

# NASB BOARD NOTES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



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324,000 Students

1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members

260 Member Districts/ESUs

ONE NEBRASKA



## ADVOCACY HANDOUT FOR THE NOVEMBER 17, 2023 NASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

## YOUR 2023 ADVOCACY HANDOUT IS NOW POSTED

The NASB Advocacy Handout of proposed changes to the bylaws, standing positions and legislative resolutions for your review prior to the 2023 Delegate Assembly is now posted on the NASB website. To better prepare you and your board's voting representative for the Delegate Assembly, please download, review, and bring this Handout with you to Omaha.

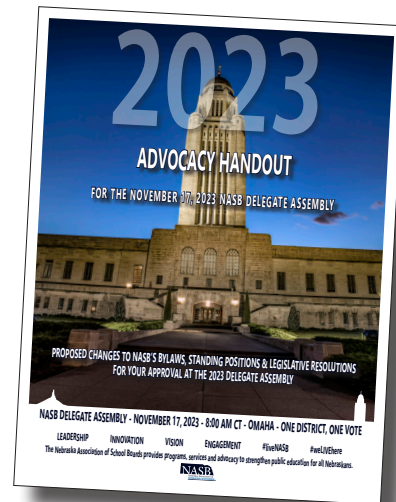
<https://members.nasbonline.org/government-relations/nasb-advocacy-handbook>

This year's Delegate Assembly will take place Friday, November 17, at 8:00 AM, in conjunction with the State Education Conference, at the CHI Health Center - downtown Omaha. All items within the Advocacy Handout will be considered by this Assembly.

If you haven't already, each board should select one board member to represent the district or ESU as the voting delegate, although multiple members from each board may attend. As a school board member, this is YOUR chance to be heard and help craft the 2024 legislative and leadership initiatives for NASB.

### Why is it important your district is represented at the Delegate Assembly?

- The Delegate Assembly determines NASB's annual legislative and leadership agenda.
- The Delegate Assembly is a key cog in securing laws, regulations, and a vision in Nebraska to benefit public education.
- The Delegate Assembly is where your voice can be heard.
- The Delegate Assembly is your governance meeting for the entire year.
- The Delegate Assembly allows for equal representation. One district. One vote.



The Nebraska Association of School Boards provides programs, services and advocacy to strengthen public education for all Nebraskans. Learn more at [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)

# TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS

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<https://members.nasbonline.org/events>



## Your Monthly Board Agenda Update Video Links from NASB

<https://members.nasbonline.org/news-resources/video-library>

SEPTEMBER  
2023



Area Membership Meeting - September 27 - Nebraska City

State Education Conference - Registration is Open!

OCTOBER  
2023

JOIN  
US!

NASA/NASB Labor Relations Conference - October 4-5 - Lincoln

Negotiations, Legal Updates & Best Practices for Labor Relations - Registration closes Friday, September 29

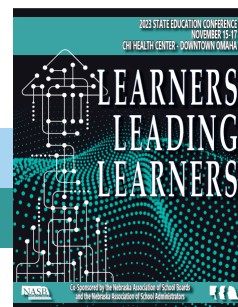
Learn more & register now at <https://www.ncsa.org/events/labor-relations-6>

NOVEMBER  
2023

New Board Member Workshop - November 1 - Kearney

State Education Conference - November 15-17 - Omaha

Learners Leading Learners



JANUARY - DECEMBER  
2024

2024 dates are now posted to the Events page of [www.NASBOnline.org](http://www.NASBOnline.org)

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.

# THE 2023 STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

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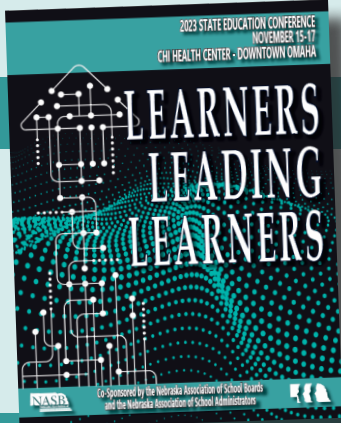
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<https://members.nasbonline.org/events/state-education-conference>

**NOVEMBER 15-17 - CHI HEALTH CENTER - DOWNTOWN OMAHA**

Registration is open now for the 2023 State Education Conference. You won't want to miss this annual event where over 1,000 school leaders and board members gather to learn and network. There will be two pre-conferences, three general sessions, over 50 breakout sessions, over 100 vendors, and unlimited opportunities to grow in your role supporting public education.

Hotel room requests open at 10:00 AM CT on Wednesday, September 27. You must already be registered for Conference in order to participate in the hotel room booking process.

## GET INVOLVED ... CLASSROOM SHOWCASE

This is an opportunity for students and teachers to demonstrate projects and programs that reflect the integration of technology in curriculum. The Classroom Showcase is scheduled for 8:00 to 11:30 AM, Friday, November 17, 2023. Contact Julie Moore at [executivedirector@netasite.org](mailto:executivedirector@netasite.org) with questions or to sign up.

## GET INVOLVED ... STUDENT VOICES

Nominate a student from your district to participate in the panel discussion where they can offer their perspective on a variety of issues. Our goal for the session this year is to include students from all levels of High School achievement and participation. We would love to see some students that will pursue a 2-year degree, some that may enter the Military or workforce after graduation, in addition to those who plan to pursue a 4-year degree. Special consideration will be given to nominees who have overcome obstacles to be successful. This breakout session will take place Thursday, November 16 from 2:15 to 3:15 PM.

Visit <https://members.nasbonline.org/events/state-education-conference> to download the nomination form. Nominations should be emailed to Sharon Endorf at [sendorf@NASBonline.org](mailto:sendorf@NASBonline.org) by October 6.

## GET INVOLVED ... CALL FOR MODERATORS

Board members, superintendents, and administrators are invited to serve as breakout session moderators at the following times:

- Thursday, November 16 - 9:45 AM (A Sessions), 11:15 AM (B), 2:15 PM (C), 3:30 PM (D)
- Friday, November 17 - 9:15 AM (E), 10:30 AM (F)

Please email Sharon by October 6, if you would be interested in helping. All volunteers will receive 5 award points towards their Awards of Achievement. Thanks in advance for your help!

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS





# AT THE BOARD TABLE

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## BOARD CALENDAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR YOUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

<https://members.nasbonline.org/board-leadership>



Each month, this space reflects recommended regular board meeting agenda items to include in the upcoming board meeting agenda. Please contact Marcia at [mherring@NASBonline.org](mailto:mherring@NASBonline.org) if you have questions or recommendations for improving the Board Meeting Annual Calendar.

View the full calendar at: <https://members.nasbonline.org/board-leadership/resources>

### OCTOBER BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

In addition to routine agenda items, time sensitive topics include:

#### ACCOUNTABILITY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REVIEW

**I. District Assurance Statement.** On or before **November 1**, the school district must submit their Rule 10 Accreditation Assurance Statement to NDE. The statement must be signed either by the superintendent and/or a member of the governing board. The Assurance Statement should be presented to the board for review once complete.

**II. ESU Assurance Statement.** On or before **November 1**, the ESU must submit their Rule 84 Assurance Statement to NDE. This rule is intended to support ESUs in effectively and efficiently supporting school systems in this state and to establish the minimum level of performance for accreditation.

**III. Fall Membership Report.** On or before **November 1**, the superintendent of each school district shall submit to the Commissioner of Education a report described as the annual financial report showing (i) the amount of money received from all sources during the year and the amount of money expended by the school district during the year, (ii) the amount of bonded indebtedness, (iii) such other information as shall be necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act and section § 79-1114, and (iv) such other information the Commissioner directs.

#### ADVOCACY

**I. Appoint local board Delegate Assembly Representative** – notify Matt Belka @ [mbelka@NASBonline.org](mailto:mbelka@NASBonline.org)

#### BUDGET

**I. Superintendent file Financial Report.** On or before **November 1**, all superintendents must submit to the Commissioner of Education, an Annual Financial Report. § 79-528

**II. Authorize School District Audit.** On or before **November 5**, a copy of the Audit Report shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education and Auditor of Public Accounts. Annually, the school district shall authorize the examination of all financial records. The audit is to be conducted by a public accountant or by a certified public accountant.

**III. Collective Bargaining.** On or before **November 1**, negotiations shall begin. No fewer than four negotiations meetings between the certificated and instructional employees' collective-bargaining agent and the board's bargaining agent.

#### BOARD WILL REVIEW SCHOOL (ANNUAL) FOUNDATION FILING FORMS

School Board will Review the Annual Foundation Board Filing Forms Original tax deadline for exempt organizations (Form 990) on or before May 15, 2023. **Note: Extension tax deadline for exempt organizations: November 15, 2023**

#### BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONS

**I.** Review current superintendent evaluation tool, policy specific to the evaluation, contract language to ensure it aligns to the policy, and review superintendent contract language outlining the responsibilities of the superintendent and board regarding the contract extension or renewal. Place each item on the board meeting agenda as specified.

**\*\*Review the full October Agenda on page 34 of the 2023 NASB Board Meeting Guide & Annual Board Calendar.**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



# AT THE BOARD TABLE

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## BOARD CALENDAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR YOUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

<https://members.nasbonline.org/board-leadership>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

### BOARD RETREAT

To support our members who did not have the opportunity to participate in the New Board Member Workshops consider a Board Retreat to engage with your newly elected board members as they continue to transition into their new role. Please contact Marcia Herring, NASB Director of Board Leadership at [mherring@NASBonline.org](mailto:mherring@NASBonline.org) or 402-817-0296 to schedule a board retreat or private sessions through Microsoft Teams to review the board role and responsibilities.

### UPCOMING NASB BOARD LEADERSHIP EVENTS

**President Circle - October 18, 2023**

**NASB New Board Member Workshop - Wednesday, November 1, 2023**

Join the NASB Board Leadership Team in Kearney for the opportunity to engage newly elected board members who did not have the opportunity to attend the NASB New Board Member Workshop this past December 2022. We are also including an invitation to all newly appointed board members. The agenda will include discussion and review of best practice board governance, meeting protocols, committee work, policy, Open Meetings Law, scenarios, goal planning, superintendent evaluation, and more. Stay tuned for more information regarding the registration details.

**Submit Nominations for Board Member of the Year** – [Ann Mactier Award] Contact Marcia Herring with questions regarding qualifications, nomination form, etc.



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402.334.0755 [www.prochaska.us](http://www.prochaska.us) [info@prochaska.us](mailto:info@prochaska.us)

# RECOGNITION: ENGAGED

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<https://members.nasbonline.org/programs-services/awards-of-achievement-program>

## 2023 AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Training - RECOGNITION - Networking - Engagement

Valentine - Gering - York - North Platte - Norfolk - Kearney - La Vista - Fremont - Nebraska City

AS THE SUN SETS ON OUR NINE AREA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS FOR 2023 (WE'LL BE WRAPPING UP IN NEBRASKA CITY NEXT WEEK) WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECOGNIZE SO MANY OF YOU WITH BOTH INDIVIDUAL, AND FULL BOARD AWARDS. BELOW ARE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE EARNED LEVELS VII THROUGH X THIS YEAR, AS WELL AS THE BOARDS WHO RECEIVED THE BOARD OF EXCELLED AWARD, THROUGH OUR AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEVEL X RECIPIENTS FOR 2023

Lisa Wagner - Central City; Gary Braun - Heartland; Doug Keener - Mitchell; Steve Blocher - West Point  
(Pictured top to bottom)

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEVEL IX RECIPIENTS FOR 2023

Brad Wilkins - Ainsworth; Kim Burry - Bayard; Marge Spencer - Brady; Stephanie Summers - David City;  
Sandy Noffsinger - Dundy County Stratton; Jim Vlach - Lyons-Decatur Northeast; Dan Scheer - St. Paul

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEVEL VIII RECIPIENTS FOR 2023

Nina Wolford - Bellevue; Fred Tafoya - ESU 3; B.J. Peters - Gering; Harlow Hanson - Madison;  
Jim Ayres - Ogallala; Marty Mrkvicka - St. Paul

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEVEL VII RECIPIENTS FOR 2023

Suzanne Sapp - Ashland-Greenwood; Beth Kernes Krause - Auburn; Stephen Kennedy - Auburn;  
Sarah Centineo - Bellevue; Candy Becher - Columbus; Joel Carlson - Cozad; Bill Lorenz - Crete;  
Kent Lorens - Dundy County Stratton; Scott Baker - Gibbon; Dawn Stock - Gretna; Neal Kanel - HTRS;  
Kathy Gifford - Kearney; Lanny Boswell - Lincoln; Rusty Rhynalds - Minden; Paul Pieper - Mitchell;  
Brad Helgerson - Mitchell; Jo Ann Lundgreen - North Platte; Amy Jo Rowse - O'Neill  
Todd Weller - Palmer

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 13 BOARD OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2023

AINSWORTH	DAVID CITY	GRETN	HEARTLAND	HERSHEY
NORRIS	NORTH PLATTE	PALMER	PAPILLION	LA VISTA
RALSTON	ST. PAUL	SYRACUSE-DUNBAR-AVOCA	YORK	

# FINDING THE RIGHT MATCH FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP VACANCY

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<https://members.nasbonline.org/programs-services/education-leadership-search-service>

The NASB Education Leadership Search Service has a history of working with Educational Service Units and school districts of various sizes, to fill leadership positions. The preliminary stages include creating a timeline and collecting feedback through a survey. We lead the board through developing a competitive timeline that fits into the schedules of your board members and school district/ESU. We will simultaneously distribute a survey to gather feedback to identify the specific attributes you are seeking in qualified applicants.

NASB utilizes multiple avenues to recruit qualified individuals for each vacancy. One networking and recruiting opportunity is through our membership in the National Affiliation of Superintendent Searchers (NASS). Shari Becker, Director of the Education Leadership Search Service, is the Chair for this organization and has a direct connection to 39 other state School Board Associations for recruiting and reference support.

"NASB was available to answer any questions the board had during the interview and selection process."

Applications are submitted through an online process. It is essential for the board to understand the experience and leadership qualities each applicant possesses to ensure the right match. Each applicant is screened by NASB staff who follow a detailed protocol. This process includes a background check through OneSource. We will utilize open and closed session to inform the board of the strengths of the applicants, as well as any areas of growth.

The NASB Search Service offers board development throughout the search to add greater value to the process. The service does not stop once the superintendent/administrator has been hired. NASB provides a two-year guarantee for boards who complete a Board/Superintendent Goal Planning session with NASB, which is included in the search fee.

The search process is a team effort at NASB with staff members specializing in leadership searches, board development, communications, marketing, and school law. The NASB search team is well equipped to manage the details of the search and will work together with the district/ESU to ensure a smooth and successful process from the viewpoint of a board member.

It is never too early to contact NASB for information on the search process if you are aware of an upcoming vacancy. We offer a unique process to each board, and we provide support through all stages of a Superintendent/Administrator search.

## Let NASB help you find the right match for your leadership vacancy.

For information regarding the application process or a proposal for your district or ESU, please contact Shari Becker, Director of Education Leadership Search Service, at 800-422-4572 or [sbecker@NASBonline.org](mailto:sbecker@NASBonline.org)

"NASB is in constant contact with the board throughout the entire process."

"NASB helped us to determine what characteristics the board was looking for in a superintendent."

"I have had numerous experiences and interactions with a variety of departments at the NASB which have all been extremely helpful, the Superintendent Search Department is no different."



# CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

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***Prior to her election to the State Board of Education in November 2020, Patti Gubbels served on the Norfolk Board of Education, and was a member of the NASB Board of Directors, and the NASB Legislation Committee since 2016.***

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing at least 10% of school days in a year and includes excused as well as unexcused absences and suspensions. Chronic absence disproportionately affects students with disabilities, students living in poverty, and students of color. Absenteeism rates are highest for students in upper grades, but chronic absenteeism also occurs in lower and middle grades. (NDE Data Reports)

Understanding and addressing chronic absence from school is important because absence negatively impacts learning and academic achievement. It is also important because absence is related to social disengagement, alienation, increased high school dropout rates, mental and physical health issues, and adulthood poverty. Students who are chronically absent are more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system as adults. (Center for Research and Social Policy, June 2018).



Excessive absences from school have been increasing over time. The U.S. Department of Education found that, in 2015-16 more than seven million, or approximately 1 in every 6 students across the country, were reported as chronically absent, an increase of one million students from previously reported data. (US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights Data Collection, 2016.)

The pandemic exacerbated the existing problem. Anecdotal evidence indicated that chronic absences increased dramatically during the pandemic, however, it was impossible to gather quantitative data during that time. States either did not require attendance taking by schools or when attendance was taken, it was impossible to quantify what it meant for students to be present or absent in a remote learning environment. In some instances, students were considered present if they checked-in with the teacher once during the day.

All states have experienced increased levels of chronic absenteeism following the pandemic. Nine states had chronic absenteeism rates that doubled from 2018-19 to 2021-22. Nebraska's chronic absenteeism rates increased nine percent during that time with 77,000 students or 23% of Nebraska students being chronically absent. (NDE Data Reports) Two states experienced severe levels of chronic absenteeism with almost half of their students missing at least 10% of school days. For example, Alaska's absenteeism rates rose from 29% in 2018-19 to 49% in 2021-22. (Alaska Public Media, August 2023)

Rates are reduced when specific reasons for student absences are identified, and appropriate resources are provided to support students. Programs that effectively lower the chronic absenteeism rate include both preventive school-wide efforts to support students in danger of becoming chronically absent and intensive and targeted initiatives implemented for students who are already chronically absent.

Preventive measures are directed at all students and include evidence-based measures such as prioritizing attendance early in the year, incentivizing attendance, providing engaging, relevant learning opportunities, and implementing an early warning system that identifies factors that put individual students at risk of becoming chronically absent.

Individual, family, and school and community factors are types of factors associated with substantial risk for chronic absenteeism. For example, individuals who avoid coming to school because they are being bullied are at risk. Students are more at risk for chronic absences if they live in family environments that lack structure or adult supervision. Students are at higher risk for chronic absenteeism if their community does not value structured education or if the community has experienced a disaster. For example, of the three thousand students who attended one of four schools in the Lahaina, Maui community, 1200 students are unaccounted for. The Hawaii Board of Education has been trying desperately to locate those students so they can be enrolled in school as soon as possible. Those 1200 students have missed 20 days of school since the Lahaina fire broke out on August 8, 2023.

Identifying specific sources of risk and providing resources that encourage and enable students to prioritize and get to school are critical in reducing chronic absenteeism rates. The Nebraska Department of Education's *Nebraska Every Day Counts* and the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium's *Improving School Attendance* initiatives are programs that provide resources for leaders, teachers, and parents to help prevent chronic absences and provide interventions and supports to reduce chronic absenteeism rates and increase the number of students who, on a constant basis, attend school so they are able to gain knowledge and skills needed to be successful.

***Disclaimer: The opinions from Dr. Patti S. Gubbels are hers and do not represent the Nebraska State Board of Education.***

# TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR NEGOTIATIONS MADE EASY

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


**GAIN ACCESS TO THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF BARGAINING DATA, NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS, REPORTS, REAL-TIME CALCULATIONS AND WORKFLOWS DESIGNED TO ANALYZE THE IMPACT OF CHANGES TO BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION WHEN BARGAINING**

The negotiating season is here, and it's time to start preparing you and your district for what's to come at the bargaining table. With Sparq Negotiations, you have real-time access to the largest, most comprehensive negotiating tool in the state of Nebraska. Salaries are a top expenditure every year, so make the negotiations process successful and easy!

Sparq Negotiations provides you the necessary tools to stay competitive in your array, remain ahead of the game, and achieve successful negotiations. It provides the resources and knowledge to gain a strategic advantage in all stages of the negotiation process by providing real-time, quick-change calculations while comparing peer districts in your array, which saves tremendous amounts of time in the process! Say goodbye to the days of manual calculation with this user-friendly platform. Schools can run studies of any school in the state and see the comparison reports from other districts. This allows you and your board to work from more accurate data to settle negotiations fair and fast!



**To learn more, schedule a demo, and see how Sparq Negotiations can make your life easier, contact Darion Miller at 800-422-4572, or email [dmiller@sparqdata.com](mailto:dmiller@sparqdata.com) today!**



## RAKE IN RELIABLE CANDIDATES

Vet applicants through the  
**NASB Endorsed  
Service Provider**  
for background screening.

[onesourcebackground.com](http://onesourcebackground.com) | 402.933.9999 option 4

**onesource**  
The Background Check Company

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## ... EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH

Is your district or ESU in need of a new Superintendent/Administrator due to retirement or resignation? We can prepare a proposal to outline the steps of a search process, and answer questions on best practice.

Contact Shari at  
[sbecker@NASBOnline.org](mailto:sbecker@NASBOnline.org)

## ... ALICAP & INSURANCE

Reminder to all ALICAP members ...  
If your district has not yet paid the 23-24 ALICAP premium contribution, please do so ASAP. Billing statements were mailed out in early August, and are due back to the NASB ALICAP office by September 30th. Let's make the 23-24 year a great one!

Thanks, Megan!

## ... ENERGY PURCHASING

We are already fielding inquiries from districts wishing to sign up for our natural gas purchasing consortiums next Spring during the annual signup period. This can be one less item your Superintendent and Business Manager need to focus on each year since our market consultants watch the gas markets every day throughout the year to lock up supplies whenever buying opportunities occur. NJUMP and CJUMP are protected by having significant amounts of natural gas already hedged for the 2023-24 heating season to help districts stretch their financial resources.

Contact Jim to learn more!

## ... ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**WHO IS YOUR DELEGATE?**  
While any board member is welcome to attend the Delegate Assembly, each board should select one member to represent them as the voting delegate prior to November 17.

Now is a great time to engage your lawmaker while they are in the district. Reach out if NASB can help you make a connection.

Advocacy starts at home!

Call Colby & Matt with questions any time!

## ... GALLUP STRENGTHS

If you have Command in your Top 5, seize opportunities to speak plainly and directly about sensitive subjects in your relationships. Your unwillingness to hide from the truth can become a source of strength and constancy for colleagues and friends.

Contact Shari at  
[sbecker@NASBOnline.org](mailto:sbecker@NASBOnline.org)

## ... TECHNOLOGY

The Sparq Open House will be Tues, November 14 from 7-11 PM at the Old Mattress Factory Bar & Grill

New Meeting Subscribers  
Yutan Public Schools  
City of Benet

New Negotiations Subscribers  
ESU Coordinating Council  
Crawford Public Schools

Darion - [dmiller@NASBOnline.org](mailto:dmiller@NASBOnline.org)  
Nicole - [nkobus@NASBOnline.org](mailto:nkobus@NASBOnline.org)  
[www.sparqdata.com](http://www.sparqdata.com)

## ... MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Thanks to all of the board members, superintendents, and administrative assistants who joined us at the Area Membership Meetings. We love the opportunity to meet, network, and reconnect with all of you!

Register now for Labor Relations in Lincoln, October 4-5, with a pre-conference on Negotiations, an evening Axe Throwing social, keynote Matt Booth, and more!  
Legal Updates, Recruiting & Retention, HR Hot Topics, EHA Member Support, etc ...

Engagement Visits  
Centura, Hayes Center,  
Medicine Valley & Ravenna

Contact Sharon with any questions.

## ... BOARD LEADERSHIP

Check out "At the Board Table" on pages 4 & 5.

Marcia, Kari, Katie, Caden & Stacie



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## ... DATA ANALYTICS

If you are in one of the districts that needed to attend a Joint Public Hearing due to exceeding your allowable growth rate or believe you may fall into that group next year, it's worthwhile having a good grasp of your district's financial and demographic data. Items such as levy rates and per pupil expenditures along with their comparison to nearby districts are important to know when patrons or taxpayers ask about your budget. We can provide useful summaries to illustrate how your district's valuation, levy, cost per pupil, and poverty indicators compare to others. Contact Jim Luebke if you are interested in creating one of these summaries for your own school.

## ... POLICY

The Legislature has mandated additional training for all staff who interact with students regarding behavioral and mental health as it relates to suicide awareness and prevention. In future years the training may include topics such as identification of early warning signs of behavioral and mental health issues in students, appropriate and effective responses for educators to student behavioral and mental health issues, trauma-informed care, and procedures for making students, parents and guardians aware of services and supports for behavioral and mental health issues.

Contact Jim to learn more!

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

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

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



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SPARQ DATA  
SOLUTIONS

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7-11 p.m.

The Old Mattress  
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Vision

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1,960,000 Nebraskans 324,000 Students 1,700 Locally Elected School Board Members 260 Member Districts/ESUs ONE NEBRASKA

## YOUR NASB OFFICERS

<https://members.nasbonline.org/board-of-directors>



**Kim Burry - President**  
Bayard



**Sandy Noffsinger - President-Elect**  
Dundy County Stratton



**Stacy Jolley - Vice President**  
Millard



**Brad Wilkins - Past President**  
Ainsworth

## YOUR NASB REGION DIRECTORS

<https://members.nasbonline.org/board-of-directors>



**Region 1 - Neal Kanel**  
HTRS



**Region 2 - Sarah Centineo**  
Bellevue



**Region 3 - Renee Vokt**  
Elkhorn



**Region 4 - Elizabeth Kumru**  
Ralston



**Region 5 - Shavonna Holman**  
Omaha



**Region 6 - Ricky Smith**  
Omaha



**Region 7 - Tracy Casady**  
Omaha



**Region 8 - Bob Rauner**  
Lincoln



**Region 9 - Annie Mumgaard**  
Lincoln



**Region 10 - Ed Swotek**  
Malcolm



**Region 11 - Jim Vlach**  
Lyons-Decatur Northeast



**Region 12 - Lisa Wagner**  
Central City



**Region 13 - Marilyn Bohn**  
ESU 10



**Region 14 - Steve Koch**  
Hershey



**Region 15 - Joel Carlson**  
Cozad



**Region 16 - Stephanie Summers**  
David City



**Region 17 - Michelle Reikofski**  
Osmond



**Region 18 - Susan Ernest**  
Leyton



**Region 19 - Amanda McGill Johnson**  
Millard

## YOUR NASB STAFF

<https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/nasb-staff>

**John Spatz**  
Executive Director



**Makenzie Barry**  
ALICAP Data &  
Financial Specialist



**Shari Becker**  
Director of Education  
Leadership Search Service



**Matt Belka**  
Director of Marketing,  
Communications & Advocacy



**Megan Boldt**  
Associate Executive Director  
Director of ALICAP



**Craig Caples**  
Director of Technology



**Abi Carlson**  
Event & Search Service  
Associate



**Colby Coash**  
Associate Executive Director  
Dir. of Government Relations



**Katie Corfield**  
Board Leadership Associate



**Sharon Endorf**  
Director of  
Member Engagement



**Caden Frank**  
Board Leadership Associate



**Marcia Herring**  
Director of Board Leadership



**Stacie Higgins**  
Board Leadership Associate



**Sallie Horky**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Rachel Horstman**  
Business Manager



**Nicole Kraus**  
Events & Engagement  
Associate



**Kem Loecker**  
Executive Administrative  
Assistant



**Jim Luebke**  
Director of Policy Services



**Kari Stephens**  
Board Leadership Associate



**Lindsey Wooton**  
Administrative Specialist



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## YOUR 2023 PLATINUM & GOLD AFFILIATES



## ACCOUNTING

**Watts and Hershberger, P.C.** - Jim Watts - 402-483-7512 - jw1cpa@aol.com - <https://gowh.com/> - (CPA, Accounting)

## ARCHITECTS

**BCDM Architects** - Pat Carson - 402-384-6422 - pcarson@bcdm.net - [www.bcdm.net](http://www.bcdm.net) - (Creating environments that form people) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**BVH Architecture** - Cleve Reeves - 402-475-4551 - creeves@bvh.com - [www.bvh.com](http://www.bvh.com) - (We are a design-centered critical practice. We embrace a creative and collaborative process to design architecture that enhances the community in which it serves.) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Clark & Enersen** - Steve Miller - 402-477-9291 - steve.miller@clarkenersen.com - [www.clarkenersen.com](http://www.clarkenersen.com) - (From the very beginning, partnership has defined us. We're continuing that tradition through our new brand by returning to our original name with a refreshed look.) PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**CMBA Architects** - Jim Brisnehan - 308-384-4444 - brisnehan.j@cmbaarchitects.com - Troy Keilig - 308-384-4444 - keilig.t@cmbaarchitects.com - Courtney Koch - 308-384-4444 - koch.c@cmbaarchitects.com - [www.cmbaarchitects.com](http://www.cmbaarchitects.com) - (Architecture, Master Planning, Interiors, Bond Assistance/Community Engagement) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

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## ARCHITECTS (CONTINUED)

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

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

**Wilkins Architecture Design Planning** - Jacob Sertich  
jsertich@wilkinsadp.com - 308-237-5787 - www.wilkinsadp.com - Our success is based on a "yes, and..." approach. Our clients believe in us because we're collaborative, adaptive, innovative, and genuine. - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

## AWARDS & PLAQUES

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

## CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

**BD Construction** - Marsha Wilkerson - 308-234-1836  
mwilkerson@bdconstruction.com - www.BDConstruction.com - (Construction Management at Risk and as Agent, Facility Planning, Site Selection, Pre-bond Community Education, Stakeholder Engagement) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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

**Cheever Construction** - Douglas Klute - 402-477-6745  
dklute@cheeverconstruction.com - www.cheeverconstruction.com  
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Global Roofing Company** - Job LeRay - 800-257-3758  
leray@globalroofingcompany.com - www.globalroofingcompany.com/  
(Full service roofing company specializing in commercial, industrial, and multi-family re-roofing installations with a focus on flat, low sloped, and metal re-roofing applications.) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Hausmann Construction** - Ashley Abramson - 402-438-3230  
ashleya@hausmannconstruction.com - https://hausmannconstruction.com/  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**MCL Construction** - Heather Fredrick - 402-339-2221  
haf@mclconstruction.com - www.mclconstruction.com - (Navigating the entire construction process) GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Project Control** - Adam Hoebelheinrich - ahoebelheinrich@projectcontrol.com  
Caleb Swanson - cswanson@projectcontrol.com - Justin Short  
jshort@projectcontrol.com - Patti McAtee - pmcatee@projectcontrol.com  
402-477-0487 - https://projectcontrol.com/ - (With over 1,000 completed school projects, Project Control provides public and private schools expertise in managing capital projects, from non-bond large capital improvement planning and budgeting, bond preparation, and facility assessments through design and construction to occupancy.) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Sampson Construction, Co., Inc.** - Bob Everitt - 402-434-5450  
bob.everitt@sampson-construction.com - https://www.sampson-construction.com/  
(With over six decades of professional construction expertise and knowledge, quality is an uncompromising standard.) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

## CONSULTING

**Akagi Consulting LLC** - Mark Akagi - markakagi3@gmail.com

## DATA SECURITY, VIDEO & COMMUNICATIONS

**Filament Essential Services** - Lisa Lewis - 402-479-6661 - lisa@fes.org  
www.filamentservices.org - (SOCS websites+apps, Marketing/Branding/Video, Data. Filament Essential Services is a new division of FES)  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

## DESIGN BUILD

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

## ENERGY SERVICES

**Community Building Solutions** - Jacob Hurla - 785-580-3014  
jhurla@communitybuildingsolutions.com - (Providing a cost-effective avenue for school districts to address outdated equipment, resolve comfort challenges, and reduce energy and maintenance costs. Serving underserved rural communities cost-effectively is the core of our mission.)  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Facility Advocates** - Dave Raymond - 402-206-8777  
draymond@facilityadvocates.com - www.facilityadvocates.com - (Building Construction & Energy Services) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Navitas** - Ryan Terry & Shane Alexander - 402-840-0370  
salexandereds@gmail.com - rterry@navitas.us.com - https://navitas.us.com/  
(Energy Savings, Building Construction, Energy Management, Guaranteed Results) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**TRANE** - Matt Foertsch - 402-596-8007 - mfoertsch@trane.com  
www.trane.com/omaha - (Building Construction & Energy Services. A global provider of indoor comfort systems) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

## 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 - www.dadavidson.com - (Bonds/  
Election Services, Lease Purchase) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**First National Capital Markets** - Tobin Buchanan - 308-352-8328  
tbuchanan@fnmi.com - Carl Dietz - 308-289-3920 carldietz@fnmi.com  
www.fnncapitalmarkets.com (Public Finance, Election Guidance)  
GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund - NLAFF** - Barry Ballou - 402-705-0350  
- balloub@pfm.com - www.NLAFFpool.org - (Liquid Asset Fund, financing programs) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Piper Sandler** - Jay Spearman - 402-599-0307  
jay.spearman@psc.com - (Financing for Capital Construction Products, Bonds, Refunding Bonds, Notes, NASB Lease Purchase) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

## FOOD SERVICE

**Lunchtime Solutions** - Susan Gracey - 402-984-4546  
s.gracey@lunchtimesolutions.com - www.lunchtimesolutions.com  
(Progressive Food Service Management) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

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## FOOD SERVICE

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

## FUNDRAISING

**Omaha Public Schools Foundation** - Toba Cohen-Dunning - 402-502-3003  
toba.cohendunning@ops.org - <https://omahapublicschoolsfoundation.org>  
(The Omaha Public Schools Foundation enriches students' lives by funding opportunities for success.) - Silver Level Affiliate

## INSURANCE SERVICES

**American Fidelity** - Stacey Anderson - 402-432-2251  
stacey.anderson@americanfidelity.com - [www.americanfidelity.com/nebraska](http://www.americanfidelity.com/nebraska)  
(Solutions built for the education community) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska** - Brett Young - 402-630-5117  
brett.young@nebraskablue.com - [www.nebraskablue.com](http://www.nebraskablue.com)  
(Group health insurance) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**National Insurance Services** - Megan Ware - 402-506-2170  
mware@nisbenefits.com - [www.nisbenefits.com](http://www.nisbenefits.com)  
(Group LTD, Life, Vision, Special Pay Plans, HRA's)

**Public Risk Management** - Sheri Shonka - 402-884-3751  
sheri.shonka@prmn.com - [www.alicap.org](http://www.alicap.org) - (ALICAP, Insurance services)  
PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

## LEGAL SERVICES

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

## MENTORING

**TeamMates Mentoring** - Hannah Miller - 319-610-8538  
hannah@teammates.org - [www.teammates.org](http://www.teammates.org)  
(Together we transform lives) - Silver Level Affiliate

## PLAYGROUND/SCOREBOARDS/SURFACING

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

**Crouch Recreation** - Eric Crouch - 402-496-2669 - [eric@crouchrec.com](http://eric@crouchrec.com)  
[www.crouchrec.com](http://www.crouchrec.com) - (Playgrounds, Shelters, Scoreboards, Safety Surfacing & Site Amenities Manufacturers Rep) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Fisher Tracks, Inc.** - Jordan Fisher - 800-432-3191 - 515-432-3191  
jfisher@fishertracks.com - [www.fishertracks.com](http://www.fishertracks.com) - (Installation, Refurbishment & Design Build of All-Weather Running Tracks)

**Outdoor Recreation Products** - Don Wilson - 402-289-0400  
don@outdoorrec.net - [www.outdoorrecreationproducts.com](http://www.outdoorrecreationproducts.com)  
(We help consult and guide school districts in the best commercial grade playground equipment, shade, surfacing, site furnishings, and splash pads that fits their budget.) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

## SAFETY & SECURITY SERVICES

**One Source The Background Check Company** - Neal Josten - 402-933-9999  
njosten@onesourcebackground.com - [www.onesourcebackground.com](http://www.onesourcebackground.com)  
(Employment, Volunteer, Contractor Screening) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

## TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING

**PRISM advisors** - Jason Richards - 402-593-8911  
jprichards@prism-advisors.com - [www.prism-advisors.com](http://www.prism-advisors.com)  
(PEOPLE, PROCESS & SYSTEMS. IT strategic planning and project management through RFP to implementation)

## TECHNOLOGY/SOFTWARE

**Hamilton** - Megan Anderson - 402.694.5101  
megan.anderson@hamiltonel.com - <https://hamiltonel.com/>  
(Connecting Your World - Telecommunications and Technology Solutions)  
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**Renaissance** - <https://www.renaissance.com/>  
Valerie Vallejo - 480-329-0398 - [valerie.vallejo@renaissance.com](mailto:valerie.vallejo@renaissance.com)  
Sparkle Oehlert - 928-514-2901 - [Sparkle.oehlert@renaissance.com](mailto:Sparkle.oehlert@renaissance.com)  
Mark Kessler - 503-616-6246 - [Mark.kessler@renaissance.com](mailto:Mark.kessler@renaissance.com)  
(Continually innovating with bold, connected products ... Insights and actions for education) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Sparq Data Solutions** - Craig Caples - 402-423-4951  
ccaples@sparqdata.com - [www.sparqdata.com](http://www.sparqdata.com) - (Paperless Board Meetings, Teacher Negotiations, Public Document Management, Document Imaging & Scanning) - PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

## TRANSPORTATION

**Cornhusker International** - Russ Folts - 402-466-8461 ext 206  
russ.folts@cornhuskerinternational.com - [www.cornhuskerinternational.com](http://www.cornhuskerinternational.com)  
(With six locations across Nebraska, Cornhusker International offers your best choice in new and pre-owned School Buses, Compliant Activity Buses, plus full parts and service for all makes and models) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

**Master's Transportation** - Mariya Goodbrake - 800-783-3613  
mgoodbrake@masterstransportation.com - [www.masterstransportation.com](http://www.masterstransportation.com)  
(Your trusted source for safe, reliable, and innovative group transportation solutions.) - GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE



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# NASB BOARD NOTES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



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YOUR 2023 ADVOCACY HANDOUT IS NOW POSTED  
TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS

THE 2023 STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

AT THE BOARD TABLE

RECOGNITION: ENGAGED

FINDING THE RIGHT MATCH FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP VACANCY

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR NEGOTIATIONS MADE EASY

THIS MONTH IN ... AND MUCH MORE!

The Nebraska Association of School Boards provides programs, services and advocacy to strengthen public education for all Nebraskans. Learn more at [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)