

Kimberly Schwartz  
NDSBA Convention Report

As a new school board member, I was honored to attend this year's North Dakota State School Board Convention. This was highly informative and I came away with a deeper appreciation and understanding of my responsibilities as a school board member.

The workshops were amazing. I was impressed with the Flex Mod/Personalized Scheduling utilized by Legacy High School. The benefits of this schedule include individualized attention to students, ability to have large group presentations, and more time for labs and band. Principal Tom Schmidt felt this schedule better prepared students for college and careers. Legacy gives tours of their school every other Monday, and Mr. Schmidt is also willing visit DHS to explain this method of scheduling.

The Superintendent, Business Manager, and Board Evaluation was presented and this way of evaluating the superintendent appears to be a better fit for our district. This evaluation system is easy to use and provides a more uniform way for evaluation.

Jeff Brandt, principal from Solen High School, presented on changing and creating a positive culture for students. His dedication to improving the culture within the school structure, working with teachers in the district, and creating new policies has created an atmosphere of collaboration. Also, semesters were changed to trimesters to give students more opportunities to graduate. I was thoroughly impressed with his presentation and ideas.

In conclusion, I found there are many educational opportunities and interventions occurring in education. Teachers and students must be allowed to grow, and we must take the opportunity to be at the forefront for our students, teachers, and patrons and not be complacent with the status quo.