

School Law Seminar- Presentations Attended:

1. Do No Harm: The Unintended Consequences of Legal Remedies in the Juvenile Justice System
Notes: Kids' brains don't respond well to threats, the future doesn't seem consequential, they feel invincible. Even criminal acts are usually mistakes. Restorative Justice teaches kids to make amends. Ninety percent of all juvenile crime desists by adulthood. Do not make policy decisions based on the juvenile crimes you see in the news- these only represent less than 1% of cases. Our focus should be on helping the whole family. It's more effective and cheaper to keep kids in homes and in schools. Being locked up decreases mental stability and increases suicidal tendencies. We need fewer referees and more coaches. Kids with disabilities and children who are minorities are referred for discipline at higher rates. The system is unfair for minorities. School teachers and principals have implicit biases. Regular professional development on implicit bias corrects much of this along with structure decision-making tools.
2. The View from Washington: A School Law Update
Notes: SPED LAW- Exhaustion of administrative remedies under IDEA is not necessary if the suit claims harm like emotional distress and is based on rights provided by a law other than IDEA. Programs for students should be "appropriately ambitious" and "reasonable". NSBA is advocating for regulation change which would eliminate 504 child find. So far DOE revoked 72 documents but their revocation has not changed policy at all.
3. Data Breach: Information and Response
Notes: Employee error primary cause of data breaches. Limit access to data as much as possible and train those employees who do need access. Only gather data you need. Most breaches result from a phishing campaign. Running regular back-ups protects from ransom-ware.
4. Search and Seizure
Notes: Policy is not enough to nullify the reasonable expectation of privacy. Potential Actions: Review cell-phone policies.
5. The Opioid Threat in North Dakota: An Educated Approach
Notes: Four out of five addicts start with prescription drugs. At some point opioid addicts are no longer using to get high, they are using to get well. Withdrawal is like the worst flu times 100. Fentanyl is so dangerous because you don't have time to get addicted, you're in the hospital or dead. Fargo has recently hired six full-time social workers to serve as student wellness and family facilitators. They help families navigate all of the available helps, services and agencies in the schools and community. Schools are the one organization that touches all parts of the community.
6. First Amendment Challenge to the Practice of Providing an Invocation at Graduation
7. Discrimination and Harassment Issues: ND Litigation and Other Examples- Why and How to Properly Investigate Complaints
8. A Challenge to North Dakota's Tort Caps Resulting from the Larimore Bus Accident

NDSBA Annual Convention- Sessions Attended:

Opening Convention Session

1. Be the Best You Can Be by Rocky Bleier

Notes: We live in a culture of opportunity- as long as we have choices. We have two responsibilities 1. To know more and 2. To have the courage to act on that knowledge. Need four things to succeed- 1. Leadership 2. People 3. Vision 4. Buy-in. People with talent elevate others. Leadership molds talent and everyone has a talent. We are all in the business of hope. Use failures as a stepping-stone to propel you in a new and different direction. A good attitude can change everything. No matter how passionate, committed and hard-working there are times when we carry the weight of the world, when we bang our head against the wall, but we can't quit. Our one talent is waiting for an opportunity to make a difference. If you think you are beaten, you are. The one who wins is the one who thinks he can.

First Business Session

General Session

1. Welcome by Governor Burgum

Notes: We need to change. Need to engage high school students in planning the future of our communities. We need to be humble and curious enough to learn something new. Potential Actions: Schedule a board viewing of Most Likely to Succeed. Attend 2nd innovation summit June 2018.

2. Crucial Conversations about America's Schools by Dr. John Draper

Notes: As long as time is a constant, achievement will be a variable. There is nothing so unfair as equal treatment of unequal children. Poverty is the greatest common factor among low-achieving children. Choice is a new American value, how can we bring the flexibility of charter schools to public schools? If you define schools by test scores you will lose your community. Independent rewards in an interdependent reality is stupidity. ACT averages are down but each subgroup is up. We need to think and talk about what we believe. We need to learn to use language that reframes. We need to connect to community using stories. Teachers are not the problem, they are the solution to the problem. Commit to do four things: 1. Shift attention to the positive 2. Never bad-mouth 3. Tell one positive story per week 4. Monitor your progress.

Breakout Sessions

1. The Hidden Roots of Declining Support for Public Schools by Dr. John Draper

Notes: There is declining support because there is more dislike for children in general, an aging population with increased life expectancy and no school-aged children, more diversity and credit card debt is up 1,760% so people feel financially pinched. Making sure that everyone gets a chance is critically important to the strength of this country. Public schools are the way we deliver the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We need to bring 8 million employees on board to spread the good news of public schools.

2. Paddling Upstream in a Public School Canoe: Public School that Work by Dr. John Draper

Notes: Strong majority of people give their own schools high ratings but believe the nation's schools are bad. Most school employees are reluctant political advocates, dislike controversy, don't like to brag. Work on PR with your own people- your employees need to believe. We are locally led but our reputation is nationally fed. We need to extend the way people feel about their kids' schools to all schools. 7 Habits of Highly Collaborative School Leaders: 1. Avoid public comparisons of school districts, 2. Don't allow test scores to define your school, 3. Inspire your teachers, 4. Plant celebrations of success, 5. Use

stores to overcome villains of communication, 6. Put a face on the children of poverty, 7. Build relationships with faith organizations. We need to raise the reputation of all schools and work to help them. Let's look at graduation and post-secondary stats. Make graduation a celebration! Celebration is something people get.

3. Implementing Innovation by Superintendent Tim Godfrey from Richland School District
Notes: Need to prepare students for the future through 21st century learning. The workplace is demanding communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking but high schools and colleges are not training kids in these areas. Project based learning is student driven with student interest and student buy-in. Richland created a District Leadership Team (DLT). Superintendent and school board create the vision, the DLT carries it out, gives pushback, develops a process and develops a strategic plan. So far they have developed a districtwide implementation plan for PBL, held parent forums, worked with AdvancED, revamped schedules at the high school and are working on tech initiatives.

General Session

1. Board/Superintendent Relationships and How They Impact Student Achievement by C. Ed Massey
Notes: Board meeting ideas from Boon County, KY. 1. Engage students with pledge and national anthem 2. Good news items- awards 3. Student school board member report 4. Audience issues- no debates 5. Committee reports- committees do all the work, each one has 2 board members 6. New business 7. Old business 8. Presentations on student data, etc. Change the plan but never the goal. The superintendent needs to build capacity in the district so that when s/he leaves, the district is unaffected. You can't build a district around a superintendent and five board members.

Breakout Session

1. Teaching Tribal Sovereignty on the Spirit Lake Nation by Vern Lambert Sr.