2018-2019 NDAESP Vice-President Candidates

Jon Dryburgh, Hillsboro
My name is Jon Dryburgh. I grew up in Fordville, ND. My dad was the principal there for many years. My wife, Jennifer and I have been married for 25 years. We have 6 children, 4 boys, 2 girls. My oldest son graduated from NDSU last May and is currently seeking a job in theater in Chicago. My second oldest got married this past June. She and her husband live in Fargo. The next two children are attending The Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Plymouth, MN. I still have two boys at home. I serve two churches in Drayton, ND as a lay pastor.

I received my undergraduate degree from Valley City State University in May of 1996. My first teaching job was teaching Spanish to elementary students in Grand Forks for 5 years. I then taught 5th grade at Lewis and Clark in Grand Forks for two years. I then taught 6th grade in Grafton for ten years. Towards the end of my time in Grafton I started working on my Masters in Education at the University of North Dakota. I got my first principal job in Hillsboro in the fall of 2013 and am now in my 6th year at Hillsboro Elementary.

I enjoy NDAESP conferences and the conversations we get to have about what is going well at our schools and what we need to work on. If elected to be Vice President, I would like to see NDAESP work to get more principals involved. We are all busy, but we also all have needs and problems that we are constantly working on. How can we use our organization to get better at helping each other?

Jennifer Sundby, Maddock
My name is Jennifer Sundby. I have been in the education field since 2002. I am in my third year as preK-12 principal at Maddock Public School.

I have five amazing children from the ages of one to fourteen. I am married to Myles who is a North Dakota State Trooper. Due to my husband's career, I have had the opportunity to work in many school districts and with many organizations.

I have gained so much knowledge of the workings and differences between class A and class B schools as well as large classroom sizes to extremely small classrooms. I have taught out in the middle of oil country during the boom and I have taught near a reservation where we had a 99% reduced lunch rate and 99% Native American population. I have also taught in areas with huge success academically. I served as principal during the protests of the pipeline and watched it affect many and most definitely my own as my husband worked out west as a North Dakota State Trooper.

All of these unique situations have provided me with knowledge and experiences that are very humbling. I have seen all areas struggle and have needs no matter their situations. I would love to advocate for these successes and difficulties. I would love to grow in my profession and continue to learn how to advocate for our colleagues as well as our children. It would be an amazing honor to serve as the vice present of the NDAESP.

Dan Girard, Ellendale
Hello, my name is Dan Girard and I’m currently the elementary principal at Ellendale Elementary School and Maple River Elementary School. I also coach elementary boys’ basketball (EPS), run the Little Cards Basketball Program (K-6), an assistant high school track coach (EPS), officiate high school basketball & football, serve on the ND State MTSS Board, serve on the Dickey Rural Network (DRN) Board, and serve on the NDAESP Board (Region 6). This is currently my 5th year as an administrator for Ellendale Public School.
My wife (Gretchen) and I, along with our two boys (Gannon & Micah), currently reside in Ellendale. Gretchen is an RN at the Avera Clinic here in Ellendale, Gannon is a 7th grade student at the junior high, and Micah is a 3rd grader. We have enjoyed the small-town life and have found Ellendale to be our home.

I aspire to serve as NDAESP Vice-President to continue the tradition in assisting current and aspiring elementary principals in North Dakota. The job description of an elementary educational leader continues to evolve, the hats we wear are only accumulating…and balance is difficult. There is no golden ticket to overcoming these challenges, and my focus continues to be coaching and skill building practices with fellow administrators to help better serve their schools, districts, communities, and most importantly…our clients (children).