

# *The Board of Education*

What is the Fargo Board of Education? What do its members do? If you are an employee of the Fargo Public Schools, or a parent, student or constituent, do you know how your elected officials are working for you?

Fargo Public Schools has had a Board of Education (its formal name) since the founding of its first public school in 1874. (It became a nine-member board in 1885.) Since the beginning, its top priority has been student achievement. The Board has only one employee that it supervises – the superintendent of schools, effectively the CEO of the school district. Its decisions as a group are binding on that one individual.

The Board's primary role is governance, with student achievement as the central focus. Its responsibilities are many – just a few of them include managing the superintendency; fiscal oversight; setting District plans and goals; providing for program development; the adoption of instructional, administrative and operating policies; review and evaluation; and advocating on behalf of students and schools.

The nine members of the Fargo School Board all serve regular (and ad hoc) committee assignments, with representatives from the administration. The Board's regular committees that meet annually on at least a quarterly basis are: Communications, Engagement and Advocacy; Governance; Governmental Affairs; Negotiations; and Planning. Board members also serve as liaisons to individual school buildings, and as designated FPS representatives on the boards and committees of various community organizations.

[Information about each Board member](#), as well as their committee, building and community assignments, is maintained in the [School Board section](#) of the District's website. The site also hosts the [agendas and minutes](#) of Board and [committee](#) business.

As elected servants of the District's taxpayers, one of the goals of the Board is to be as transparent about its business as possible. The exemptions from North Dakota Open Meetings Law are short in number, and some are only temporary. Closed meetings, also known as "executive session," are used when the legal authority exists to close them. Examples include litigation, confidential economic development information, contract negotiations, and disciplinary matters.

The Board's meetings are broadcast live on public access and also streamed live and archived on YouTube. To view meetings online, [visit the Board's YouTube channel](#).

Want to subscribe to notifications by the Board? All interested citizens may subscribe to Board meeting notifications, which will alert them via email of meeting agenda and materials that have been posted on the Board website. Visit the [Board Meetings page](#) to sign up under the "Content E-Alerts" heading.

