Hello fellow elementary principals! Welcome to the start of the 2019-20 school year! I hope all of you had a great summer, and are ready to roll. My name is Jeremy Mehlhoff, and I am the principal at Bakken Elementary School in Williston, ND. It is my honor to serve all of you as the NDAESP President. I have been a principal since 2008, and to say that I have learned a lot over the past 12 school years would be an understatement.

As a classroom teacher, it was always easy to imagine what life would be like as a principal. Many of you probably remember thinking to yourself at one time or another that if your current boss could be a principal, anyone can be! And then you step into the roll and realize that maybe there is more to it than you thought. I remember my first week of sitting in the principal's office as an assistant and having people come and ask me questions I had no idea about. I quickly realized I had a lot to learn.

As administrators, we want our teachers to be lifelong learners. As administrators, we need to set the example of what that means. My early years as a principal were spent in my office and at school. I never found time to take advantage of conferences or regional meetings because if I left my building it would fall apart (at least that is what I told myself). Then one year I decided to attend the mid-winter conference, and that one conference changed me for the better. Having the opportunity to spend three days with other elementary principals was amazing! I had the opportunity to network with principals from around the state! It opened my eyes to resource I had no idea existed.

Shortly after that first mid-winter, I was approached with the idea of serving as our Region 1 representative on the NDAESP board. I had no idea what I was signing up for, but again, I took a chance. Little did I know when I said yes to becoming the region rep, that I would set myself on a course that would bring me to where I am now... serving as president of our great association! I have the opportunity to serve my friends from all across ND! None of this would have been possible if I didn't take time for myself to get involved.

As president, my message to you this year is to take care of yourself, get involved, and continue to be a lifelong learner! We all have stress in our lives, and we need to trust that our staffs can handle things without us. In ND, so many of our elementary principals are on their own, with no one to network with in their own district. It is so important to be able to know where you can turn if you need help. Our
association is that place. NDAESP can be the source to align you with principals in your area, to provide you with numerous opportunities to network with others, and to provide you with friends and colleagues for life! Take time for yourself, become involved in your association and find the pieces the you didn’t know were missing.

Have a great school year!
Jeremy Mehlhoff

2019 NAESP Summer Conference... Spokane, WA

Quick highlights from the conference:

- **A Challenging Tradition**: Razia Jan has made it her life's mission to improve the lives of women and children in Afghanistan.
- **A Unity of Purpose and Action**: Michael Fullan explains why and how educators should set up students to do well in school and in life.
- **A Way With Words**: Poet Kwame Alexander told five beautifully intertwined stories that resulted in a major takeaway: Words can change the world.
- **Networking Takeaways**
- **A Professional Community Like No Other**

**Kwame Alexander and Chris Bastian**

Kwame Alexander has wrote an awesome book called [*The Crossover*](#)… Check it out!

**Razia Jan**

An inspiration story of the rise of the educated female in Afghanistan.

**The North Dakota Crew**
On June 19 the U.S. House passed legislation that would significantly increase funding for key federal education programs (see graphic below). The bill would provide a critical boost in funding to schools across the country helping to ensure adequate resources to boost student learning, create safe and welcoming learning environments for all students, and support principal and teacher professional development. Importantly, the bill provides $2.6 billion—a $500 million increase—for Title II, Part A, the only federal funding source dedicated to the preparation, training, and support of teachers and principals, including professional development opportunities. The bill increases funding for other vital programs as well, including Title IV, Part A, which provides schools with resources to increase access for in-school mental health services. Additionally, the measure includes $260 million for a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Initiative to support SEL and the whole student. NAESP has called on the U.S. Senate to adopt the education funding levels included in the House-passed bill.

The Higher Education Act (HEA)—last authorized in 2008—remains a top legislative priority for NAESP this congress. NAESP and other K-12 groups have endorsed the PREP Act, introduced in March by Senators Kaine and Collins, which strengthens educator recruitment, preparation, and retention. The bill also includes provisions focused on minority recruitment, “grow-your-own” initiatives, and provisions to address teacher shortages. Most importantly, the PREP Act includes measures to boost clinical-oriented preparation and residency models that are critical to preparing principals to be better meet the day-to-day challenges in schools. Earlier this spring, HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander indicated his goal was to release a bipartisan bill before Memorial Day. So far, the Chairman and Ranking Member Murray have yet to reach consensus on a bill, but hope remains that proposed legislation will be released before August recess to allow sufficient time this fall for committee hearings.

NAESP recently weighed in on a proposal from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which would limit the amount of funding that the E-Rate program could make available for schools and libraries to improve internet access. The E-Rate program provides discounts for telecommunications, Internet access and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries making internet access more affordable. The FCC’s latest proposal could severely limit funding levels for schools and libraries. NAESP joined a coalition in calling for an extension on the filing deadline to allow ample time for advocates to weigh in on this proposal. NAESP will remain actively engaged in this issue in the coming months to ensure funding for E-Rate remains robust.

On June 27 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Trump Administration could not add a citizenship question to the 2020
Census. NAESP joined an amicus brief with other national education groups opposing the addition of the citizenship question—a move that could have a far-reaching and impact on schools. It is critical that the 2020 Census provides an accurate portrait of the population, considering the results determine how more than $675 billion in federal funding, including for education programs like Title I and school safety, is distributed to states and communities. An undercount would mean a decrease in federal funds to certain communities. NAESP will continue to advocate for an accurate U.S. Census that ensures a fair allocation of federal funding for education programs.

Finally, on March 26, a group of bipartisan Senators and members introduced an IDEA full-funding bill. The legislation would ensure Congress’ commitment to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at 40% of average per pupil expenditure.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns related to what NAESP is doing at the federal level to advocate for us.

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(701) 746-2440

ndcel.org/Domain/88

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership!

The 2019-20 Membership Form can be found at:
https://ndcel.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=2019915#

2019-20 Dues are:
-NDCEL... $420.00
-NDAESP... $125.00
-NAESP... $235.00
State Representative Report... John Alstad, Miller Elementary in Bismarck

Be the Light! That is the theme for my school year. To me, being the light means making a concerted effort to shine my light, or to make the days of the students and staff around me. Doing this takes energy and can drain my batteries. How do you recharge, so you are able to take care of others? My associations and spending time with peers are a big part of my recharge routine!

Your three professional associations NDCEL, NDAESP, and NAESP offer you so many resources, tools, and opportunities to connect with peers! These things can make your job even more meaningful and recharge your batteries at the same time. Here are a few to consider:

- The fall NDCEL conference has great learning opportunities with built-in networking opportunities. [www.ndcel.us](http://www.ndcel.us)
- Need newsletter ideas or want to start a student council or elementary national honor society? Check out the “Resource Center” on the NAESP website. There are full Principal magazine articles, blogs, links, webinars, best-practices lists, and information on about any topic in which you could be interested! [www.naesp.org](http://www.naesp.org)
- The Center for Innovative Leadership is new to NAESP last year and has archived video webinars with my good friends Hamish Brewer and Andy Jacks. [https://www.naesp.org/center-innovative-leadership](https://www.naesp.org/center-innovative-leadership)


Field Trips... Feeling too rural? Travel virtually!

Feeling land locked? Is your school located in a isolated area? Are field trips hard to do because all the "cool" places are miles and miles away? One solution is closer than you think!

FaceTime! The power of technology is awesome! Last March, I connected with my elementary school while I was in Washington DC for the NAESP State Leaders Conference. I called them via FaceTime from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial! Our technology coordinator mirrored his iPhone to the classroom Promethean board. The video was super clear and the audio was not delayed. I walked around the Lincoln Memorial and pretended to be a tour guide. I studied up on cool trivia tidbits to add...
to the presentation. I will definitely do this again! The kids loved it! This activity could be extended to families who take during the school year vacations... require the student to call in and report from their destination!

State Editor Report... Chris Bastian, Lidgerwood Elementary

I am trying out a new newsletter format called Smore. It is an online newsletter that allows me to add a variety of multimedia components... pictures, audio, video, web links, etc. I am hoping that it will allow me to communicate with all of you better. Please let me know what you think! For more information about Smore: https://www.smore.com

Don't forget to sign up for the NDCEL Fall Conference! The conference will be held in Bismarck on October 16-18 at the Ramkota Hotel. To register, go to: https://www.ndcel.us

The North Dakota Forest Service is giving away free Smokey the Bear dolls to Grade 2 students... Orders for your school must be placed by September 20th, 2019 via email. You will receive the Smokey Bear items to distribute by Fire Prevention Week, which is October 6th-12th.

2019 Free Smokey Bear Fire Prevention Materials Order Form Please either send this information as a reply or fill in the information below and email to aubrey.davis@ndsu.edu

Our school has _________ (number) of second graders.

Teacher's Name(s): ________________________________________________________________

School: ______________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________
Return this form ASAP or before September 20, 2019 to aubrey.davis@ndsu.edu. If you have questions, please email Aubrey or call (701) 328-9941.

*Please be sure to submit your school's news stories! I would love to highlight your neat project ideas! Email your information and pictures to chris.bastian@k12.nd.us