

Kim Schwartz's Report on National School Board Association Conference  
Denver - March 24-27, 2017

Friday, March 24

Preconference Session

- 9:00 a.m. Crawl, Walk, or Run - Become a Highly Effective Board
- 1:30 p.m. New School Board Member Boot Camp: Ethics, Board Meetings, and the Role of a School Board Member

Saturday, March 25

- 8:30 a.m. General Session - Captain Scott Kelly
- 10:30 a.m. From Awful to Award Winning - One Board's Path to Excellence
- 12:00 p.m. New Administration, New Direction?
- 1:30 p.m. Creating an In-District Orientation Program for New Board Members
- 3:00 p.m. Creating Change One Room at a Time
- 3:45 p.m. Interest Based Bargaining: Getting Board Members, Administrators and Teachers to Work as a Powerful Team for Student Success

Sunday, March 26

- 8:30 a.m. Improving the Value of Superintendent Evaluation in Your District
- 10:00 a.m. General Session
- 12:45 p.m. You Didn't Really Think That Bond Would Pass, Did You?
- 1:30 p.m. Superintendent Selection: Why You Need to Do it Right
- 3:00 p.m. 3 ways to prepare Students for Lifelong Success Through Soft Skills Development
- 3:45 p.m. Great Dreams Need Great Teachers: Engaging Your Community To Enhance Teacher Morale

Monday, March 27

- 8:30 a.m. What Do Superintendents Look for in a School Board?

As a new school board member, the National School Board Convention was an excellent learning opportunity. It provided both educational and practical ideas to implement in our district. I attended many sessions that provided useful insight about my role as a School Board Member, and below are a few main points from this convention that I found particularly useful.

The preconference sessions further solidified what I learned at the State School Board Convention in October, i.e., the importance of conducting a superintendent evaluation and, in turn, of equal importance is the School Board needs to conduct a self evaluation each year as well. This leads to a unified governance team that is very important for the health of the district.

As I am a member of the negotiating team, I was very interested in the Interest Based Bargaining session on Saturday. I attended this refresher course to complement the training that the School Board members received in December of 2016. This session only furthered my belief that Interest Based Bargaining is the right direction for our district. It is a process that takes time to implement and refine, but the payoff will benefit the district, teachers, and students.

One of the main take aways that was a current theme throughout the conference was that to become a highly effective School Board it, again, starts with self evaluation and goal setting. With this in mind, the School Board began this process in April and continues to meet monthly. I am optimistic we will be successful in this endeavor.