



Board of Education Column

By Melissa Burkland, Board of Education Negotiations Committee Chair

Negotiations Committee Update

As I write this, the Fargo Board of Education and the Fargo Education Association do not yet have a negotiated agreement, but we are well underway with the 2025-27 negotiations season.

The Fargo Education Association and the Board have been hard at work negotiating since April 2, and we have gotten through many topics. The Board proposed changes regarding the teacher workday, compensation, counselors, leave, notifications of teaching assignments and vacancies, and various editorial changes. Our goal for each of these is to align our resources to our students the best we can, while recognizing the outstanding work of our teachers and staff. This year presented new challenges as we face inadequate funding and future restrictions on our ability to obtain necessary resources.

Despite these challenges, I am proud to say that we have or are very close to having agreements on many of the topics we have exchanged. We begin each session with a gratitude share where the Board and the FEA share one (or often more) thing they are grateful for. Furthermore, I consider it an even greater win that we have reached these agreements collaboratively; we work hard, listen attentively, laugh together, and the FEA leadership has been a joy to work with. I am confident we will be finished or very near to finished by the end of this school year with a negotiated agreement that serves our teachers and students well.

