NDP 2016 Shari Bilden- Northwood

The culture in the 2016 NDP’s school is championed by a leader who has built an atmosphere of a caring family. In fact, family is term that most of staff use to describe their school. This principal expects all staff members to respect each other and models it by how this leader treats all stakeholders of the school community. Staff input related to both professional and personal concerns are welcomed by this principal and collaborative leadership prevails at this school. This principal is always looking to improve curriculum but doesn’t rush or push to make changes until supportive research is available to guide the staff to implement programming with fidelity. Providing professional development, time, resources, and coaching for growth, this principal guides teachers to flourish and they value and respect this style of leadership. This principal builds solid relationships with students, parents, staff, community members, and board members by establishing open and positive communication skills. Respect and trust defines this leader. This principal is counted on by the school district to move district wide initiatives forward due to an impeccable work ethic and organizational skills. No Child Left Behind and AYP has always been a focus for this principal and this has paid dividends as they have made AYP for 12 consecutive years. Teacher evaluation leading to effective instructional strategies are a focal point for this leader. Initiatives such as student portfolios, project based learning, a Career and Technology Education curriculum, a multi-tiered MTSS process have all had a positive impact on student outcomes. Another example of this leader’s commitment to student success has been the implementation of student led Parent Teacher Conferences. This principal is highly engaged with the students. This visibility is a natural expression of interest and concern. This leader has earned the respect of the students by being fair, firm, and friendly. A common statement by this principal is, “let’s figure out what is good for kids and get it done.” Respect for this leader has been earned by establishing vision, involving others, taking risks, admitting to mistakes, being inspirational, and a subtle sense of fun humor. A staff member was quoted as saying, “This principal has never forgotten what it is like to be a teacher.”
NDAESP Regional Principal of the Year Recipients
Jeremy Mehlhoff (Williston) Shari Bilden (Northwood)

NDAESP Golden Apple Award Recipients
Jeff Holm, Beth Slette (West-Fargo) Joy Walker (Minot)
NDAESP Service to Children Award Recipients
Lyn Hendry (Hettinger) – Ione Sautner (Minot)

NDAESP Service to Children Award Recipients
Bobby Olson (Fargo) Dr. Shawn Oban (Bismack) Angie Cancade (Ray) Dr. Paula Henry (West-Fargo) Michele Svihovec (Bismarck) Tabatha Joyce (West-Fargo) Kristi Toy (West-Fargo)
Stacy Murschel - NDAESP President
Beulah Middle School – Beulah, ND

Spring is in the air or at least the students in my building are acting like it! I imagine students across the state are beginning to show signs of spring fever. I even heard a support staff member announce this week that there are only 61 days left of school! That was certainly an eye-opener for me as I realized that the school year is flying by way too fast and I have a lot left to accomplish. As with the rest of you, trying to finish final evaluations by the March 15th deadline and beginning to work on schedules and staffing for next year are filling up my days. The fun never ends!

I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone involved with putting together an excellent Mid-Winter Conference. The work put forth by the Region 6 principals, along with Aimee and her staff was greatly appreciated and did not go unnoticed. You all are to be commended for your efforts as high quality professional development took place and with a whole lot of fun was had by all! The Mid-Winter Conference has always been one of my favorites and this year lived up to those high expectations.

Congratulations to all of the award winners who were recognized in Bismarck last month. NDAESP has a whole lot of high quality principals as its members and this was certainly evident at the awards banquet. Hearing about the awesome things going on in schools across the state was very cool. Special congratulations to Shari Bilden, our National Distinguished Principal! Way to go, Shari!

On March 12th I will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Leaders Conference with several colleagues from the NDAESP Executive Board. What an exciting time in education to be taking part in such an event! With the passage of the ESSA, I am looking forward to learning as much as possible regarding the future of education in our country. We have scheduled meetings with our congressional leaders during our time in Washington, which will be a new experience for me. I am excited to be able have a voice for the students of North Dakota with our national leaders.

Enjoy the warmer temperatures and the fresh spring air as we continue to go about our business of making a difference in the lives of children. I cannot think of a better job! As the days become more and more hectic, don’t forget to be thankful for the opportunity to have one of the greatest careers in the world! Happy Spring!
Happy Spring!?
It sure feels like winter is over, and with this nice weather can come all sorts of new challenges. Add in evaluation crunch time, and you have a stressful mix. Well, NAESP can help!

Need confidential advice on a sticky situation? NAESP has you covered! Veteran administrators who are nationally certified mentors are online waiting to assist you. [https://www.naesp.org/principals-help-line](https://www.naesp.org/principals-help-line)

Need newsletter ideas? NAESP has you covered! Along with monthly editions to print out and send home, there are “jump to” topics like: behavior, health, special needs, learning habits, coping with stress, articles that address all curricular areas, and much more! [http://www.naesp.org/report-parents-archive](http://www.naesp.org/report-parents-archive)

Did you know?
North Dakota is in “Zone 7” of the nine NAESP zones that divide our nation? Eight states make up our zone (see below). We are extremely fortunate to have our very own Dave Steckler of Mandan, ND as our Zone 7 Director. He does a wonderful job representing all of the states in his zone, but it is nice to have someone from North Dakota speaking for us all.

We have the chance to extend our Zone 7 influence in the upcoming election for NAESP Vice President. Dave Wick, from Montana is running for this post! Please make the most of our “one member/one vote” privilege! Voting opens March 16th and runs through the 29th.

To vote, simply log in to the NAESP website and click into the voting link. Forgot your log in? It is a 1 minute process to reset it!

Dave N. Wick
Principal
Columbia Falls
Junior High
Columbia Falls, Montana
NAESP ZONE MAP

Zone 1
Connecticut
Delaware
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

Zone 2
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania

Zone 3
District of Columbia
Maryland
Ohio
Virginia
West Virginia

Zone 4
Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

Zone 5
Illinois
Indiana
Kentucky

Zone 6
Iowa
Michigan
Wisconsin

Zone 7
Alaska
Colorado
Minnesota
Montana
Nebraska
North Dakota
South Dakota
Wyoming

Zone 8
Arkansas
Kansas
Louisiana
Missouri
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

Zone 9
Arizona
California
Hawaii
Idaho
Nevada
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Guam
American Samoa

International
(not affiliated with any zone)
Lynn Wolf – NDAESP Federal Relations Coordinator
Sunrise Elementary – Bismarck, ND

At the last NDAESP Board meeting, Aimee Copas announced the NDCEL office would be moving to a new location and there were some boxes with old NDAESP materials in them that would not be moved to the new office. She asked if one of the board members would like to take a look at the boxes. Being a bit of a history buff and not wanting to lose some of the history of the organization, I volunteered to take a look at what had been gathering dust.

Since my bout with a torn Achilles' tendon, I hadn't ventured out to the garage where I'd put the boxes until last week. What a treasure trove! There was information about our organization going back into the 1960s - yes, I know some of you weren't born yet!

At one time the organization had a historian that kept up a scrapbook - Bea Weigum from Beulah (or was it Hazen?) had that position for many years. There are actually several scrapbooks she put together in the collection of materials. Also included in the boxes were several years of the NDAESP Bulletin - the newsletter NDAESP published prior to changing the name to The Voice. I've only gotten through a couple of years, but it is certainly interesting and has been a walk down memory lane. I remember a good number of the our colleagues from around the state that are mentioned in the newsletters. Many of them, of course have long since retired. I even found a photo of our most recent Voice editor when he had hair on top of his head!

I am planning to scan many of the items and keep digital copies - hopefully, we can establish an Archives page on our website.

This week, several of the board members will be traveling to Washington, DC for the National Leaders Conference. One of the activities at the conference is "visiting the hill." NDAESP Board Members will be visiting with our congressional delegation on Tuesday regarding many of the issues that we are concerned about - things that affect our work with children every day. These are a few of the items we will be discussing:

•Ensure oversight of ESSA implementation so that states and districts provide comprehensive support for principal leadership.
•Fund federal education programs so that schools have the ability to improve instruction and meet the learning needs of every student.
•Strengthen the quality of principal recruitment, preparation and retention programs in any efforts to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA).
•Build school and educator capacity to address student data privacy.

Have a great spring - hopefully, with more warm weather like we've had the past few weeks!
David Hanson- NDAESP State Editor
Wyndmere Elementary – Wyndmere, ND

I would like to begin by adding my congratulations to Shari Bilden on being named the 2016 National Distinguished Principal. It is an amazing honor and one that was well deserved in her case. Congratulations to all of the other award winners as well. We are blessed in North Dakota to have such amazing elementary-middle school principals. The power of NDAESP is it’s members.

A group of state leaders will be going to Washington DC later this month. I will be sure to include some pictures in the May publication. It is our hope that we will be able to convey “at a national level” the areas that public education can be improved. I know one idea that will be discussed is mental health. We have more and more kids with more significant mental and emotional issues that have serious implications to their education. There is a serious lack of professionals to help these students outside the school environment. I would like to see more professional development to better equip principals and their staffs to work effectively with these students.

This will be my final publication so I want to take one last opportunity to thank all of you for allowing me to serve NDAESP. Chris Bastian will be an excellent State Editor. He has the experience on the state board to be the new “go to guy”.

I wish everyone a smooth (ok as smooth as possible) end of the school year. Good luck with the NDSA and everything else in between!
“The Principal – The Key to a Successful School”

Being a principal is undoubtedly a very challenging, complex profession. As Malcolm Gladwell states, “The best jobs are inherently mysterious.” Thank you for taking on this mysterious and challenging job for the betterment of school children throughout the United States. In every one of the schools I have visited during my career, I have seen dedicated professionals who have given their all to a common goal—student success. However, one thing has been a common thread: Great schools need great principals.

I feel that the public school is the last truly democratic institution left in our society. Students who come from any background, ethnic group, socioeconomic status, religion, or ability have the opportunity to become anything and anyone they want to be. Every day in our schools, the expertise and energy of over three million teachers is given to their students. Each day, school personnel look to their principals for leadership, encouragement, and inspiration. I am proud to be a principal. I have been a member of the Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals and NAESP for the past 21 years. I can truly say that these professional associations have been key to any successes our school has experienced during my time as a building leader. The relationships and mentoring I have received from my fellow principals have truly enriched my professional and personal life beyond measure. They have become family, as we have shared tragedies and triumphs, success and failure, and through it all held the indomitable belief that what we are doing truly makes a difference.

Public education to me is not a job, not a profession, but a mission. When I was a child, we didn't have much, but we always had enough. Going to college was a given, and my parents sacrificed much to make that dream a reality for my siblings and me. I advocate every day, with our parents and community, to show our commitment to the young people of our school and community. I advocate at the state and federal level for funding to provide for the myriad opportunities needed for our students to succeed, and for policies that do not rely on a test score to judge students and schools, but instead reasonably set high expectations and provide critical assistance to help schools succeed. I believe that professional organizations need to listen and respond to their members. The members are the Association, and the positive vision for the future of the principalship should be a direct reflection of the principals in the field.

In my job as principal and as a member of the NAESP board, I have remembered the words of Steve Scanlon, “With every word, every nonverbal cue, every action, you leave each person you come across either a little better or a little worse.” With that in mind, I would be honored and humbled to have the opportunity to serve you as the Vice President of NAESP.
"Purpose, Performance, Promise: NAESP's Future"

After completing his tour of duty in the South Pacific during World War II, my grandfather, Bill Cardwell, returned stateside and was responsible for locating job opportunities for returning veterans. On one of his many trips across Northern Michigan, he found the small town of Alpena, where he would relocate his family and begin teaching high school biology. The earliest recollections of my summer visits in the early 1970s entailed sitting on their front lawn with a steady stream of students stopping by the house to discuss science, and for those who had graduated, the experiences and job paths they had taken. These visits continued well past his retirement and up to his passing in 1991. From that early age, I became aware of the impact education has upon students, families, and the communities we serve.

I passionately believe in the educational system that serves the students of the United States. Our nation’s commitment to the educational opportunity of all students has provided our country with an unparalleled foundation that has, in turn, fueled the most prosperous nation in the world. Because of this, I firmly believe it necessary to be an advocate for the needs of children, families, teachers, and principals.

If selected to serve as the Vice-President of NAESP, I would utilize a multi-faceted approach to move our organization forward by focusing on several key issues relevant to our profession:

- Focus on student poverty and the implications to schools across the United States.
- Need for reforming the mental health infrastructure to better serve students and families.
- Analysis of demographic data to promote membership as we look to support all principals at various points in their career continuum.
- Increased opportunity for minority representation within the NAESP organization to insure we are representative of the demographics which we serve.
- Extension of interactive and collaborative relationships with state affiliates by having the Board govern from the field.
- Promotion of change at the local, state, and federal level through engaged political advocacy.

My entire educational career has revolved around collaboration, empowerment, and engagement. From the earliest years when I realized education is the great equalizer of our society, to that of teacher, and now administrator—my personal and professional goal has been to be an actively engaged participant representing all educational stakeholders in order to collaboratively address and move educational issues forward.

Unequivocally, the best professional decision I have made in my 23 year career was to join MEMSPA and NAESP—serving as President of the former and Zone 6 Director of the latter. These professional organizations have provided a host of best practices and peer resources, touching countless lives by cultivating instructional leadership. We need to reach out to members and non-members and show the relevance and impact that NAESP can have not only upon them, but also the children and staff in their schools.

Together, we can reach even greater heights.

It would be my distinct honor to serve as the next Vice-President of the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Further information about the 2016 NAESP Election, with electronic voting taking place March 16-29, can be found at http://www.naesp.org/2016-naesp-election
Wayne Strand (Minot)  
Lynn Wolf (Bismarck)  
Audrey Faul (Harvey)  

Three old friends. All three attended the New Administrator’s workshop in August of 1981. All three have also served on the NDAESP Executive board. (Moved through the chairs)
Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be made up of the following elected officers: President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, the Immediate Past President, the State Representative, the Federal Relations Officer, and the Regional Representatives. All of these positions have voting rights. Appointed positions to the Executive Committee shall include; the Editor and the NDCEL Representatives. These positions also have voting rights. Members of the Executive Committee must be actively employed as an elementary or middle school principal or assistant elementary or middle school principal. The Executive Director of NDCEL and any NAESP National Board Member from North Dakota will serve as non-voting ex-officio members.

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