

Board of Education Member Profile

Robin Nelson

Name: Robin Nelson
Board Member Since: 2003-2016 and 2018
Family: Husband - Russell Peterson, three children, two grandchildren
Occupation: Early Childhood Education and Youth Development

1. **Tell us a little bit about yourself and your background.**
   I was raised in Fargo Public Schools, and both my children and grandchildren have followed that same path. Seeing my grandchildren learn and grow under the guidance of our outstanding educators reinforces my deep appreciation for the important role our public schools play in our community. Professionally, I serve as the CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley, a nonprofit organization that provides high-quality out-of-school programming and support for approximately 1,350 youth ages 5–17 on an annual basis.

2. **What was the reason you ran for a Board position?**
   I have dedicated my life to helping children succeed—through my family, my career, and my volunteer service. When an unexpected vacancy occurred following the tragic loss of a Board member, I felt called to step forward and serve. After being appointed to fill that position, I was honored to have been elected to six terms on the Board.

3. **"What do you see as big challenges for the District going forward? Challenges for K-12 education in North Dakota?"**
   The biggest challenge facing our District is ensuring that every student receives the high-quality education, opportunities, and support they need to succeed in the path they choose after high school, while operating within limited resources.

   Across North Dakota, K–12 education is facing several significant challenges, including recently enacted property tax caps, teacher recruitment and retention, ongoing special education funding shortfalls, and legislation that has created divisions around educational issues. At the same time, public schools depend on strong community support to thrive, yet they are increasingly navigating a national climate in which public education is often the subject of criticism and political debate.

4. **Something you're proud of as a representative of the Fargo Public Schools:**
   I am proud of the dedication FPS educators show towards their students' success. Additionally, I am proud to be part of a community that recognizes and values the vital role a strong public education system plays in our society, democracy, and economy.