



Bulletin

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED SCHOOL BOARDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Goodbye, Old Friend

• Our final edition of the ASBSD Bulletin



This month marks the end of the ASBSD Bulletin. It's been an effective run for the Bulletin, but like all good things, it's come to an end.

In place of the Bulletin, beginning next year we'll move exclusively to the bi-weekly Blog Brief and monthly Policy Alert as our main points of communication and information distribution.

Over the years the Bulletin has served as the center of ASBSD's communication; so ingrained in the Association's DNA that it found its way into our internal policies as the main point of communication.

Like the rest of the world, we've expanded our presence online, which has resulted in the Blog Brief and Policy Alert outpacing the reach, and the need, of the Bulletin.

The discontinuation of the Bulletin doesn't mean less information, as it's usually just a recap of the past month's events already posted on our Blog, but rather one less email you'll receive from Tyler.

For those who prefer the print version of the Bulletin, we're planning to produce a PDF version of the Blog Brief, albeit with less frill than its monthly companion. We'll also be archiving past Bulletin's on our website on the Publications and Forms page.

If you or your fellow board members or administrators are not on our email distribution lists for the Blog Brief and Policy Alert, please contact Tyler at tpickner@asbsd.org and get added.

For now, enjoy the final version of the Bulletin and thanks for reading.



on the AGENDA

December

ASBSD LAN Training

December 13 - Mitchell

Election Workshops

December 10 - Rapid City

December 11 - Pierre

December 12 - Sioux Falls

January

ASBSD LAN Training

January 3 - Pierre

State of the State Address

January 13 - Pierre

Legislative Session begins

January 13 - Pierre

February

ASBSD Board of Directors meeting

February 16 - Pierre

ASBSD Legislative Day

February 17 - Pierre



Gov proposes two percent increase in school funding

South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard proposed a two percent increase to state aid for schools for next year during his budget address on today (12/2).

The increase equates to approximately \$96 more per-student, which would bring per-student allocation to approximately \$4877 for the 2015-16 school year. The potential increase to \$4,877 would eclipse the PSA's previous high point of \$4,805 in 2011, before schools took an 8.6 percent cut in funding.

The rate of inflation came in at 1.5 percent, which would have been the minimum increase to state funding required by state law.

"This is a good starting point for talking about state aid for schools," ASBSD Executive Director Wade Pogany said.

"There's a long legislative session still

to come. We hope in that time we can find a solution to the teacher shortage that's facing our schools and we know the more dollars for schools means a better chance to recruit and retain teachers."

Gov. Daugaard said to provide the two percent increase instead of 1.5 percent, changes will come to the funding of sparsity, assessment and technology payments for schools, which have previously been paid entirely by the state.

This year, however, the cost of the three funding areas will be shared with local property taxes similar to how the PSA is funded through the Cutler-Gabriel split of 52 percent state aid and 48 percent local taxpayer dollars.

Officials from the Governor's office have said the shift will save the state \$2.6 million for the 2015-16 school year

and will not affect the total amount that would have been paid to schools under the old system, but will account for the 0.5 percent increase to the PSA, from 1.5 to 2 percent, proposed by Gov. Daugaard.

State officials also noted property tax levies for general education will still go down this year even with the shift in the funding mechanism.

"We're going to study those potential changes carefully and see how it affects our schools," Pogany said. "Right now, we have a starting point for discussion and we're looking forward to having productive discussions with the Governor's office and our legislators."

ASBSD will continue to review the proposed changes and provide updates as they become available.

Delegates set legis. direction

Delegates from 81 school districts voted to set the legislative direction of ASBSD at last month's Delegate Assembly. The voting school board members approved 11 standing positions and 30 resolutions.

"As board members, you are here today because you are part of a powerful grassroots advocacy network that reaches our state policymakers and the constituents who have elected us to serve," ASBSD

President Denise Lutkemeier said during her State of the Association address.

"School boards are the backbone of our education system and we must and will continue to make our voices heard. Thank you for your commitment to ASBSD and to providing the best education for the youth of South Dakota."

Delegate Assembly was highlighted by spirited discussion on potential change to

the capital outlay levy, which could see its annual growth capped. Delegates approved a resolution (C9: Capital Outlay Compromise) that supports a potential compromise with elements that could contain benefits for school districts should levy growth be limited.

Delegates also approved legislative priorities for ASBSD, as well. The priori-

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DELEGATES

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ties include:

- A6 School Employee Compensation: ASBSD supports a long-term commitment with the legislature to enhance the ability to employ and retain quality personnel in public schools.
- C1 School Funding: ASBSD supports funding appropriated by the State that meets expectations es-

tablished in statute, administrative rule and accreditation standards.

- C5 Use of Capital Outlay Funds: ASBSD supports the provisions in law that allow school districts to use capital outlay funds to pay for some insurance, energy and transportation costs.
- C9 Capital Outlay Compromise: ASBSD supports an agreement on potential legislation that would freeze capital outlay levies at their 2014 level provided certain

provisions may be included in the legislation.

- C6 Other Revenue: ASBSD supports current state law that allows “other revenue” to be used exclusively by the school district in which the revenue is generated.

Everyone took a moment to honor former Executive Director Sam Tidball, who passed away a few days before the event.

“Sam was a wonderful and dedicated leader for ASBSD and education,” Lutke-meier said of Mr. Tidball.



Delegates debate Cap Outlay

The future of capital outlay generated a spirited discussion at last month’s ASBSD Delegate Assembly.

A majority of delegates from 81 member districts voted to approve a new resolution – C9 Capital Outlay Compromise – that supports a potential compromise with elements that could benefit school districts should levy growth be limited.

Members of ASBSD Board of Directors voted to endorse the resolution at their November meeting, as well.

The introduction of the resolution came after months of discussion between members of a work group formed by the

governor’s office consisting of legislators and representatives from various education groups, including ASBSD Executive Director Wade Pogany and First Vice President Eric Stroeder, on the growth of the capital outlay levy.

Furthering the need to clarify the stance of ASBSD on the capital outlay issue, members of the South Dakota Legislature’s Ag Land Task Force voted to support a proposed bill that would limit the growth of the capital outlay levy of a school district to 3 percent or the change in CPI-W, whichever is a greater.

The work group and proposed bill

passed by the Ag Land Task Force came to be amid claims of complaints by tax payers the Governor’s office and legislators were hearing.

“School Board members tell me they haven’t heard these concerns about capital outlay,” Pogany told Delegates during Assembly. Despite the lack of complaints to school boards on the matter, the potential cap on the capital outlay levy will move forward, said Pogany.

“We’re reacting to this today because we know the potential for legislation is real

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and it's present," Pogany said. "This resolution would give me direction on legislation with this (potential) compromise."

The resolution approved by delegates reads, as follows:

"ASBSD supports an agreement on potential legislation that would freeze capital outlay levies at their 2014 level provided the following provisions may be included in the legislation:

- An added, ongoing increase to the per-student allocation of \$72 per-student;
- Set the capital outlay levy base freeze at \$2 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation;
- Allow school districts wishing to

levy up to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation the option to hold public hearings to approve capital outlay certificates and not make the decision referable to a public vote;

- Allow school districts wishing to levy between \$2.50-\$3.00 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation the option to seek an opt-out through public vote;
- Allow school districts to utilize unused portions of levies below the spending cap;
- Repeal the capital outlay levy freeze in 2021;
- Permanently establish capital outlay flexibility at 25 percent in 2018 after its gradual reduction over a three-year period, beginning

in 2016."

Pogany told delegates that the negotiation process remains fluid and the points in the resolution are not guaranteed to be included in potential legislation, leaving the door open for opposition by ASBSD should a deal fail to be reached and the bill have damning results for school districts.

With the future of capital outlay still uncertain, it was the belief of the majority that it's best to stay at the negotiating table.

"We feel it's important, going forward, to work with our legislators to get (a) better (deal)," ASBSD President Denise Lutkemeier said.

ASBSD will continue to play an integral role in negotiations and provide updates on potential legislation as they become available.



ASBSD Board Meeting recap

Members of ASBSD's Board of Directors met over a two-day period prior last month's Delegate Assembly. Board members discussed a variety of topics with the potential change to the capital outlay levy and a proposed resolution related to a compromise on capital outlay change getting the lion's share of attention.

Executive Director Wade Pogany presented facets of a proposed compromise that spawned after months of discussion between members of a work group formed by the governor's office.

"None of these pieces are set in stone," Pogany said, noting that negotiations remain fluid, but direction was needed

on the matter as members of the South Dakota Legislature's Ag Land Task Force voted to support a vehicle bill that would limit the growth of the capital outlay levy.

The conversation from the Board of Directors surrounded the proposed ASBSD resolution that would set the legislative

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CAP OUTLAY

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direction for the Association on the matter.

The resolution reads as follows:

“ASBSD supports an agreement on potential legislation that would freeze capital outlay levies at their 2014 level provided the following provisions may be included in the legislation:

- An added, ongoing increase to the per-student allocation of \$72 per-student;
- Set the capital outlay levy base freeze at \$2 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation;
- Allow school districts wishing to levy up to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation the option to hold public hearings to approve capital outlay certificates and not make the decision referable to a public vote;
- Allow school districts wishing to levy between \$2.50-\$3.00 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation the option to seek an opt-out through public vote;
- Allow school districts to utilize unused portions of levies below the spending cap;
- Repeal the capital outlay levy freeze in 2021;
- Permanently establish capital

outlay flexibility at 25 percent in 2018 after its gradual reduction over a three-year period, beginning in 2016.”

“Local control is about to be taken away from us,” Orson Ward of the Lead-Deadwood School District said. “I don’t like losing local control, but the compromise is something (I) can live with.”

Sioux Falls School Board Member Todd Thielke said the proposal to cap the capital outlay levy would be damaging to the Sioux Falls School District and noted it punished districts who were being fiscally responsible.

“We’re being punished for being good stewards,” Thielke said. “We’re losing our (local) control.”

First Vice President Eric Stroeder, a member of the Governor’s work force, said the resolution provided ASBSD with “flexibility” in future negotiations during legislative session.

A majority of board members voted to support the resolution and present it to representatives from member districts during Delegate Assembly. The resolution was officially adopted by Delegates at Assembly.

You can read about Delegate Assembly here and about the discussion on capital outlay during Assembly here.

In other business, the board:

- Voted to support two pieces of leg-

islation ASBSD plans to introduce during the 2015 legislative session:

1. The first drafted legislation would clean up language in law (13-8-25) that fills board vacancies left in a variety of situations.
 2. The second drafted legislation would permit school boards to utilize market-based compensation practices to recruit and retain teachers.
 3. Additional information on each will be provided as session approaches. Drafts of each can be found on the ASBSD website.
- Voted to approve changes to ASBSD policies related to publications – removing the ASBSD Bulletin as the prime publication utilized by ASBSD – and brand identity – language cleanup permitting more internal use of the ASBSD brand. Versions of each can be found on the ASBSD website.
 - Received the annual audit report on the Association, which came back clean with no material weaknesses or deficiencies, according to the auditors.
 - Heard the financial report from Chief Financial Officer Bill Lynch. Lynch said ASBSD was in good financial standing.

Register for the 2015 teacher job fair

School Districts seeking highly qualified teacher and administrator candidates can find them at the 2015 South Dakota Teacher Job Fair.

The job fair, sponsored by the South Dakota Association of College Career Centers, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 24

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Sioux Falls at the Convention Center.

School districts can register for a place at the job fair at www.getgrads.com. The cost of registration is \$175 for in-state schools if completed by Feb. 3. After Feb. 3 the cost of registration for in-state

schools is \$200. Out-of-state registration cost is \$250.

If you have questions about the job fair and/or registration, please contact Emily Somsen at esomsen@asbsd.org or at 605-773-5611 or Donna Tucker at donna.tucker@usd.edu or at 605-677-5611.



LAN training events underway



The 2015 legislative session is two months away and we're preparing our member districts for session through the ASBSD Legislative Action Network (LAN).

The ASBSD Legislative Action Network is designed to activate designated members of local school boards to represent the legislative positions of the Association and their local board and communicate those positions to legislators that represent their district at the state level.

Every school board appoints a board member, or board members should they want more than one, as its ASBSD Legislative Action Network (LAN) representative(s) to attend to legislative issues. LAN members and ASBSD are the link between state legislators and their local school district.

Designated LAN members will periodically be contacted by ASBSD asking them to contact their legislator(s).

In order for school board members to influence legislation with grassroots advocacy, ASBSD needs LAN members to make a commitment to the following responsibilities:

- Legislative Action Network members maintain dialogue with state policy-makers.
- Legislative Action Network members keep informed about current education issues.
- Legislative Action Network members are willing to call or email their legislators within a short period of time after receiving the notice from ASBSD to advocate on behalf of their local board.
- Legislative Action Network members are willing and able to provide specific information to legislators from their local district perspective.

- Legislative Action Network members inform other board members of the relationship between state policy and public schools.

Communication has been made with your district requesting a board member be appointed as your ASBSD LAN representative.

After a positive reception last year, ASBSD will again conduct training sessions for LAN members to cover the role LAN plays in advocating, a familiarization of legislators, what to say to legislators and legislation expected to emerge in 2015.

The events are free to attend and scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Dates and locations include:

- Saturday, Dec. 13 in Mitchell
- Saturday, Jan. 3 in Pierre

"We need as many appointed LAN members as possible to attend the training events," ASBSD Executive Director Wade Pogany said.

"We'll equip those in attendance with the tools they'll need to advocate for education."

If you have questions about LAN or the training event, please contact Tyler Pickner attpickner@asbsd.org or at 605-773-8382 or 605-881-3791.

ASBSD School Board Handbook updated

ASBSD has updated and uploaded the 2014-15 edition of our School Board Handbook.

The handbook provides school board members with an introduction to serving on the school board as it delves into the public school system in South Dakota, school board governance, the roles and responsibilities

of school board members, a school district's leadership team, policy development, measuring student achievement, public relations, strategic planning, school finance, advocating for education, the role of ASBSD and quasi-regulatory organizations.

The handbook is available for download free of charge online – you can find it

here or on the Publications and Forms page under the "For Board Members" header on the ASBSD website.

For printed copies of the handbook, contact Leadership Development Director Randy Royer at rroyer@asbsd.org or at 605-773-2504.



2015 ASBSD Director elections

At last month's Delegate Assembly, ASBSD Executive Director Wade Pogany provided notice of elections for the Association's Board of Directors for 2015.

This year saw the implementation of a new timeline for ASBSD Board of Director elections, which was approved at the previous Delegate Assembly, with notification of open seats made in January, election in March and newly elected board members taking their seats in August at the annual ASBSD-SASD Convention.

For 2015, the same process will be followed and seats in the following regions

and enrollment categories can be sought by board members from districts in those areas:

- 700-1,399, Central
- 265 and under, Northeast
- 265 and under, Southeast
- 700-1,399, Western

If you want to know if your district falls into those categories, check the Regions and Enrollment categories page on the ASBSD website or contact Tyler at tpickner@asbsd.org or 605-773-8382.

Election information will be provided to districts in eligible categories in January.

In addition, there is one vacant seat on the Board of Directors that needs to be filled immediately. A representative is needed for the Western region's 265 and under enrollment category.

The seat will be appointed by ASBSD President Denise Lutkemeier. It will be up for election in 2016. If you are interested in joining the ASBSD Board of Directors and represent a district in the Western Region's 265 and Under category, please contact President Lutkemeier at denisel@tnics.com.

Election workshops begin

• Trainings on December 10, 11 & 12 around South Dakota

Three area election workshops are scheduled in December to assist election officers in conducting elections.

The Secretary of State's office, Associated School Boards of South Dakota and the South Dakota Municipal League will again co-sponsor workshops covering all aspects of elections - from notices to the final canvass - including question-and-answer sessions.

Municipal finance officers and school business managers have statutory responsibility to conduct elections in their local

jurisdictions. Properly conducted elections are an integral part of the democratic process. The many hours of diligent work on the part of the election officers enhances candidate and voter participation, and provides for accurate and consistent elections.

Election officers may choose to attend one of the following three election workshops:

- Rapid City at the Ramkota Hotel on Wednesday, Dec. 10th
- Pierre at the Ramkota Hotel on Thursday, Dec. 11th

- Sioux Falls at the Ramkota Hotel on Friday, Dec. 12th

The workshops will begin at 9:45 a.m. local time and conclude at approximately 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$25.00 per person and will cover coffee, workshop materials and lunch.

Please return this form (download here) and payment by Nov. 26, 2014 to the South Dakota Municipal League, 208 Island Drive, Fort Pierre, SD 5753. No refunds will be given after Nov. 26.



Potential retirees outpace potential teachers

The latest study released by the South Dakota School Administrators on the teacher shortage shared even more troubling news as the number of retiring teachers in the state exceeds the number of teacher education majors enrolled in South Dakota's higher education institutions.

SASD information from the South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS) and eight South Dakota colleges and universities shows the number of potential teacher retirees surpasses the number of potential new teachers by 278 in 2015, with approximately 427 fewer teaching candidates coming in 2016.

According to SDRS figures, 1,004 school district employees with a teaching certificate were eligible for retirement as of November 30, 2014.

Potential new teachers who would graduate from Augustana College, Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Dakota Wesleyan University,

Northern State University, South Dakota State University, University of Sioux Falls and University of South Dakota totaled 726 for 2015 and 577 for 2016.

"With this study we're seeing new and disturbing information," ASBSD Executive Director Wade Pogany said. "We have a lot of teachers who are ready to retire and we don't have a new group of college graduates to replenish the teacher pool."

Three reports released throughout the year have stressed a shrinking and inadequate teacher pool, which was mainly due to low teacher salaries.

The low salary numbers is a big reason for low student interest in education programs at the university level, said USD President Jim Abbott.

"Students are well aware South Dakota teacher salaries are low," President Abbott said. "As a result, they often choose another field of study, or upon graduation, seek teaching jobs in other states."

SASD, Associated School Boards of South Dakota and the S.D. United School Association introduced a proposal that would increase the state's sales tax by a penny from June-August and raise approximately \$40 million annually to be dedicated specifically to increasing teacher salaries.

A recent Argus Leader/Keloland poll revealed 63 percent of people polled would support the proposal.

"We want to ask the question of South Dakotans: would you be willing to pay one penny more for three months out of the year to improve teacher pay in the state," Pogany said.

"The proposal is a conversation starter for a solution because without one we're going to lose teachers at a rapid rate and ultimately diminish the quality of education we offer our students."

New program offers national certification

By Bill Lynch

A Professional Goal of mine has been achieved with the establishment of the SFO program by Associated School Business Officials International. SFO stands for the Certification in Administration of School Finance and Operations. I was fortunate and take a lot of pride in being one of the first members of the Commission

that established this long overdue program.

SFO Certification demonstrates fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency with high standards and ethics of the professional School Business Manager.

A school business manager can now document that they are more than a "Bean Counter" – which will instill a stakeholder's confidence in their school system. The

SFO Certification recognizes the experience and expertise school business managers utilize every day in performing their job.

Economic challenges continue to impact our schools and force difficult choices upon us. In complex financial situations, it is important to demonstrate to your

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CERTIFICATION

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community that the school's finances are managed by a knowledgeable and ethical business manager.

Here are just a few reasons to obtain the SFO designation:

- Demonstrate initiative, professionalism, and dedication to school business management.
- Measure knowledge and skills against the professional standard.
- Continues professional development through the SFO recertification requirements.
- Recognition for professional accomplishments.
- Instill stakeholders' confidence in your school system.

Three South Dakota school business managers passed the required examines, which measure knowledge and skills against a National Professional Standard, and can proudly add the distinction of being a National Certified SFO to all reports and correspondence.

I am confident in saying there are many more South Dakota school business managers who would pass the certification examines and would love to see the other 148 business managers take the examines.

I encourage school boards to be proactive in promoting this program so your district's business manager, as well as the district, can get the national recognition they deserve.

You can learn more about the certification program by visiting asbointl.org and clicking the Learning and Career Develop-



ment link. Become the next South Dakota SFO.

I am coming close to the end of my professional career as a business manager and I am proud to have been a part of establishing this measure of excellence in school finance and operations (SFO) so school business managers can be recognized for their skills and knowledge in school Business Management.

News from the National Association



By Neil Putnam, Mitchell School Board Member & NSBA Western Region Director.

I really appreciate ASBSD providing me the opportunity to share news from the National School Board Association in the ASBSD Bulletin.

ASBSD will be enhancing communication in various other venues, so I will continue to provide updates on NSBA activities and ASBSD may share my reports by other means. You are welcome to contact me

about federal issues of particular concern, so that I may share with others on the national scene how various legislation, litigation, and policies are affecting South Dakota's schools.

I am excited to report that ASBSD President Denise Lutkemeier and I will be serving on the NSBA Policy and Resolutions Committee, which will provide recommendations to the NSBA Delegate Assembly that will convene this spring.

This is a great opportunity for board members from other states to hear from South Dakota.

The approved resolutions will provide the NSBA leadership team guidance in advocating for school boards in Washington, DC and state capitols.

The NSBA Advocacy team is preparing for the new Congress and fully expects legislation such as ESEA Reauthorization,

School Nutrition, Impact Aid, and Title Funding to remain to be important issues for school boards.

NSBA staff is also working with the Administration, in particular with the Departments of Education, Justice and Agriculture. The NSBA legal team is very involved in assisting state associations with litigation and administrative policies.

NSBA is also partnering with state associations to update professional development tools and sharing programs that help districts with their finances, such as P-Cards and Buy Board. You can browse the NSBA website (www.nsba.org) for additional information.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you on the NSBA Board of Directors. I wish you the very best for a joyous holiday season.