



Board of Education Column

By Katie Christensen Mineer, Fargo Board of Education President

National School Boards Association Conference

In early April, our School Board had the opportunity to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, to attend the National School Boards Association's annual conference. This experience allowed us to deepen our shared commitment to public education and strengthen our advocacy for policies that support all students. It was also a valuable time to connect with one another and grow as a team dedicated to serving our community.

As a group, we attended "Ready, Set, Govern," on the first morning, where we were reminded that Fargo Public Schools has a strong framework in place for effective governance. This session was valuable for both new and veteran Board members, covering essential topics like policy, meeting management, ethics, and community engagement. It was especially beneficial to attend as a group and recognize the areas where we are already succeeding while reinforcing the foundational practices that make us strong.

Another key takeaway came from sessions focused on welcoming and supporting our new Superintendent. We learned best practices for a successful leadership transition, including the importance of teamwork, transparency, checking egos at the door, and maintaining a student-centered focus. As a Board, showing up, checking in, and providing consistent support will be critical to ensure a smooth transition. We are excited that our process is already off to a strong start as we look forward to welcoming Dr. Cory Steiner on July 1.

We also found the session "It's Complicated: Meeting K-12 Infrastructure Needs" to be especially relevant, as it validated our efforts through the Long-Range Facilities Plan. It reinforced the importance of timing, community engagement, and clear communication as we move forward, and it highlighted how our planning efforts will continue to expand opportunities for our students.

In addition to these key sessions, we explored many other important topics, including managing cellphones in schools, revolutionizing attendance through equitable practices, maintaining strong family connections, and leaning into restorative practices to end inequitable disciplinary policies.

The conference was a valuable opportunity to learn, reflect, and grow together as a Board, and we are energized to bring these insights back to our work in Fargo Public Schools.

