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Jordyn Hubbard	D.W. Holley	Melody Pebley	Renee Engel	Brittney Bills	Amanda Levos	Maureen Oman		
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GIPS BETTER & STRONGER TOGETHER DURING COVID-19

By Dr. Tawana Grover, Grand Island Public Schools superintendent

The entire Grand Island Public Schools team has grown in a number of ways since we left for spring break in early March. We have become better and stronger in the many ways we serve our students, their families and our community.

Grand Island Public Schools

Board of Education
 Bonnie Hinkle - President
 Lisa Albers
 Carlos Barcenas
 Dan Brosz
 Terry Brown
 Kelly Enck
 Julie Gortemaker
 Heidi Schutz
 Erika Wolfe

Dr. Tawana Grover, Superintendent

Enrollment = 10,038
 NASB Region #12

www.gips.org
 Go Islanders!

We have certainly grown pride in our team, pride in our district and pride in ourselves as we have added the title of 'protector' to our list. We now know we have to be strong, and we can be. We know you have to push to get done what needs to be done, and we have. We have found ways to protect our kids, protect their learning, their food security, their emotional needs, their ability to succeed, their future plans and, most of all, their safety.

We already had a Pandemic Planning Team in place so we were able to move quickly and confidently to make decisions to keep our kids safe while meeting their needs. The team was built with representatives from all departments and from all levels across the district, each with a voice.

When you have the right people at the table, each empowered to speak during the meetings and challenge the thoughts of the group, the decisions you can make are strong. These meetings allowed us to swiftly take action with the confidence of knowing we had everyone's expertise backing the decisions.

When we made the decision to put school in buildings on hold, we knew we would face many questions -

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MAY 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

Continue to check NASB's COVID-19 page for updates for you and your Board at www.NASBonline.org

CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS
DUE JULY 1

ANNUAL NASB MEMBER GOLF OUTING
JULY 1 | KEARNEY

NASB ORIENTATION
JULY 22 | LINCOLN

CANDIDATE WEBINARS
JULY 27 | SEPTEMBER 21 | OCTOBER 12

AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
 AUGUST 19 | YORK
 AUGUST 24 | VALENTINE
 AUGUST 25 | GERING
 AUGUST 26 | NORTH PLATTE
 SEPTEMBER 2 | NEBRASKA CITY
 SEPTEMBER 9 | NORFOLK
 SEPTEMBER 10 | LA VISTA
 SEPTEMBER 16 | FREMONT
 SEPTEMBER 23 | KEARNEY

FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 24 | KEARNEY

LABOR RELATIONS CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 14-15 | KEARNEY

2020 STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 18-20 | CHI HEALTH CENTER,
DOWNTOWN OMAHA

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from students, from parents, from the community, from staff, from administrators, from partners, from the Board of Education. Communication was a key to preventing fear of the unknown.

The Board of Education was quick to take action to adopt a resolution ensuring staff members of their pay and benefits. This type of security says we are going to take care of the folks who are taking care of our kids. From the beginning, we were able to divert that stress from all staff so we could focus on the needs of our students.

We established priorities to build coherence and clarity. This clear focus helped our staff and community feel secure in understanding the direction the district has taken and what they could expect from us during these times. This also provided guidance to how we wanted to deploy our resources. The four priorities established are: eLearning; food distribution; social emotional and mental health supports; and equity and access.

eLearning

When we needed to disperse materials to launch eLearning, we acted quickly. On the first Friday of no school, we safely dispersed materials to all students. This included a plan for parents to pick up items from their child's school, including their Chromebook, as we are a one-to-one district. For those who couldn't make it during our open times, teachers and school staff delivered the items to their houses. The teachers were ready to begin eLearning and maintain the continuity of learning during the first week. Staff meetings were held to answer teacher concerns and questions so students could return to learning.

Food distribution

When we needed to continue feeding our kids, we acted quickly. On the second day of no school, we had food distribution set up. We were serving 3,500 kids a day from eight locations within a week. We feed any children in our community, whether they are our students or not.



Social emotional and mental health supports

When we considered the social emotional needs of our students, we acted quickly. These needs our students cope with do not go away when they are outside of our buildings. In many cases, these issues worsen without the support we provide on a daily basis. It was imperative to the safety and well-being of our students that we build supports for all student needs. Our team took immediate action. Social workers and counselors began reaching out to students from the first days of eLearning, shifting support from campus-based to virtual and on-demand. Any student they worked with before this situation began was contacted and the work continued.

Equity and access

When we needed to find a way to provide internet connectivity to students who didn't have it, we acted quickly. Our technology team, Leading for Learning team, data crunchers and administrators found out which of our 10,000 students didn't have reliable connectivity. Principals went student-by-student to check. We identified the 125 households in question and provided a Jetpack for each.

When we made the decision to close our school buildings, we acted quickly in our communication. We've also been pushed to communicate with all audiences clearly and consistently. We realized where our traditional communication techniques left gaps, and had to find ways to fill them. This has forced our team to be better at communicating through multiple languages and in multiple means. We recently held simultaneous Facebook Live broadcasts - one in English and one completely in Spanish - for the first time. That's just one example of how we have improved because of this virus.

Monitoring and adapting

All of this was in the first few weeks of school buildings closing. Like any good team, we knew these were not simply checkmarks on a list. We continued to monitor, evaluate and adjust plans, while also tackling new issues as they arose.

However, all was not perfect. There were dark days, as staff struggled to adjust to not having close contact with our students. Many teachers had little or no experience with eLearning and overnight were expected to live in a new world. The virus was causing issues with our ability to staff food distribution crews. Constantly changing outlooks, with contrasting information from various trustworthy sources made planning a week ahead seem hard, let alone months out.

Yet, through it all, our Pandemic Planning Team continues to meet daily. Tackling each hard issue one-by-one with the input from all members of the team. With every tough decision comes a solution, a silver-lining, a lesson learned to file away.

Teachers have adapted faster than even they expected to. I received a message from a teacher who said she didn't think she'd be able to

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GIPS BETTER & STRONGER TOGETHER DURING COVID-19



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teach in this environment, and now she has found new ways to connect with students she will hold on to when we return to our school buildings. They've shared these insights with each other through virtual PLCs.

Student engagement began to fade at one point. We worked with teachers and the Leading for Learning team to develop an altered approach to no-harm-done grading from what we started with. This increased our engagement, much to the delight of parents.

As our community safety concerns increased, staff from all departments stepped in to assist in food distribution to keep the crews going. In order to keep our team safe, we've changed from eight locations handing out meals daily to five locations handing out ten meals to each child once a week. This past Tuesday we handed out more than 43,000 meals in 90 minutes for the third straight week.

The biggest student heartbreak we've had to account for is graduation and the other annual senior events. Our team has gone above and beyond to make our seniors feel honored. A virtual graduation ceremony on the originally scheduled day, alone, would not show these students how much we love them. Among the special additions we created was a custom-designed graduation box, sent to each graduate with their diploma, cap and gown, awards and gifts from the staff. Each graduate received a booklet of personal letters from staff from throughout the district. On average, each student received seven or eight letters from former teachers and school staff dating back to elementary - and even preschool. The response to this was worth the hours of effort and exemplified our staff's love of our kids.

I've witnessed so many positive outcomes in these dark days. I could tell you about our Academy of Technical Sciences staff creating PPE for our community's front-line medical workers. I could tell you stories of our students who made videos about creating masks or about another group of students who made a video about safety guidelines in five different languages. I could tell you about our virtual crisis team, our daily staff communication, our nightly Facebook Live read alouds, our many virtual town hall meetings, the way our



Board members have stepped into roles without being asked. I could tell you how we continued to have employee professional learning and classroom observations in a virtual setting. I could mention the way our team members have helped in our community with communication needs, helped with child care needs and helped with housing needs.

I could talk about how this situation has brought our entire community together in new ways. We have worked with the three local private schools and the neighboring public school district - all considered our competition for students - uniting to meet the needs of all of our community's children.

All of these are examples of our staff and Board rising to meet the needs of our students and our community.

Our entire district has found new ways to innovate for our students at every level. Our rallying cry has been Better and Stronger Together! We have found it to be true during this situation in every aspect of living our district's mission of Every Student, Every Day, A Success.

ANNUAL NASB MEMBER GOLF OUTING

JULY 1 | KEARNEY COUNTRY CLUB

EMAIL SENDORF@NASBONLINE.ORG TO PARTICIPATE



WHAT DID YOUR DISTRICT DO WELL IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

Created an emergency response subcommittee for quick communication and approved an emergency protocol.

We met immediately and tried to set a plan for our district.

Responded quickly in getting on-line education set up for the students and worked with our local telephone company to get internet to any student that didn't have it. Made sure lunches and breakfasts got served in all our communities right away.

Kept everyone informed, gathered good information, made sure we had a good decision-making process and contingency plans.

Communicated with stakeholders.

Given better specific instructions to parents.

We would have had a better online education plan in place.

Communicated our plans for graduation much differently. We learned that the way to communicate is not a one size fits all.

Improved timing of communications with more info meetings on all changes taking place, including policy updates and addendums.

Ensuring all families had internet and a laptop or other device.

Have an agreed upon "they" that we would look to for guidance. We struggled to know what information to use to guide us.

KNOWING WHAT YOU KNOW TODAY, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY IN RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS?

DID YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITY IN A NEW OR DIFFERENT WAY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?

Absolutely! We saw immediate community wide support - it was incredible to watch it all come together.

We now have a stronger relationship with our local Community Foundation. Our district has also seen a very positive response from the general public and business owners to see what all we need. The cooperation between the public-private schools has been tremendous as well, and that will serve us well going forward.

Our phone company did an AMAZING job of offering free internet to students who didn't have it, enabling them to access their classes.

Our community has stepped up incredibly with donations to assure all of our students have access devices, food, you name it.



We're committed to staying connected.

Since 1988 NLAFF has provided Nebraska public agencies and political subdivisions with professional investment services.

Our commitment to our communities remains steadfast as we help build and rebuild the transforming world around us. We're with you all the way.

www.nlafpool.org



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BE HEARD! CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS - DUE JULY 1

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While the 2020 Legislative Session is not quite complete, now is the time for you and your board to think of items you might like addressed in 2021.

NOT SURE WHERE TO BEGIN?

DON'T THINK YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

As a board member, an elected official, and a community leader, you are in an excellent position to educate and influence the legislative process. From now until July 1, you have the opportunity to be heard and submit a topic you would like discussed at this summer's NASB Legislative Committee meeting, to then be drafted and introduced as future legislation. If you have a topic in mind, or would like assistance getting the ball rolling, please let Matt Belka know at mbelka@NASBonline.org.

Submit your legislative proposals now at:

<http://www.nasbonline.org/registrations/ProposedResolution.aspx>

10 Award points will be granted, per resolution, to the entire board that proposes a legislative change and/or new legislation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOLLOWING THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Election season is at the halfway mark. The 2021 legislature will see at least 6 new faces, with a possibility of 15 more. Don't assume any of the names listed 2nd in the Primary leads to coming in 2nd in November. There is still a lot of work that can be done.

The work of advocacy and leading as a school board member has never been more important. Don't wait until the elections are over in November to start forming relationships with these candidates. Your opinion as a community leader will matter to people in your shared districts. Don't be shy about sharing it. Things you can do:

- 1) If you live in a area with a race, get to know each of the candidates. Reach out. Have a conversation about their stance on local control, school funding, and the value of public education. (NASB can help you get in touch w/ incumbents and candidates)
- 2) Invite the candidates to a board meeting. Demonstrate the types of decisions you make every day.
- 3) Offer to walk them through your district(s) demographics: budget, student achievement, etc.
- 4) If the legislative district encompasses more than one school district, coordinate a meeting with other board members. (NASB can help you)
- 5) If a candidate aligns with your values, let others know. Write op-eds, endorse them, help their campaign.
- 6) If you live in a district that does not have a race, reach out as well. Talk to the senator about his/her priorities for next year. Offer to be the educational resource in the upcoming session.

As school board members, you know more than anyone what it takes to put your name on a ballot. That shared experience is a great platform to build and enhance relationships.

Thanks ... Colby, Matt, John & Vicki

FINDING OUR SENSE OF PURPOSE

As community leaders during a time of uncertainty, your community members and district staff are asking that you possess more strength and stability than ever before. We know many of you are trying very hard to find the best solutions for moving your districts forward and are running through scenario simulations for what next year's school year will look like --- all while trying to finalize current obligations and commitments to this school year. The last nine weeks have also created the demand for each of us to take a hard pause. During this time, we have realized that we are adaptable and more resilient than we would have imagined.

As your board prepares for the next nine weeks, and the coming school year, the Board Leadership staff encourages you to utilize this hold pattern to return to the basics. Reflect and consider the success of the board-superintendent leadership team pre-COVID-19. We advocate for the board to revisit your framework of best practice, governance through policy, and ensure resources are aligned to the needs and priorities for success. The effective leadership team must continue to be focused and committed to providing a quality education. How will you as a community leader provide the highest quality and safest learning environment for staff and students under the current circumstances? Pause and return to the basics by reviewing the superintendent evaluation. How will the board continue to hold the superintendent accountable for the educational leadership the district needs during this time of change and uncertainty? Conduct a board self-assessment and reflect how the leadership of this body impacts the overall success of the school district. "We are in this together!" Our best outcomes are realized when we work collaboratively with our administrators and do not forget that your Association is also here to provide the support you need as a board.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION AND BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT

For those, like you, who spend a great deal of time in service to others, it's important to implement the same instruction given by flight attendants to the passengers on an airplane: "put your oxygen mask on first," before helping others. Because if you run out of oxygen yourself, you cannot help anyone else with their oxygen mask. The ability of our school districts to meet the needs of our students is grounded in the trust, communication, and relationship of the board-superintendent leadership team. The NASB's Board Self-Assessment and Superintendent Evaluation tools are both created to ensure that the board and the superintendent's leadership is as strong, transparent, and as well positioned as possible to lead the district with a unified strength and forward vision.

As community leaders, information and resources that emphasize empathy, flexibility, transparency, coherence, and equity are the "oxygen" needed to thrive through managing expectations and reducing the frustration of our most important stakeholders.

REMOTE LEARNING SATISFACTION SURVEY

The NASB Board Leadership department has been working these past few weeks to create the resources we have heard you say you need in order to get the information that will help you make informed and strategic decisions. To that end, we have created two short satisfaction surveys – to hear from the parents in your district, and to hear from the teachers in your district. These tools enable you and your school administrative staff to sustain a connection with the district's parents, community members, and teachers. For a nominal fee, the surveys allow you to learn and hear directly about the experiences of remote learning, sense of well-being, the unfinished learning opportunities of this school year, and the important suggestions these stakeholders have in order to help prepare for next year. No one knows what the future holds, but if we take the steps to listen and support parents and educators, our students will be far more likely to thrive.

BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT PLANNING DISCUSSION

System and school leaders are preparing for three (at least) potential scenarios for restarting school in the fall: a full physical return with augmented procedures, a blended model that includes a modified return with virtual instruction, or total virtual schooling. We encourage you to utilize the NASB Board Leadership resource and tool, Planning and Preparing for Learning in 2020-2021. As the options are weighed over the coming months, let this resource help to frame those conversations and pose the questions that need to be answered for a 2020-21 school year positioned with resiliency, collaboration, and a mission-oriented approach.

*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.
View June Board Meeting Topics on Page 11*



DON'T LET YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT GET CAUGHT FLAT FOOTED ...

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DON'T LET YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT GET CAUGHT FLAT FOOTED DURING THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

By Carl Dietz & Matt Fisher

As our economy slowly begins to reopen following this unprecedented economic shutdown brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is exciting to think about once more being able to go out and enjoy a meal in a restaurant or a drink at the local gathering spot. Better yet, think about the joy we will experience when our school buildings are once again filled with students and staff members who have a renewed appreciation for our education systems. Keep those enticing thoughts in mind to help move you forward, but don't lose sight of the possible challenges that lie ahead for those of us in the school business.

Through these trying times most school districts have been able to pay their bills and keep the majority of their teachers and staff employed as they are not dependent on sales to produce operating revenue. While this surface level analysis regarding schools is accurate, there are a host of other factors that will ultimately have a lasting impact on future operations. This article seeks to help leaders in our education system begin to think about the financial challenges they may encounter as a result of the recent COVID-19 outbreak.

STATE RECEIPTS AND AID: According to the State of Nebraska Comprehensive Annual Financial Report dated June 30, 2019, 62% of state receipts come from income taxes and 35% from sales and use taxes or \$2,969,417,610 and \$1,658,107,134, respectively. Every 1% decrease in income tax receipts equates to an approximately \$29,000,000 decrease in State revenue, and a 1% decrease in sales taxes receipts will equal a roughly \$16,000,000 decrease in revenue. According to the State of Nebraska Annual Budgetary Report filed for the year ended June 30, 2019, the State spent \$1,523,764,650 for K-12 education or 26% of the total budget.

With over a quarter of the State's budget allocated to support education, you can see where this is going. Districts heavily dependent on state aid may expect to see a decrease in state funding

for K-12 education now and possibly more significantly in the upcoming years. Cuts in state funding will not be evenly distributed, but every school district will be impacted to some degree.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIPTS: Statewide, districts receive 56% of their funding from Local Sources, with 50% of the total funding for schools in Nebraska coming in the form of local property taxes. State funding produces 37% of the dollars that support schools in Nebraska, with 26% of the total revenues for schools coming in the form of equalization aid. As we look at receipts across the state as a whole, only 5% comes in the form of Federal Funding.

With over half of school funding in our state coming from one source, it is easy to recognize we are heavily dependent upon property tax receipts. In these new and rather unusual times, how reliable is this funding source going to be for our school districts? As we think about this cornerstone of school finance, there are a variety of factors that come into play.

Those who live in districts closely linked to production agriculture have been experiencing a significant lag for a number of years. According to a recent article by Farm Bureau, "Global economic uncertainty has pushed the price of crude oil down by more than 60% and the price of ethanol by nearly 40%. Lower ethanol prices are pushing ethanol production into the unprofitable column." With a large part of the corn raised in Nebraska being used for ethanol, one can predict the impact this may have on Nebraska school districts.

While corn production is a huge part of the economy in Nebraska, an even bigger piece is beef production and processing. Declining cattle prices have plagued this segment for the past few years. Now factor in the packing plant issues brought on by the COVID virus and you have a recipe for disaster. If farmers and ranchers cannot make a profit, local tax receipts will see a twofold slip. The long-term impacts of struggling commodity prices may be decreased property valuations to support our schools. The second, more immediate impact, will be delinquent and unpaid property taxes. School districts not heavily dependent on ag production may encounter similar property tax issues on the horizon as well. Businesses

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across every sector will feel the impact brought on by shutdowns throughout the World. Consequently, there will likely be a slide in commercial property values, and almost certainly a lag in business owners' ability to make property tax payments.

PROPERTY TAX RECEIPTS: How could this impact local districts? To simplify, if the district's current valuation is \$1,000,000,000, every 1% decrease in valuation equals a decrease of \$100,000 at a \$1.00 levy. Districts of this size can likely absorb a \$100,000 loss. However, if that is an 8% decrease in valuation, the loss of \$800,000 will be difficult to offset. For example, let's say a district has a total valuation of \$500,000,000, which can generate \$5,000,000 with a \$1.00 levy. Many districts have already experienced a 4%-5% decrease in valuations the past two years, so many tax levies have been already been increasing. A 4% decrease this year would put your local valuation at \$480,000,000. Now that \$1.00 levy only nets you \$4,800,000 in tax receipts or a decrease of \$200,000. For a district with minimal cash reserves, a \$200,000 decrease in revenue could mean possible program reductions in the upcoming years, unless there's room to increase the levy.

Declining property tax valuations has been impacting schools across the state for several years now. One would expect the strain placed on all sectors of the economy to accelerate this decline in many areas. This lost revenue can be accounted for in the budgeting process once valuations are certified in August. A much less predictable factor in the property tax revenue stream will be unpaid and delinquent taxes, which may challenge schools to potentially ask for more taxes than they anticipate needing in order to make up for shortfalls in tax collections. A few questions may come to mind as leaders within our school districts. How much extra should we ask for given our reliance on local property taxes? Do we feel that we can do this in these tough times?

STATE AID TO EDUCATION: Districts more dependent upon state funding will potentially see a drop in these revenues as well. 49% of state receipts come from sales taxes and 46% from Income taxes. 26% of state expenditures go to K-12 education, 8.76% to higher education and 34.8% goes to Medicaid. Additionally, 3.70% of state expenditures last year were directed toward property tax credits. With unemployment potentially rising at unpredictable levels, it is certain that income tax receipts will decrease in the near future. Additionally, some cities may potentially see a significant decline in sales tax receipts as well. These factors combined could spell doom for state receipts.

Since the legislature has suspended the current legislative session there is no way to gauge if there will be any impact on the funding mechanisms for the 2020-21 school year. Because state aid was certified, we have to hope the state will fund at the level indicated. However, there is no doubt that meeting this obligation and others will force the state to dip deeply into reserves. Consequently, moving



forward the state will have less room to offset funding shortfalls. Combined with the downturn in revenues set to drop in sales and income tax, and we can begin to see a clear picture of less money allocated to supporting schools in 2021-22.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: As school boards and administrators work through the budget process, they will have a number of tough questions to consider. Is our general fund cash position healthy enough to absorb a significant loss in revenue without cutting essential programs? If we currently live month-to-month, how much will we need to increase revenue via levy increase or can we decrease expenses? Do we dare increase our property tax ask to offset anticipated lag in tax collections? Are there projects we have set aside dollars for that we need to put off so we can borrow from other funds if things get tight? How will this figure into future negotiations?

Nebraska schools have always shown a great resiliency that is reflective of the leaders and community members in our state. Anticipating the challenges ahead and making sure you have long-term financial plans in place is crucial during these times. Each school district will be forced to take a hard look at everything they are doing and make decisions based on current reality and future predictions over the next several years.

About the Authors: Carl Dietz and Matt Fisher are both recently retired school superintendents following lengthy careers as educators in Nebraska. Currently, Carl and Matt work at First National Capital Markets, Inc., providing assistance with school finance and budgeting education and training, and feasibility study assistance for schools across the State. First National Capital Markets is a registered broker dealer. Member FINRA, SIPC, MSRB.

... MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Unfortunately, due to Directed Health Measures and capacity limits, our June events have been cancelled.

The NASB Summer Conference and ALICAP Workshops will be held in 2021.

But, there is good news!

The NASB Golf Outing will be held July 1 at the Kearney Country Club. Cost is \$70 per player. Email Sharon at sendorf@nasbonline.org to sign up.

Missing you, Sharon

... ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Be Heard! Call for Legislative Proposals
Due July 1

Now is the time for you and your board to think of items you might like addressed in 2021. If you have a topic in mind, or would like assistance getting the ball rolling, please let Matt Belka know at mbelka@NASBonline.org

Submit your legislative proposals now at the link on page 6. 10 Award points will be granted, per resolution, to the entire board that proposes a legislative change and/or new legislation.

Call Colby & Matt with any questions!
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... SEARCH, STRENGTHS & AWARDS

AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Questions on points: Contact Lisa at lstinkuhler@NASBonline.org. Email Lisa if you are a TeamMates mentor or coordinator too.

GALLUP STRENGTHSFINDER

During times of disruption, consider your strengths and how they will help you navigate. Based on my strengths: What do I *need* most during this time? What do I *bring* to help navigate through this time?

https://www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths/en/308783/focus-teams-strengths-times-disruption.aspx?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=articles

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

SEARCH SERVICE

Contact Shari for a proposal to facilitate a search for your next Superintendent/ ESU Administrator.
sbecker@NASBonline.org

- Shari -

... ENERGY PURCHASING

The enrollment period for the natural gas purchasing programs is now closed for next winter's heating season. With excess energy production and our ability to buy layers of gas during market dips, we will be providing natural gas at extremely favorable rates.

Contact Jim to learn more!



Paul Grieger
(800) 528-5145
pgrieger@dadco.com



Cody Wickham
(866) 809-5596
cwickham@dadco.com



Andy Forney
(866) 809-5443
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.

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- Tax Anticipation / Construction Notes
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- QCPUF Bonds
- Refinancing Bond Issues



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... BOARD LEADERSHIP

Check out "At the Board Table" on Page 7 to see all that the Board Leadership team is up to.

JUNE BOARD MEETING TOPICS

ADVOCACY: Submit Legislative Resolution or Standing Position to NASB Legislation Committee

PLANNING: Review, update, and adopt Superintendent Evaluation tool and Superintendent Job Description.
*File modified or newly adopted Superintendent Evaluation tools with Dr. Micki Charf, Accreditation Specialist at Micki.Charf@nebraska.gov; Conduct Board Self-Assessment & Goal Planning; Strategic Plan Progress Report

BUDGET: Board-Administrators Budget Work Session

CURRICULUM: Year End Assessment and Curriculum Review; Review School Improvement Plan

POLICY: Annual Review Bullying Prevention Policy; Due July 1 - § 79-2,137

OTHER: ESUs holding elections in conjunction with the statewide general election must notify the Secretary of State, County Clerks or Election Commissioners of offices to be filled, terms, vacancies, votes to cast, and filing deadlines for each office. §32-404, §32-601; ESU Filing Deadlines: Incumbent filing deadline: July 15, 2020 Non-incumbent filing deadline: August 3, 2020

Marcia, Kori, Melissa & Karla

... ALICAP & INSURANCE

ALICAP's Board of Trustees will be meeting on Friday, May 22nd (virtually) to discuss the option of declaring another dividend to its membership for the 2020-2021 school year. When premium contributions are not used to pay claims, dollars are returned to the membership in the form of a dividend. Each participating member is treated like a stockholder or owner. ALICAP is hopeful to return a substantial dividend this next school year. Stay tuned....

Also, ALICAP's Membership has grown to 172 schools/ESUs. ALICAP most recently added Arthur County Public Schools and Verdigre Public Schools. WELCOME new members!

Thanks, Megan!

... POLICY

Many districts use this time in early summer to make certain their Board Policy Manual is fully updated. Your monthly board minutes should reflect all Policy Update Service revisions and additions that were approved during the year. If you are uncertain whether all the important changes have been made in your manual in recent years, Jim Luebbe has materials available such as redline copies from changes of recent years and a current copy of our Policy Reference Manual to assist you with checking your manual. Contact him for additional details.

Contact Jim to learn more!

... TECHNOLOGY

Sparq Meetings Lunch & Learn
Wednesday, June 3rd at Noon CDT! Be on the lookout on Social Media and in your email for more details!

Sparq Notice Regarding COVID-19
With the challenges school districts are facing currently with COVID-19, Sparq Data would like to offer its support to all Nebraska school districts that are needing to hold their meetings electronically, as it has become increasingly more difficult to hold meetings with printed agendas.

Sparq Data will be offering new subscribers an opportunity to sign up and have all their past agenda packets imported into the system in a searchable format with no setup cost over the next few months.

If you are interested in seeing a demonstration of our Paperless Board Meeting solution or would like to immediately start using the system for paperless meetings, please let us know and we can get you started right away.

Darion - dmiller@NASBOnline.org
Nicole - nkobus@NASBOnline.org

Now Accepting Nominations for the Ann Mactier/School Board Member of the Year Award

Learn more now at:
<http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/board-leadership/ann-mactier-school-board-member-of-the-year-award>

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.

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NASB A SOLUTION FOR SCHOOL MEALS AMIDST COVID-19

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The challenges of addressing student needs during COVID-19 have been vast, and districts across the state have been faced with increasing needs often utilizing the same – or fewer – resources. The demand for school-provided meals is a prime example of such challenges, especially in the midst of remote learning and growing unemployment rates. Given such changes in both demand and resource availability, it can be crucial to explore additional possibilities to meet such demands through opportunities such as Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

What is CEP, exactly? To put it simply, CEP is a federal program that enables high-poverty schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of family income. As districts across the state experience the shift in unemployment while sustaining the current or growing need for meal distributions, CEP is anticipated to provide an increasingly viable solution.



In considering whether CEP is the best solution to meet your schools' needs, NDE plans to release their proxy data mid-May to aid in district's decision-making as to whether they want to take up the program on a school by school or district-wide basis. This year, due to a nationwide waiver issued by the USDA, districts have an additional two extra months, until August 31, to choose whether to take up the program. Do you have additional questions regarding CEP and the fit for your district? Contact Melissa Lusk at mlusk@NASBonline.org or Eric Savaiano at esavaiano@neappleseed.org.

In the meantime, be sure to #ThankAHungerHero on May 19th to recognize amazing school nutrition staff, administrators, and volunteers who are helping serve hundreds of thousands of meals a week to families across Nebraska, even now when schools are closed!

REFERENCES:

<http://netnebraska.org/article/news/1214202/schools-expand-meal-distribution-students-during-remote-learning>

<https://www.urban.org/features/where-low-income-jobs-are-being-lost-covid-19>

<https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/forms-resources/national-school-lunch-program/community-eligibility-provision-cep/>

NASB BOARD CANDIDATE WEBINARS

In anticipation of the upcoming school board elections, NASB will host a Board Candidate Webinar led by Marcia Herring, Director of Board Leadership. Non-Incumbent Candidates who were successful in the primary election will soon receive an information packet that includes an invitation to participate in the Candidate Webinar, a copy of Preparing to Serve, and the 2020 NASB Membership Guide. We encourage you to participate alongside your non-incumbents! The NASB Candidate Webinar is designed to provide a general overview of board member roles and responsibilities, review of the NASB Board Standards, code of conduct, board meeting protocols, etc. the format will also allow for attendee questions. The webinar is free to all members and will be hosted via a Zoom electronic meeting platform. This webinar will be held at three convenient times over the coming months:

- Monday, July 27th, 6:00-7:30 PM Monday, Sept. 21st, 6:00-7:30 PM Monday, October 12th, Noon-1:00 PM

We encourage all board members and non-incumbent candidates to join us.

To register and receive access information, follow the link below:

https://nasb.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aXA3s7cmqjoRqzb

EHA ALTERNATE NETWORK OPTIONS EXPANSION

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The Educators Health Alliance (EHA) is pleased to announce that it will be expanding the availability of the alternate health insurance network options to additional subgroups for the Sept. 1, 2021 plan year. While some subgroups will be offered these alternate network options based on their geographic location, the entire statewide EHA plan will benefit as a portion of the network cost reductions is being applied to reduce premiums for the entire EHA plan.



EDUCATORS
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

Participation. Collaboration. Cooperation.

You should have received more detailed communication via email last week, including information on upcoming webinars and attachments that included a frequently asked questions document that provides additional information beyond this brief summary. These informational webinars will provide a more thorough explanation of the networks and product offerings, while also giving you the opportunity to ask questions. Please click on the link below to register for a webinar.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5980748826041300493>

Thursday, May 28, 9:30 to 10:45 AM CT

Tuesday, June 2, 7 to 8:15 PM CT

Thursday, June 4, 1:30 to 2:45 PM CT

We are excited about the possibility of broadening the alternate network offerings to more EHA groups and we look forward to your participation in an upcoming webinar to learn more.



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LAUNCH PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR UNFINISHED LEARNING, RESTARTING



The Nebraska Department of Education is proud to announce the creation of Launch Nebraska, a website dedicated to providing tools, actions, opportunities, and resources to support the complex planning and preparation needed by Nebraska school systems as they work to restart schools and support students as they transition back to school buildings.

Schools and districts continue to respond to the rapid and ever-changing needs of the communities they serve. During the COVID-19 pandemic schools have emerged once again as central pillars for their communities. The monumental challenge of reopening school buildings requires an unprecedented level of planning, preparation, resources, and coordination.

Launch Nebraska is a comprehensive guide, planning toolkit, and professional learning resource that schools and districts can use to address needs that may arise during summer learning and in the reopening of schools.

The new website outlines the decisions district and school leaders will need to make before students can re-enter physical school buildings, with an emphasis on leadership and planning, safe and healthy schools, and academic success for all students, especially the most vulnerable student populations. The site also includes professional learning opportunities including a webinar series designed to provide instructional leaders with knowledge and skills related to unfinished learning, instructional equity, and remote instruction.

Launch Nebraska is available now at:

<https://www.launchne.com/>

NOW SHOWING: CARES ACT BREAKDOWN

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Thanks to Bryce Wilson of NDE for sitting down with us, we have put together a breakdown of the CARES Act for you to view on our COVID Resources page at: <http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/news-resources/covid-19-resources>

... or directly at <https://vimeo.com/420351214>.

Some of the items discussed are summarized in the slides below.



COVID -19 → Cares Act

Total Federal Appropriation = \$30,135,000,000

43.9% -- Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund = \$13,229,265,000

- Nebraska's share = \$65,085,000
 - ✓ 90% Distributed to LEA's = \$59 million
- Distributed based on Title IA formula
 - ✓ Estimate your districts amount
 - ✓ 83% of your 2019/20 Title IA allocation

COVID -19 → Cares Act

Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund = \$2,953,230,000

- Nebraska's share = \$16.4 million
 - Can be used for higher education and/or K-12 supports to LEA's

Other Funding

- Head start = \$75 million (nationally)
- Child Nutrition = \$8.8 billion (nationally)
- SNAP = \$15.5 billion (nationally)
- SERV = \$100 million (nationally)



CARES ACT – Elementary & Secondary Relief Fund

OR

• Cares Act Funds Use Covid Related Activities

- Any activities authorized under:
 - ✓ ESSA
 - ✓ IDEA
 - ✓ Perkins
 - ✓ McKinney-Vento
 - ✓ Adult Education & Family Literacy Act
- Coordinate emergency response
- Support school leaders
- Ensure preparedness & coordination
- Purchase cleaning supplies
- Purchase education technology
- Mental health supports
- Summer learning

Federal Program Waivers

- May continue to pay the compensation of an employee paid with grant funds during the period they are unable to work due to school closure.
- Allowed to use Federal funds to pay conferences & trainings cancelled due to COVID-19
 - *must try to get reimbursement.*
- Travel insurance is allowed if reasonable.
- Federal Program Waivers for 2019/20.
 - Carryovers, needs assessment, etc.
- Contact – Beth Wooster
ESEA Administrator

Join BCBS in thanking heroes on the pandemic frontlines

Across the state, essential workers and volunteers are stepping up to take care of our communities. We want your help recognizing those making a difference.

Join us in thanking #TrueBlueHeroes. Learn more and spread the word to your employees.

Thank Your #TrueBlueHeroes



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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://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!

Access NASB's Covid-19 Resources page at <http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/news-resources/covid-19-resources>

MAY & JUNE

NASB NETWORKING CALLS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ... CHECK YOUR EMAIL

NETWORK, SHARE, AND LEARN AS WE GIVE YOU ALL THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK AMONGST PEERS, SHARE BEST PRACTICES, AND GET SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED ON WHAT ALL IS GOING ON DISTRICT TO DISTRICT. DISCUSSION TOPICS INCLUDE: CARES DOLLARS; TAKEAWAYS +/- FROM THE LAST FEW MONTHS; PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY; RETURNING DEVICES; THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR; ETC. CHECK YOUR INBOX FOR TIMES AND LOGIN INFORMATION IN THE UPCOMING WEEKS.

JUNE

IN ANTICIPATION OF CONTINUED LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT AN EVENT, WE HAVE CANCELLED OUR LEARNING EVENTS FOR JUNE. WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THAT AS OF NOW THE NASB GOLF OUTING WILL TAKE PLACE IN JULY. START THINKING ABOUT TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY A DAY ON THE COURSE WITH FELLOW SCHOOL LEADERS!



JULY

CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS | DUE JULY 1

ANNUAL NASB MEMBER GOLF OUTING | JULY 1 | KEARNEY COUNTRY CLUB | EMAIL SHARON

TEACHER OF THE YEAR APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 15 TO NDE

NASB LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING | JULY 18

NASB ORIENTATION | JULY 22 | LINCOLN

NASB CANDIDATE WEBINAR #1 | JULY 27

NASB AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS | AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

YORK - VALENTINE - GERING - NORTH PLATTE - NEBRASKA CITY - NORFOLK - LA VISTA - FREMONT - KEARNEY

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

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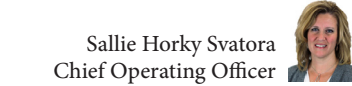
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Awards Unlimited
Tim Moravec - 402-474-0815
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awardsunlimited.com
(Trophies, awards, plaques, etc.)

BUILDING CONTROLS/SERVICES

Control Management Inc.
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nathan@cmioma.com - cmioma.com
(Building Automation, Security and Energy
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CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

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(Together we transform lives)
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* GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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A monthly publication from the Nebraska Association of School Boards



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IN THIS EDITION

GIPS BETTER & STRONGER TOGETHER DURING COVID-19
NASB BOD COVID-19 RESPONSE FEEDBACK
NLAF COMMITTED TO STAYING CONNECTED
BE HEARD! CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS - DUE JULY 1
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOLLOWING THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS
AT THE BOARD TABLE

DON'T LET YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT GET CAUGHT FLAT FOOTED DURING THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN
LAUNCH NEBRASKA PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR UNFINISHED LEARNING, RESTARTING SCHOOLS
NOW SHOWING: CARES ACT BREAKDOWN
A SOLUTION FOR SCHOOL MEALS AMIDST COVID-19
EHA ALTERNATE NETWORK OPTIONS EXPANSION
TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS
... AND MUCH MORE!

AS WELL AS "THIS MONTH IN ..."

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... BOARD LEADERSHIP
... ENERGY PURCHASING
... MEMBER ENGAGEMENT
... POLICY
... SEARCH, STRENGTHS & AWARDS
... TECHNOLOGY