

Meeting Minutes: Governmental Affairs Committee**Date/Time:** June 7, 2022 – 7:30 a.m.**Location:** District Office**Start:** 7:30 a.m.**End:** 8:06 a.m.**Committee Members Present:** Robin Nelson, Dr. Tracie Newman, Nikkie Gullickson**Committee Members Absent:** Brian Nelson, Jim Johnson**Board Members Present:** Jennifer Benson (via phone)**Staff Members Present:** Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Jackie Gapp, Tara Brandner**Recorder:** Jackie Gapp

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations/Actions
Approval of February 1 Meeting	Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 1 meeting.	Minutes will be posted on the Board's section of the public website.
Potential Legislative Items	<p>Temporary Teacher Contracts Dr. Gandhi provided information regarding a potential legislative change to North Dakota Center Code 15.1-15-12. Nonapplicable provisions. The change would add a fifth item providing language related to certified teaching positions hired through a temporary funding source: <i>"Any individual employed by a school district in a position substantially funded by grant dollars or a temporary funding source, or an individual who replaces a school district employee while that employee is employed with the school district in a position substantially funded by grant dollars or a temporary funding source, provided the individual received advance notice of the defined contract term prior to the beginning employment with the school district."</i></p> <p>ND Public Employees Retirement Service (NDPERS) Robin Nelson provided information regarding a proposed change to the NDPERS retirement plan from a defined benefit to a defined contribution plan. All benefitted non-certified staff are members of this state retirement plan. Last session, legislation ended in a study being conducted and we can expect additional legislation to be brought forward regarding the plan. The Fargo Education Association has contacted Robin regarding collaboration during the legislative session.</p> <p>Alternative Education Qualifying Age The current definition of alternative education is students who have reached age 16 and dropped out of school. Alternative high school education is funded with an additional .25 weighting factor in the formula. There are students younger than 16 who could benefit from alternative education, which could include self-paced courses or night classes.</p> <p>The North Dakota Council for Educational Leadership (NDCEL) has met with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) regarding this issue. NDDPI will take the lead and has established a task force that David Burkman, Principal at Dakota High School, is a member. It is anticipated the task force will seek to change the age as well as define the</p>	The Committee will continue to monitor proposed legislation.

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	<p>difference between an alternative high school and alternative education. The Governmental Affairs Committee will monitor and plan to support DPI's recommendation.</p> <p>Graduation Indicators/Requirements There is a long history of discussion on what is used for graduation rates and the indicators used to measure academic readiness. Dr. Gandhi suggested monitoring legislative changes as this conversation leads into Choice Readiness and may play into the standards for graduation requirements.</p> <p>Funding Formula Momentum continues at the state level to take a deeper dive into the current funding formula to adequately fund schools. There is a separate NDCEL focus group working on the funding formula; there is not a lot of information available at this point. Discussion occurred on virtual learning requirements and if the expectation is to provide the same services, both instructional and ancillary, to virtual students as in-person students and whether this would be sustainable financially.</p> <p>Other NDCC 15.1-06.19 Counselor positions – Requirement. Beginning with the 2023 school year, each school district must have one full-time equivalent school counselor for every three hundred students in grades kindergarten through six. Previously, school counselors were only required for grades seven through twelve. The District will be seeking additional school counselors and other positions that may be difficult to fill, including school psychologists and registered behavior technicians. Dr. Gandhi discussed steps the district is taking to try to fill these positions, which include a recruitment specialist as well as educators from overseas.</p> <p>The North Dakota constitution section 18 prohibits state entities from using public funds to provide gifts to individuals and others. The district will be reviewing this provision as it relates to providing employees food or other items.</p>	
ACT Requirements	<p>The North Dakota Board of Higher Education no longer requires a minimum ACT score to enter postsecondary education in the state; however, most high schools use the ACT as their assessment and will continue to require students to take the test their junior year. In addition, students seeking to apply for many North Dakota educational scholarships will need to take the ACT.</p>	
Next Meeting: TBD		