

To: Dickinson Public Schools
From: Tanya Rude, Board member
NSBA 2018
San Antonio, TX
April 6-9, 2018

First of all, thank you for the opportunity to attend the National School Board Convention. It was a great opportunity to attend and learn more about how different school districts govern. If there is any of the following summaries anyone would like more information on please contact me, as I might have PowerPoint presentation or at least have more thorough notes for each.

Friday, April 6th

I attended the “*Pre-Conference No.3: Follow the Blueprint for a More Successful Planning Process and Better Long-Term Results,*” presented by Steve Lamb. This was a presentation that showed 9-steps for selecting strategies and monitoring metrics while creating high levels of staff and community involvement. Mr. Lamb focused on the emotional side of each of the steps. Evidence is clear, emotions REALLY matter. Great student outcomes require (9-step process): Readiness, Preparation, First Planning Session, First Public Input, Second Planning Session, Second Public Input, Action Planning, Board Adoption, and Ongoing Attention. Lessons learned by Mr. Lamb in his time of learning and teaching Board Governance, is this: There is no quick fix, we must understand the principles of change and commitment, and stakeholders must have necessary beliefs. The result will be a plan of action, collective will to change, and improved student achievement.

Saturday, April 7th

General Session was Terry Bradshaw, who is very funny and yet has an uncanny ability to have learning points about farming and ranching, football, but mostly reaching people. He suggested to have everyone use words of encouragement with everyone, and expect greatness from self and family, and schools.

My first session was on “*Highly Effective Boards—Focusing on the Work that Matters,*” presented by Georgia School Boards Association Assistant Director and the Superintendent of Bibb County Schools, Georgia. You can find all the documents at: <http://effectiveboards.weebly.com>. Basically, they went through the right 10 questions that school boards need to ask. Each question related to what school boards should be doing to be effective for their school district. These ten questions seemed to all relate to good board governance.

Second session was on “*Why Boardmanship Matters: Governance Strategies of High Performing Districts,*” presented by Dr. Ivan Lorentzen and Dr. William McCaw. This presentation was very interesting and can change a district if everyone understood what their research actually showed. They performed research in Montana, at different districts, and in Washington State. Both states showed consistent findings: That if can change the way they look at the organizational structure, they would have better student achievement outcomes. They showed trends from the studies, listed board priorities, what boards should do, and gave takeaways. The most important is that a “Learning District” has “a systems approach to high student achievement: When Boardmanship is effective **and** Instructional Leadership is effective the result is a stable culture of high student achievement!”

Third session was “*The Board That Plans Together Succeeds Together,*” presented by Lincoln County Public Schools Board of Education, NE. This board of education sort of adopted the 5 Habits of High Impact School Boards, written by Doug Eadie. They defined what governing is, what the characteristics of a successful board is, and then how to concentrate on governing/active role in leading innovation. Throughout the session they spoke of collaborating with ALL stakeholders, especially the staff and community, to have positive working relationships.

Sunday, April 8th

The first session of the day that I was able to attend (my first choice was full and they wouldn't let anyone else in), was “*A School Board's Role in Promoting and Maintaining a Positive and Effective, District-Wide Culture Leading to Student Success,*” presented by Northside Independent School District, TX. This is a very large district that has worked hard at creating a strong climate and culture in their district. They have set high expectations for their board members, and they have put systems in place for the board to ensure continuous learning by each board member.

General Session speaker was Ann Compton, who began her session with reporting on “Fake News.” Addressing the conventions theme of “Be extra-ordinary,” and how much school boards do is important and how the news culture is making our job as school board members harder. Fake news is harder to sift through than it used to be. Then she began comparing past presidencies against Trump.

The next session attended was “*Design Up Performance: Board and Superintendent Leadership That Leads to Improved Outcomes*,” presented by Pattonville R-3 School District, MO. This school governance body changed the way their district teaches. They have started to change their schools over to Competency-based learning: Learning customized personally, learning targets selected, ongoing goal oriented, focus on what is the main things necessary to attain competencies. Pattonville tries to give ONLY the most valuable test every month to students to find competency level. Even kindergarten students define their own goal. Teachers have PLC’s to help guide individualized competencies.

Monday, April 9th

First session for the day was “*Developing a Healthy Working Climate Between the School Board and Superintendent*,” presented by Washoe County School Board and Superintendent, NV. This district is a large district with seven board members. After having a difficult ending of a superintendent, the board started working with Dr. Alsbury and his “Balanced Governance” approach. They learned that they must have a lot of communication between the superintendent and the board, while establishing trust. They now speak with one voice, respect each other and differing opinions, they are more efficient and effective, and they remember their “Why?” ___ and how to have fun.

Last session was “*Master Class: Profile of a Graduate: A North Star for 21st Century District Transformation*,” presented by Ken Kay of EdLeader21, Karen Garza of Battlelle for Kids, and Dr. Aaron Spence, Superintendent of Virginia Beach City Public Schools. A Portrait of a Graduate will help...

- Co-create a specific, *action-oriented vision* for student success in the 21st Century.
- Create enormous *focused energy* that will fuel the transformations you want to make.
- Provide a framework for *backwards-designed units* that integrate disciplinary content and 21st Century competencies.
- *Measure what matters*. This includes the real performance-based competencies that students need to become lifelong learners and contributors.

Every Districts’ Portrait will look different, but it is based on what the community, students, staff, teachers, administrators, board of education, and superintendent make it. Not done by board alone, or by leadership team alone, or students alone, **all Stakeholders** make up the portrait for each district. We can download a free creativity rubric: www.edleader21.org/rubric promo code: CREATIVITY18

Thank you for setting aside the funds every year to enable the school board to receive some great professional development.