

NDSBA Convention Report
Sarah Ricks
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I appreciate the opportunity to attend this year's Law Seminar and NDSBA Convention. Both days provided valuable information and insights.

The Law Seminar included presentations on social media, OCR, FERPA, liability, veteran's preference, immunizations and international comparisons among school systems.

The OCR presentation was fascinating as it gave in depth details about the process of navigating a civil rights complaint.

I learned new information about FERPA and specifically how it applies in a digital world. There was interesting discussion about whether or not security footage from cameras in school or buses are part of a student's educational record. The role of SROs and what information can be released was also discussed.

The laws have changed in North Dakota in relation to veteran's preference when hiring for school district positions so this information was very timely. We will need to review our current hiring procedures and possibly make some adjustments to accommodate the new law.

The immunizations presentation provided clarification on what circumstances may arise that would necessitate those without immunizations to stay home from school and what the district's responsibility is for those students during a time of health crisis.

The information presented about best practices in international schools was very interesting and focused quite a bit on teacher preparation and rigorous uniform standards for students. Major shifts in national policy would have to change to replicate some of these best practices in the United States.

Food for thought on what we expect from students in our district.

The Convention provided three excellent general session speakers this year. I fully enjoyed listening to comedian Jimmy Kimmel who made some interesting political commentary and drew attention to the ways in which our world is changing. Jamie Vollmer delivered an excellent presentation on building support for public schools. He shared a graphic which illustrates the changing demands on public schools and teachers beginning with the earliest school systems in the 1700s to the present. What we are asking to day is completely different from what was being asked in the 1700s, yet, in many ways, the system is unchanged. The system was designed to educate children who were entering a workforce where only 33% of jobs required a diploma. Now 89% of jobs require a diploma. We are not educating our children for the current job market. While he alluded to the fact that we have to rethink the way we deliver education in order to best educate each individual student, the crux of the presentation was about getting community buy-in. While supporting education is the moral thing to do, it is also the practical thing to do. Everyone in a community should be invested in the success of the public school system because the school system has a direct relationship to the quality of life in a community. When student achievement increases, crime goes down. Better schools make it more likely that businesses will come to your community and set up shop. Property values increase when the school system is thriving. He suggested that as leaders in school districts we start spreading the positive news about what we are doing right. He also made a point that any infighting within a district needs to stop. Everyone in the school system has the same goals, we need to lift each other up and focus on the positive instead of the negative. When we have buy-in from our community then we might start to be able to effect real change. Finally, Ms. Jean Twenge talked to us about generational differences and specifically about the "Generation Me". This generation was shaped by the self-esteem movement of the 80s which led to an "everyone wins" culture and a failure to correct mistakes. This generation focuses on the individual and has grown up with advice such as "You can do anything," and "You are special." Unfortunately, these

statements alone do not build true self-esteem. True self-esteem comes from real success. Success does not stem from attempts to instill self-esteem. Many children now have increased expectations for the grandeur of their future lives but reality has not changed to meet those expectations. A significant percentage of Generation Me have gone beyond self-esteem and become narcissistic. Self-esteem is confidence and leads to caring while narcissism is overconfidence and leads to a lack of empathy. Studies show a decrease in the satisfaction with their classes for this generation and they tend to be more focused on extrinsic values than intrinsic values. A key question is "What can I get out of this?" Advice from Dr. Twenge is to eliminate self-esteem programs, give rewards for actual accomplishment (not just effort), make schooling interactive- a learn by doing model, more variety in what is presented and done in the classroom, put textbooks on tablets and increase technology use, this is also Generation WHY?- explain why something matters to them. Lessons can be learned from this generation if we respect each other's perspectives; there should be a balance between new ideas and experience. We don't always have to do it the "old way". Find a healthy work-life balance.

I also attended several clinic sessions. Some topics covered included building a social media strategy, leveraging the senior year and a new series of school board professional development videos available online. These sessions made me want to more closely look at our public relations. Are we meeting the information needs of our students, staff, parents and community? The senior year session had a lot of great information about the DPIs initiatives to increase the availability and affordability of AP classes for all ND high-schoolers. I also learned about new regulations from the council of higher education which will change how dual credit is offered. We will need to have discussions at the high school about how to cope with these new regulations which require a masters degree in the content area for any dual credit teacher. Ms. Baesler also talked about a new teacher-training program with an organization called NMSI (National Math and Science Institute) which trains teachers to deliver high school content at the college level and specifically teaches teachers how to deliver effective AP courses. Their results in other states have been outstanding and I am very excited to see what they can do to help our teachers and students in North Dakota. I think the availability of informational videos for school board members is a good thing. If you don't have a background in education then learning all of the jargon and rules etc. when you get elected to the school board can be daunting. These videos are available online to the public as well so constituents who want to have a better understanding of specific educational topic can also find that information online. Not all of the videos are available yet, but some can be accessed at <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/about/schoolboardPDseries/NDDPI/>