Stand For Schools, and a bill overview with NASB's Colby Coash and Legislation Committee Chair, Brad Wilkins.

After that, it was lunch with the Senators. Thanks to all who made it to Lincoln to advocate for public education in your districts, communities and all of Nebraska!



**LEADERSHIP      INNOVATION      VISION      ENGAGEMENT      #liveNASB**

Did you know ... 10 of the current 49 Senators first sat in your chair as a school board member? This is the ninth 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 Dan Hughes.

Senator Hughes was elected to the Nebraska State Legislature in 2014 to represent District 44 consisting of Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins, and Red Willow counties in the Panhandle. Prior to being elected to the Legislature, Senator Hughes served on the Grant/Perkins County School Board from 1998-2010. Now, on to the questions ...

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

Both are very interesting positions, but there is no perfect job. I have to deal with many more subjects in the legislature compared to a school board member.

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

An understanding that one has to research all of the issues. Look for the facts and don't take one person's perspective on the subject. Make sure to do your homework.

***What have you learned as a senator that you wish you would have known when you served as a sbm?***

That I would need more patience and to be a better listener.

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

I ask that you understand that we have a hundred things that need to be done right away. Although the issue that you bring to us maybe the most important thing in the world to you we have fifty individuals like you bidding for our time. It's hard to give you our full attention for very long. We ask that you keep it concise.

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

There are many different resources that school boards have available for financing schools. My perspective is the same as when I served as a school board member. There needs to be a happy medium between providing good education, but not creating too high a burden on the taxpayer.



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

Being fairer to rural districts that have high costs because they can't take advantage of economies of scale.

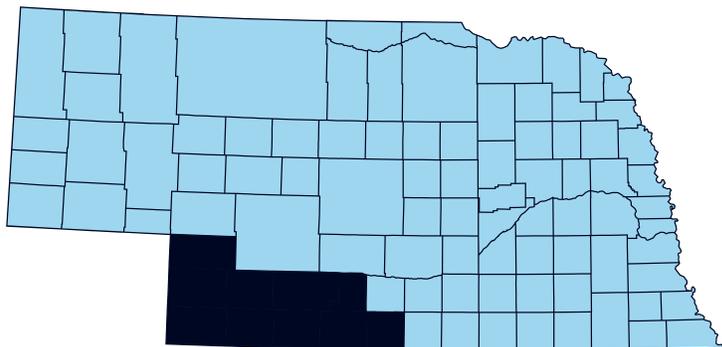
***What are your priorities as it relates to education?***

We need to educate all of our children to the best of our ability. Understand that not every child will go to a four-year institution after high school.



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

Schedule a one on one meeting with your senator so they can give their full attention to you.



# BUILDING MOMENTUM TO SOLVE EARLY CHILDHOOD CHALLENGES

SCHOOL BOARDS

LEADERSHIP

INNOVATION

VISION

ENGAGEMENT

#liveNASB



*By Matthew Hansen, Managing Editor of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska*

## READ THE REPORT:

<https://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/-/media/beci/docs/workforce-commission-report-pages-final.pdf?la=en>

## READ THE FULL ARTICLE:

<https://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/early-years-matter/nebraska-is-building-momentum-to-solve-early-childhood-educations-biggest-challenges>

You sat in the room, and you could feel it happening. School leaders and economic development experts and education experts could feel it, too. Early childhood education—quality care starting at birth—is the key to building young brains, our communities and our state’s economy, all at once. All together.

You could feel the momentum during the release of the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission report was the unmistakable sense that Nebraskans are coalescing around the common cause of early childhood education. “I think we can execute something special in the state of Nebraska,” said Sen. John Stinner, chair of the Appropriations Committee, during the rollout event.

Make no mistake: The problems mentioned by the speakers and listed in the report are daunting. Early childhood teachers often make poverty-level wages. Nebraska parents wait in long lines for good child care and fork over often-stunning costs when they get in. There is no good statewide system to make sure that quality care exists across home-based, center-based, and school-based centers.

And make no mistake: The goals listed in the report are audacious. The report proposes that we fully fund early childhood education in Nebraska by 2030 through increased funding from the federal government, the state, philanthropy and business. Parents would pay according to ability, based on a sliding fee scale.

It proposes that every Nebraska child has access to quality early childhood education, no matter if they live in Ashland or Alliance and no matter the child care setting. It proposes that we build a well-qualified, well-compensated workforce able to meet the daunting challenges of the 21st century. The report argues that meeting this challenge is possible, so long as Nebraskans themselves join together to meet it. Early childhood education has been proven to improve third grade reading scores and high school graduation rates.

NASB’s John Spatz said more and more school board members across the state view early childhood not as a cost, but as a needed investment. “Common sense will tell you this. The data will tell you this. The highest rate of return for our money is in early childhood,” he said, alluding to research showing that \$1 placed into early childhood education can return as much as \$13 later. “Everyone wins when we invest in early childhood. The question isn’t how we can afford this. The question is, how can we afford not to?”

Tawana Grover, superintendent of Grand Island Public Schools, said districts like hers are expected to close the achievement gaps between affluent and lower-income students, and between white students and students of color. They are expected to churn out high school graduates ready for college or the workforce. Increasingly, school leaders understand none of this can happen without quality early childhood education that gets students truly ready for Kindergarten.

Early childhood teachers and child care owners on the Workforce Commission and in the audience said that for the first time in their careers, they sense that their importance to the state is being properly understood.

“Something important has begun,” said Sam Meisels, founding executive director of the Buffett Institute and co-chair of the Workforce Commission. “All of this is within our reach.”

## ... ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Stay up to date with the latest on all bills NASB is following & download your copy of the 'Advocacy Handbook' under the Government Relations tab of [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)

### KEY DATES OF NOTE

Priority bills are announced by Feb 25; Full day debate begins March 3; and the final day is scheduled for April 23

THANK YOU to all of you who have come to Lincoln or done your part from home to speak with your Senator(s), advocate for you kids, and share your stories!!!

- Call Colby with any questions -

## ... SEARCH, STRENGTHS & AWARDS

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

### GALLUP STRENGTHSFINDER

"Our lives are shaped by our interactions with others. Whether we have a long conversation with a friend or simply place an order at a restaurant, every interaction makes a difference."

- Don Clifton

If you have *Communication*, keep getting smarter about the words you use. They are a critical currency. Spend them wisely and monitor their impact.

Gallup Clifton StrengthsFinder has 34 themes (strengths) sorted into four domains. The Four Domains are Executing, Influencing, Relationship Building, and Strategic Thinking

- Shari -

## ... ALICAP & INSURANCE

This month's ALICAP Safety Topic is "Classroom Safety". ALICAP is asking schools and ESUs to assign a basic classroom safety course, for all teachers and paraprofessionals, during the month of February.

Thanks, Megan!



**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

## ... BOARD LEADERSHIP

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

*Marcia, Kori, Melissa & Karla*

## ... POLICY

An important financial duty of the Board is providing oversight of the district's capital reserve funds. The board should receive monthly or at least quarterly reports of the amounts being held in reserve, the depository institution they are in, and the change in those amounts over the previous year. Depending on the size and needs of the district, a two to five month reserve is typical.

Contact Jim to learn more!

## ... MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

February visits have included Arlington, Crofton, East Butler, Freeman, High Plains, Malcolm, Oakland-Craig, Osceola & Pierce.

Consider submitting a proposal for a breakout session at the 2020 State Education Conference. Proposals will be accepted now through March 6th at <https://nasb.envisiams.com/proposals>

- Sharon -

## ... ENERGY PURCHASING

Natural gas prices are currently near a five year low. The contracts for participation in our gas purchasing programs, NJUMP and CJUMP, roll over to continue for a period of three years. This allows our consortium to purchase layers of gas more than one year in advance so that members can take advantage of the excellent opportunities that cyclical dips in the cost of gas occasionally allow.

Contact Jim to learn more!

## ... TECHNOLOGY

Did you know with Sparq Meetings' February release, users now have the ability to pick and choose which attachments to include in their Agenda Report PDF?

Did you also know you will be able to preview upcoming Meetings based on permission level with the February release? This will allow you to make sure each user permission displays without a hitch during your Board Meetings!

Contact Darion at [dmilller@NASBonline.org](mailto:dmilller@NASBonline.org)

## Leadership. Innovation. Vision. Engagement. Nebraska's locally elected school board members know what it takes to #liveNASB

"I am a school board member in Nebraska. One of the 1,700 locally elected volunteers who work a full day and then choose to spend their personal time serving the needs of the students, their district, their communities, and all of Nebraska. It isn't always easy. Tough decisions need to be made. But we serve for the love and support of public education. We work every day to positively affect our country's future by helping our greatest assets to excel in their lives."  
STACIE HIGGINS - NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NASB PRESIDENT

"As a locally elected school board member from Ainsworth Community Schools, I represent families and tax payers in Brown County, serving students from Ainsworth, Johnstown and Long Pine. While today we are one school serving all the students in our county, we remember all of the leaders, present and past who helped make our public school what it is today. Let's never forget the rich heritage and importance of public education in each of our counties, Nebraska and the U.S."  
BRAD WILKINS - AINSWORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS - NASB PRESIDENT-ELECT

"Driving the 400 miles from my house to Lincoln, I pass by 28 Nebraska school districts. On each of those buildings are words like Public, Community, and Unified. Words that accurately embrace the mission, vision, and values of the communities in which they serve, and the community members elected to run them efficiently."  
KIM BURRY - BAYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NASB VICE PRESIDENT

"I am a banker, father, grandfather, and husband, among many other things. I am also a school board member. Nebraska school board members walk a number of different paths. We are republicans and democrats, mothers and fathers. We are attorneys, business owners, construction workers, doctors, farmers, nurses, ranchers, welders, and more. We bring incredible experience and perspective to the one thing that unifies us, Nebraska's public school students. We are school board members, elected to effectively and efficiently serve the public schools within our communities."  
STEVE BLOCHER - WEST POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NASB PAST PRESIDENT

"As a school board member and teacher serving the communities of David City and Bellwood, my passion for public education is served in the classroom, the boardroom, and at the Capitol. School board members across the state advocate and govern to provide opportunities for every child in their community. We are locally elected moms, dads, grandparents, and business owners striving to strengthen our communities through the growth of our public schools and the students of our great state."  
STEPHANIE SUMMERS - DAVID CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NASB LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

"There is no better foundation for the future of Omaha and Nebraska than providing a strong education for our children, today. I am proud to serve the 54,000 students of our district and grateful to the voters of our community who trust us with such an important role. Across more than 100 schools and programs, we have an exceptional opportunity to educate and inspire a new generation of leaders."  
DR. SHAVONNA HOLMAN - OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"I have grown up, graduated from, and am now serving my 24th year on the board of education in Ralston. Two years ago I was fortunate enough to travel the state as your NASB President. My peers welcomed me into their communities and showed me what I already knew. Nebraska is beautiful, filled with amazing people in towns big and small, and dedicated to all students succeeding. I am proud to serve my community as a local school leader, and to know I serve with 1,700 others working to make this state a great place to live."  
LINDA RICHARDS - RALSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NASB PAST PRESIDENT

"I am a proud 2nd generation school board member with 28 years of board experience; a father who has had four children raised through public schools; my daughter is a teacher at our public school. I am a farmer, property tax payer and a tireless advocate for Hershey Public Schools. We proudly serve without hesitation all students, no matter race, religion, gender, economic status or educational need and we do an awesome job considering Nebraska, as a state, ranks near last in the nation in funding for its public schools."  
STEVE KOCH - HERSHEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - NASB LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Board Notes is published on a monthly basis as a member service. Advertising is available in every issue. To advertise or become an Affiliate, please contact Matt Belka for further information. Articles or advertising contained herein do not necessarily represent the views or policies of NASB.

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

LEADERSHIP

INNOVATION

VISION

ENGAGEMENT

#liveNASB

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)*

REGISTER  
NOW!

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

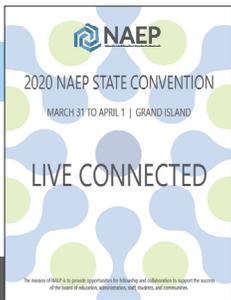
*To register for an NASB event, click on the 'My Membership' link, then navigate to the 'Events' dropdown and select 'Register'.  
If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 800-422-4572 for assistance.*

## MARCH

STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PROPOSALS | DUE MARCH 6

<https://nasb.envisiams.com/proposals>

LEGISLATIVE LUNCHES | MARCH 16 | HOLDREGE & YORK | DETAILS TO COME



NAEP STATE CONVENTION | MARCH 31-APRIL 1 | GRAND ISLAND

<http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/naep-state-convention>

## APRIL

NSBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE | APRIL 4-6 | CHICAGO

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE NEBRASKA RECEPTION - SATURDAY, APRIL 4 - LOCATION TBD!



2020 STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE PROPOSALS | DUE MARCH 6

[HTTPS://NASB.ENVISEAMS.COM/PROPOSALS](https://nasb.envisiams.com/proposals)

# Growing Greatness

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



Stacie Higgins  
President  
Nebraska City



Brad Wilkins  
President-Elect  
Ainsworth



Kim Burry  
Vice President  
Bayard



Steve Blocher  
Past President  
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  
Tracy Casady  
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  
Doug Keener  
Mitchell



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 Silkmitter  
Education Leadership Search  
Service Associate



Vicki Walter-Winters  
Legal Admin. Assistant





## ACCOUNTING

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

## ARCHITECTS

BVH Architecture  
Cleve Reeves - 402-475-4551  
creeves@bvh.com - bvh.com  
(Architecture)  
\* 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  
cmbaarchitects.com  
(Architecture, Master Planning, Interiors, Bond  
Promotion/Community Engagement)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Carlson West Povondra Architects  
Jamie Eckmann - 402-551-1500  
jeckmann@cwparchitects.com  
cwparchitects.com  
(Architecture, planning,  
feasibility studies)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

DLR Group  
Vanessa Schutte - 402-393-4100  
vschutte@dlrgroup.com - dlrgroup.com  
(Architecture, engineering, Ed. facility planning)

## AWARDS & PLAQUES

Awards Unlimited  
Larry King - 402-474-0815  
larryking@awardsunlimited.com  
awardsunlimited.com  
(Trophies, awards, plaques, etc.)

## BUILDING CONTROLS/SERVICES

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

## CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Ayars & Ayars, Inc.  
Darl Naumann - 402-435-8600 - 402-570-9214  
dnaumann@ayarsayars.com - ayarsayars.com  
(Design-build leader focused on creating  
opportunities by 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  
Douglas Klute - 402-477-6745  
dklute@cheeverconstruction.com  
cheeverconstruction.com  
(Construction Services)  
\* Silver Level Affiliate

W. A. Klinger  
Matt Thompson - 712-233-3233  
mthompson@waklinger.com - waklinger.com  
(Pre-Construction, Construction Management,  
Design-Build, and General Contracting Services.)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

## ENERGY SERVICES

Ameresco, Inc.  
David Goebel - 308-392-3283 - 402-370-8822  
dgoebel@ameresco.com - ameresco.com  
(Capital Improvements, Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy Solutions for Buildings)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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

Optimized Systems  
Mike Taylor - 402-981-1005  
mike.taylor@optimized-systems.com  
Optimized-Systems.com  
(Energy Optimization & Management,  
Commissioning, Metering, Energy Studies,  
Mechanical System Assessments, Troubleshooting)  
\* Silver Level Affiliate

TRANE  
Dave Raymond - 402-596-8000 - 402-452-7762  
dave.raymond@trane.com - trane.com/omaha  
(Building Construction & Energy Services)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

## EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

Sheppard's Business Interiors  
Ken Sigmon - 402-393-8888  
ksigmon@sbi-omaha.com - sbi-omaha.com  
(Furniture, Space Planning, Asset Management)

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

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  
dadavidson.com  
(Bonds/Election Services, Lease Purchase)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

# NASB AFFILIATES



## LEADERSHIP      INNOVATION      VISION      ENGAGEMENT      #liveNASB

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

First National Capital Markets  
Tobin Buchanan - 308-352-8328  
tbuchanan@fnni.com  
Carl Dietz - 308-289-3920 carldietz@fnni.com  
Matt Fisher - 308-380-3831 mfisher@fnni.com  
fncapitalmarkets.com  
(Public Finance, Election Guidance)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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

Piper Sandler  
Jay Spearman - 402-599-0307  
jay.spearman@psc.com  
(Lease Purchase, Construction Notes, Voted Bonds, Refunding Bonds, QCPUF Bonds)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Wells Fargo Bank  
Andrew J. Detlefsen - 402-434-6701  
andrew.j.detlefsen@wellsfargo.com - wellsfargo.com  
(Financial Services, Banking)  
\* Silver Level Affiliate

### FOOD SERVICE

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

Opaa! Food Management of Nebraska  
Greg Frost - 816-210-9359  
gfrost@opaafod.com - opaafod.com  
(Contract Food Service Management)

### INSURANCE SERVICES

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

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

### INSURANCE SERVICES

Public Risk Management  
Sheri Shonka - 402-884-3751 - 877-649-4612  
sheri.shonka@prmn.com - 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

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

### MENTORING

TeamMates Mentoring  
Hannah Miller - 319-610-8538  
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 - 800-608-3645 ext. 5600  
njosten@onesourcebackground.com  
onesourcebackground.com  
(Employment, Volunteer, Contractor Screening)  
\* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

### TEACHING & LEARNING

Curriculum Leadership Institute  
Rhonda Renfro - 620-794-1431  
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

### TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING

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

### TECHNOLOGY/SOFTWARE

Midwest Alarm Services  
Mike Wells - 402-331-6111 - 402-474-3737  
Mike.Wells@mw-as.com  
(Life Safety Systems provider)

Sparq Data Solutions  
Craig Caples - 402-423-4951  
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  
(Providing PT, OT and Speech therapy in the school system)

Board Notes is published on a monthly basis as a member service. Advertising is available in every issue. To advertise or become an Affiliate, please contact Matt Belka for further information. Articles or advertising contained herein do not necessarily represent the views or policies of NASB.

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS**  
1311 Stockwell Street - Lincoln, NE 68502  
Matt Belka, Editor | John Spatz, Publisher

[www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)  
[www.twitter.com/NASBonline](https://twitter.com/NASBonline)  
[www.facebook.com/NASBonline](https://www.facebook.com/NASBonline)  
<https://vimeo.com/NASBonline>



1311 STOCKWELL STREET  
LINCOLN, NE 68502  
WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# NASB BOARD NOTES

A monthly publication from the Nebraska Association of School Boards



LEADERSHIP

INNOVATION

VISION

ENGAGEMENT

#liveNASB

## IN THIS EDITION

MORRILL PROVIDING AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL TO ALL CHILDREN OF THE DISTRICT

NASB IN D. C. - EQUITY, ADVOCACY & THE HILL

AT THE BOARD TABLE

WHAT'S NEXT? ENGAGED MEMBERS TAKE OVER LIC

FROM SCHOOL BOARD TO THE STATE CAPITOL WITH SEN. HUGHES

BUILDING MOMENTUM TO SOLVE EARLY CHILDHOOD CHALLENGES

CALL FOR STATE CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

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