



Board of Education Column

By Dr. Tracie Newman, Fargo Board of Education President

Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year

Hello, FPS families!

As president of the Fargo Board of Education, it is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning students, families, and staff to the 2022-23 school year. The start of a new academic year offers the opportunity to reflect both on our past successes and shortcomings as an institution as we unite around our District mission of: *Educating and empowering all students to succeed.*

I appreciate everyone who continues to support Fargo Public Schools' vision which centers on a commitment to excellence through student-centered learning. This is supported by positive collaborations with our families and the community at large. I love living in Fargo and believe, now more than ever, that the values of its citizens are reflected in the District's mission of providing equitable opportunities to ensure a quality education to each and every student. We strive to meet every student where they are intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

By working together with tenacity and creative solutions, we were able to overcome many challenges presented during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the past school year, our district met significant goals by safely returning students to in-person learning while promoting student growth and achievement. We successfully opened the Explorer Academy which is the only entity in the state to provide level D services to students, including integrated project-based STEAM and gross motor program opportunities. Our district and Board worked collaboratively with community Native American partners to adapt a Land Acknowledgement Statement, further signifying our welcoming and inclusive environment in a culturally diverse society. We also provided students with internship opportunities within the city to enable unique exposures and diverse experiences to better allow them to explore different career pathways.

As we look to the year ahead, FPS administration will present an updated strategic plan and long-range facility plan to the Board of Education in coming weeks and months. As always, the School Board looks forward to helping guide district plans for the future. Our district budget was preliminarily approved in June and will obtain final approval in September. We must also strive to acknowledge the continuation of work to address learning loss suffered during the pandemic that school districts across the country and world are experiencing.



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I have the utmost gratitude for the preparation, hard work, and dedication of our staff as we enter the upcoming school year. Their efforts help ensure that an education from Fargo Public Schools provides students with a broad knowledge base by engaging in standards-based curriculum while also having a vast array of co-curricular opportunities to better shape their experience and prepare them for an ever-changing world. Real learning means paying attention and staying curious. This type of education allows us to believe in ourselves and persevere.

Happy 2022-23 school year!

