



Board of Education Member Profile

Brian Nelson

Name: Brian Nelson

Board member since: 2018

Family: Wife, Ellen Nelson; ten children, nine grandchildren

Occupation: Superintendent at Rosholt, S.D., and Fairmount N.D.

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself and your background.

I was an elementary school teacher teaching sixth grade for eight years, of which five of those years I was also a part-time elementary principal. When I became superintendent, I was also a part-time elementary principal for seven years. I was superintendent at Berthold then it became Lewis and Clark District for 21 years. While in Berthold I also taught drivers education, coached baseball, basketball, and football, and drove a bus route. I retired in June of 2017 and moved to Fargo full-time at that point. I presently am full time superintendent at Fairmount, N.D., and Rosholt S.D. My interests are fishing in Alaska and at Lake Sakakawea, traveling and cruising, Lake Lida time, and I love the varied activities that Fargo has to offer.

2. What was the reason you ran for a Board position?

I ran for the board position because my experience in education would be a great advantage as I know how schools work. My passion for teaching and learning is second to none. Kids come first. I also want to set policies that give students a meaningful education.

3. What do you see as big challenges for the district going forward? Challenges for K-12 education in North Dakota?

A challenge I see is the growth in Fargo, being involved in the discussion with the city and parks as well as we continue to grow. Another is a challenge to educate all students, giving them the opportunity to reach their full potential. In ND, we are being asked by the governor to find innovative ways to educate students. We need to think out of the box, and we need a grassroots effort.

4. Something you are proud of as a representative of the Fargo Public Schools:

I'm proud of the buildings and the grounds. Everything is kept up so well and is a joy to see. I am proud of the education and extracurricular activities students get to choose from, they are widely varied and serve a wide array of students.

