



Board of Education Member Profile

Nyamal Dei

Name: Nyamal Dei

Board member since: 2022

Family: daughter

Occupation: Public Health Professional and Founder of Kondial Kel International

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

Nyamal Dei is a remarkable and motivational leader who has encountered numerous obstacles in her life. Hailing from Ulang, South Sudan, she was compelled to depart from her home and was separated from her loved ones. She then embarked on a challenging journey that took her from Sudan to Ethiopia and eventually to the IFO refugee camp in North-Western Kenya, where she discovered safety along with thousands of other Sudanese refugees who had fled the violent conflict in their homeland.

At present, Nyamal is the initiator of Kondial Kel International: South Sudan READ, an organization in Fargo, North Dakota, devoted to advancing lives via education and community-related endeavors, programs, and learning centers. She has accomplished many remarkable feats, including obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Health Education in Community Health with a minor in Child Development & Family Science from North Dakota State University and a master's degree in public health from Benedictine University.

Nyamal's zeal for humanitarian work and leadership has led her to take part in significant discussions on countering hate speech pertaining to the violent conflict in South Sudan, as well as leadership development programs. She has also served as a former humanitarian deputy for the Alliance for South Sudanese in Diaspora (ASSD) and a former candidate for the school board. Her commitment to education and community development led her to become the first black woman of color to hold an official position in Fargo since 1872 when she was elected to the Fargo School Board of Education at Large.

In addition to her noteworthy accomplishments, Nyamal is a member at Large of the United Nations Association and a former board member of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition. She represents South Sudan for 2021 and 2022 for the International Ever Girl Win and a Lions Club International. Nyamal has received several awards, including the Global Honoree Ambassador Award in 2020, the World Civility Ambassador Award in 2021, and the Forum's 2022 Area Person of the Year award named by Forum of Fargo.

Nyamal is fervent about assisting underprivileged families, empowering women, supporting orphans, and enhancing maternal health. She takes pleasure in spending time with her daughter and traveling



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to see family across the US, South Sudan, Gambella, Ethiopia, and around the world. Her inspirational story and steadfast commitment to improving the lives of others serve as a genuine role model and an inspiration individual.

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

I am of the firm conviction that my true vocation lies in serving on the Fargo School Board. My unwavering zeal for education, steadfast commitment to mental health advocacy, and resolute dedication to ensuring that every member of the community has a voice, especially those who have been marginalized, inspire me to press forward. Education has always been a top priority for me, as evidenced by the fact that my daughter has been a student at Fargo Public School since kindergarten. As someone who had to flee a war-torn Sudan and start a new life in a foreign land, I appreciate the crucial role education plays in modern society. Moreover, I firmly believe that my unique outlook will bring a fresh perspective and diverse voice to the board.

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

As we look ahead to the future of our District, we must remain mindful of the various challenges that may arise. These challenges may include finding sustainable funding to support our educational initiatives, ensuring that our hardworking educators receive the support they need, addressing issues related to mental health, fostering diversity and inclusion, and, most importantly, prioritizing the safety and well-being of our students. Additionally, we must acknowledge that North Dakota currently experiences a shortage of qualified teachers and limited resources for K-12 education, which can have a profound effect on both students and teachers alike. As such, it is imperative that we invest in our education system and prioritize the creation of an optimal learning environment for all stakeholders involved.

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

I possess full confidence in my capacity to bring a valuable and exceptional perspective to any conversation. With a varied background and an abundance of experiences, I am fully aware of the value I can provide. My passion lies in advocating for marginalized individuals and ensuring their voices are heard. By collaborating, I am certain we can achieve positive outcomes that benefit all parties involved.

