



## *Board of Education Column*

*By Robin Nelson, Board of Education*

### **Governmental Affairs Committee Update: Advocating for Our School District's Future**

As the chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee, I am honored to share the work we do to advocate for the interests of our school district, guided by [Governance Policy 7](#). Our role includes tracking federal, state, and city legislation that impact our schools; keeping the full board informed of relevant issues; advising on communication and testimony timing and content to reach decision-makers effectively; and reviewing community interagency relationships.

This year, the 2024-2025 Governmental Affairs Committee is focused on preparing for the 69th North Dakota Legislative Session. Committee members Katie Christensen Mineer, Nyamal Dei, Kristin Nelson, Allie Ollenburger, and I will work closely with the superintendent's team, who serve as an essential resource.

We've scheduled a legislative information session for November to meet with officials serving our district. During this session, we'll share our legislative priority document, discuss issues affecting public education and our school district, and offer our support as a resource for legislators.

Once the session begins, we will closely monitor bills related to K-12 education, regularly updating legislators on how proposed legislation could impact our district, students, and community. Our committee will testify on selected bills, either virtually or in person, to ensure our district's voice is heard. The fast pace of the session necessitates the Board of Education to grant our committee the authority to take positions between regular board meetings, allowing us to act quickly when necessary.

In late February, as we approach the session break, committee members plan to travel to Bismarck to provide direct feedback on surviving bills, many of which will have undergone multiple revisions by then. The pace only intensifies after the break, making it critical for us to remain vigilant and responsive.

Throughout the session, committee members will provide regular updates during Board meetings, keeping the community informed of our advocacy work and the progress of key legislative issues.

