



## *Board of Education Column*

*By Katie Christensen Mineer, Fargo Board of Education President*

### **The First Week of School is a Special Time**

The first week of school is always something special. More than 11,000 students across our district are back in classrooms, getting used to earlier mornings, settling into new routines, and reconnecting with friends. And more than 2,000 educators have stepped away from summer rhythms and are already creating the welcoming, inspiring spaces that make our schools come alive.

For the Fargo Board of Education, this week also marks a fresh start. We're envisioning our future alongside new Superintendent Dr. Cory Steiner and moving forward with plans for safe, accessible, and well-equipped facilities. A new year, a new leader, and new opportunities.

And of course, one of those new opportunities is our updated cell phone policy. By now, you've probably seen a mix of reactions, from relief to uncertainty. But as with every change, we'll figure it out together. There will be adjustments, but in time we'll be stronger, more focused, and more connected.

The reminders of why our work matters are everywhere. Students at Washington proudly answer to "Superstars," thanks to Ms. Schoitz. Math teachers are already planning how to make Pi Day unforgettable. Mock Trials, Virtual Academy field trips, and countless other experiences are sparking excitement and discovery.

I've seen your dedication firsthand. Nutrition teams serving hundreds of lunches while still greeting kids by name. Our Adult Learning Center welcomed learners ages 6 weeks to 72, opening new doors for more than 1,300 people last year. Custodians who believe so deeply in public education that every step they take is about creating safe and welcoming spaces.

These stories and connections are what make us stronger together. Public education opens doors, brings people together, and shapes the future.

Thank you for being the heart of Fargo Public Schools. May this year bring sharp pencils, strong coffee, quick Fridays, and, as Explorer Academy reminds us, may you go forth and be merry.

