



## *Board of Education Column*

*By Dr. Tracie Newman, Fargo Board of Education*

### **Communications, Engagement, and Advocacy Committee**

Welcome back FPS families, staff, and teachers! The Fargo School Board has been busy gearing up for another successful school year. Each member of the Fargo Board of Education serves on standing committees to help support and reinforce the work of the Board. Given the vast array of topics the full Board must consider, these committees help drill down on certain areas and often function to assist the Board in its larger scope as outlined in [GP-7](#).

The Communications, Engagement and Advocacy (CEA) Committee is comprised of five Board members and members of the Superintendent's cabinet who work to enhance the transparency of how the Board makes decisions. This committee also focuses on communication with constituents and community stakeholders through engagement and advocacy efforts. CEA takes into consideration the FPS strategic plan and long-range facilities plan and any other relevant information when working with administration to develop the annual work plan. Each year, this committee aims to develop a communications, engagement, and advocacy stakeholder work plan that is put forth to the entire Board for consideration. CEA also stands ready to address any time sensitive communication or engagement needs that may arise outside of the annual work plan and strives to work collaboratively with other Board committees around communication messaging or advocacy efforts within the district.

This school year, the CEA Committee looks forward to helping facilitate FPS Staff Town Halls with Board member presence at each one, depending on the topic. At our recent first committee meeting of the school year we reviewed our committee's purpose and means with great discussion on potential opportunities for expansion in our role. We also set committee goals for 2023-2024 including helping communicate out the FPS Philosophies, our priorities and values around the District Budget, as well as continuing to actively engage with the Superintendent Student Council. We anticipate being an integral part of the Long-Range Facility Planning, whether that be communicating updates from the Steering Committee, opportunities for community engagement, or expressing the role of the School Board in the process. Look for updates from CEA soon!

