

Governmental Affairs Committee Resolutions Report

NDSBA's Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) met on August 17 to act on resolutions for consideration by the Delegate Assembly at the Annual Convention. Participating committee members were: Greg Allen, Chair (Jamestown); Dianne Hensen (Glenburn); Jim Johnson (Fargo); Lawrence King (Bismarck); Mike Lautenschlager (Lewis & Clark); and Don Nygaard (Finley-Sharon).

Resolutions remain as standing resolutions for four years unless significant legislative or staff action prompt an earlier review. At the end of four years, they are dropped unless readopted by the Delegate Assembly. There were no new resolutions submitted by the deadline. Following are recommendations of the GAC:

RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE FOUR YEARS OLD AND RECOMMENDED FOR READOPTION AS WRITTEN

STATE AID FOR GROWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS. NDSBA shall support legislation that modifies the Foundation Aid Program to allow the use of fall enrollment to provide adequate state support to districts with increasing enrollment.

STATE TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION. NDSBA believes the cost of maintaining, supporting, and enhancing this system should continue to be financed with state dollars and there should be no transfer of the cost associated with this network back to the local school districts.

BUSINESS MANAGER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM. School boards support the Business Manager Certification Program by providing financial support through the use of school district funds to encourage business managers to participate in this voluntary professional development opportunity.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. NDSBA shall oppose legislation mandating school boards to collectively bargain with employees other than those currently required by 15.1-16-01: "...public school employee(s) licensed to teach by the ESPB or approved to teach by the ESPB and employed primarily as a classroom teacher."

POSTING OF BILLS IN AN ALTERNATE FORMAT. NDSBA shall support state law changes to allow school districts the flexibility to post their bills using an electronic format such as the district's website.

RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE FOUR YEARS OLD AND RECOMMENDED FOR READOPTION AS AMENDED

STATE FUNDING OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS. NDSBA supports the state ensuring program funding equity and full funding of special education costs to districts including gifted and talented education and to provide a permanent mechanism for the distribution of any surplus special education dollars.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM. NDSBA shall work with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture ~~and the North Dakota State Legislature,~~ the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, and the North Dakota Congressional Delegation to encourage the USDA to amend their federal regulations related to the School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and "a la carte" food sales to allow for local control.

RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE FOUR YEARS OLD AND RECOMMENDED TO BE DROPPED

ALTERNATIVE COMPENSATION. NDSBA shall support legislation that provides school districts with separate and additional funding that encourages development of alternative compensation models that reward teaching practices that support measurable academic achievement for all students.

PERMANENT MECHANISM TO DISTRIBUTE SURPLUS SPECIAL EDUCATION DOLLARS. NDSBA shall support efforts to develop an appropriate funding level and provide a mechanism to distribute monies earmarked for special education back to school districts for which it was intended.

RESOLUTION THAT HAS HAD SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE ACTION AND RECOMMENDED TO BE DROPPED

INFORMATION ABOUT JUVENILE OFFENDERS. NDSBA will seek legislation that requires juvenile authorities to inform the principal or other appropriate administrator of a school where a juvenile is or will be enrolled if school attendance is a condition of disposition.