



Board of Education Column

By Melissa Burkland, Board of Education Negotiations Committee Chair

Negotiations Committee Update

Although the Fargo Board of Education Negotiations Committee has not yet formally begun negotiations, our committee has been meeting and has been busy at work preparing for the 2025-2027 negotiations season.

We began the school year as a committee by reading over all of the important statutes and policies that will guide us through the process. We also familiarized ourselves with the current contract so we could understand the document we are operating under. Most importantly, we set goals individually about how we wanted negotiations and our committee work to proceed during this upcoming season.

We each had important goals we wanted to achieve for ourselves, such as being on time, running meetings efficiently, seeking to fully understand each of the issues before us, and bringing strong listening skills to the table. Personally, as the Chair, I hope to set a positive, empathetic, diligent, and intentional tone for our work and the committee. However, what was most encouraging to me was that each-and-every person involved in the committee expressed, in one form or another, that they desired to keep the focus on the students and try to make agreements and decisions that would positively impact our mission of educating and empowering all students to succeed.

As I write this, the Board is still awaiting a petition from a negotiating unit, although we expect that this will happen soon. Once we are petitioned, we will begin the important process of working with our classroom teachers to negotiate a contract for the upcoming academic year.

