

2015 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2213

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2213
1/20/2015
Job #22241 (45:13)

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

INITIAL HEARING

Relating to school district elections

Minutes:

Attachments #1-2

Chairman Flakoll calls the committee back to order at 3pm with all committee members present.

Joe Miller, District 10 Senator (*see attachment #1*)

Senator Schaible: Do you believe that moving this to the primary would increase the voter turnout?

Senator Miller: Yes, it will range but perhaps 20% is a safe number to guess.

Senator Schaible: It seems that the issues going on at the time have more of an effect than the date.

Senator Miller: There will always be a number of factors. More people vote in primaries so it will inevitably increase voter turnout for school boards as well.

Senator Schaible: How do you answer the importance of allowing local control with mandating an election simply to increase voter turnout? How do you overrule that and say that it is more important to mandate the state than to take away local control?

Senator Miller: We are not taking away local control. We are empowering the electorate and challenging them to participate. This will create an even, uniform system that everyone already knows exists. Whereas generally now, people are not even aware there is a school board election occurring.

Senator Oban: Why are we choosing the primary over general elections?

Senator Miller: I would support either or. In general, the general election is more cluttered with other issues of national importance whereas primary has been more historically tied locally. We would probably see a higher turnout if tied to the primary.

Vice Chairman Rust: I would wonder if school board elections that have a contest don't generate greater turnout than elections without contests. Do you think moving it to the primary will be that effective, especially if there is no contest?

Senator Miller: The information provided proves that moving to the primary will increase turnout at possibly 20%. It will be an increase because we already know that school board elections held on their own have a poor turnout. Contests do drive more voter turnout, but

on a regular ballot like the primary, it will increase it even more so. I would also like to point out that in the only time I've ever been aware of, there was a school board election cancelled in 2011 in Mandan. Cancelling an election is illegal and I'm surprised there wasn't a lawsuit filed. This bill will combat that problem.

(17:30)**Chairman Flakoll:** In Appendix 5 and 6, elections were held the same day. Did they have the same polling locations?

Senator Miller: what was done in this case, is that Walsh county is entirely a vote-by-mail county. Everything is voted on by mail in the state wide ballot. What happened here is that the Park River School District held their same election on the same day. You can request an absentee ballot, but they had a polling place in the school. During the County Election Day, if you did not get a ballot by mail, you were obligated to go to the Grafton Court House to vote. That causes confusion.

Chairman Flakoll: Were there two openings in this example? It looks like there may have been two openings, two people running, and then two write-ins.

Senator Miller: I believe that is correct.

Vice Chairman Rust: A major part of this bill, since you want to move to primary elections, implies that it will move away from the traditional 3-year term of school board members and going to 4-year terms correct?

Senator Miller: Correct, that would be the only way to make it work. I believe that would be a better system. Everybody is basically on a 2-4 year type system. It streamlines the whole process.

Chairman Flakoll: If we retain the 4-year provision in here, might they organically move towards aligning with the primary?

Senator Miller: That would make sense if they were on 4-year terms anyway. I would hope the school district would just do that because it would be the best option.

Senator Oban: Do we know if this were to move to the primary or general election ballot, can an individual run for two offices at the same time and have your name on the ballot?

Senator Miller: I would say they could. There are often situations when people run for city commission and legislature at the same time.

Chairman Flakoll: I would think so, but we will have our intern verify that.

Senator Marcellais: Have you canvased the school districts on this particular bill the way you're changing?

Senator Miller: I have not.

-Opposed Testimony

(25:30) **Jon Martinson**, North Dakota School Boards Association

Martinson: Voter turnout is an issue. I am not sure you can legislate voter turnout because voters turn out when there is an issue or candidates they are concerned about. In my 15 years in this position, I have never had school board members mention to me that they would like to have something similar to what is in this bill. The School Boards Association puts on a conference each year and one of those days is for new board members. In the last 5 years, I've been asking board members who ran for office. You might be surprised that about a third of the members didn't seek or campaign the office. However they were willing to serve. I mention that because I think North Dakotans hold a strong commitment to their obligations.

My question is what is the impact of changing the length of term from 3 to 4 years? I raise that issue because of my experience with the School Board. I make phone calls individuals whom I think would be good members for those committees. When I am through convincing them to run, they ask me two questions: How often does the committee meet and what is the length of the term? I'm not thrilled to changing from 3 to 4 years.

My other concern is the election cycle. I serve on the intergovernmental advisory commission which is a legislative constituted body. So you have political subdivisions such as school districts, townships and cities as well as legislatures. During this past interim, there was a bill that was floated by Senator Cook to do away with special elections. The reason he suggested that is because of low voter turnout, so I did some research. I called 6 school districts who had bond elections, some which passed and some which failed. I called to find out the voter turnout compared with voter turnout in the primary election. In every one of those 6 I called, there was greater voter turnout for the bond election than there was in the primary election. I want to make the point that voter turnout is determined by issues and candidates and not by legislation.

Senator Schaible: For the three boards you suggest candidates for in the School Board Association, what are the lengths? Assuming they are 4 year terms, this would fit with that.

Martinson: Yes, I suppose.

Senator Davison: We have this process in Fargo. I am stunned to be honest; I thought every district did it this way. Can you share why you can't see a cost savings in this?

Martinson: I don't know if there would be cost savings.

Senator Davison: From a polling standpoint, there is a cost savings. Secondly, more people will show up on a bond issue because of taxes. We weren't getting any turnout in Fargo for our school board elections, but now that it's put with the primary elections, there is a much greater turnout and more engagement. If you have more issues in the ballot, there will be more participation.

Martinson: That sounds reasonable. Perhaps the general election in November would be more appropriate.

Senator Davison: Wouldn't the primary election be more important because of the fiscal year beginning in July as opposed to halfway through the year?

Martinson: I understand your point about the fiscal year budget. I would argue that a new board member taking office in July is probably not up to speed on the school district budget at that point, but I understand your point.

(36) **Kevin J. Glatt**, Burleigh County Auditor and Treasurer (*see attachment #2*)

Glatt: voter participation is dependent entirely on what is on the ballot.

Senator Davison: With the ballot splits, we have funny boundary lines in Fargo, so are you suggesting that the people in these counties are incapable of understanding and being able to do that work?

Glatt: No, I'm saying it puts extra workload on the election workers. Cass County is unique with their electronic poll books in every precinct. We have electronic poll books in 9 precincts, and those are the ones that have splits. Not all counties can afford what Cass County has. I would love for Burleigh to have electronic poll books in every precinct, but we cannot afford it.

Chairman Flakoll: What are they running for a special election in just the city of Bismarck

Glatt: The majority of election cost is labor. We can't get by with minimum wage anymore. If a city would hold a special election, it would run close to \$35,000.

Senator Davison: Your testimony was against the bill, but you were agreeing with Senator Miller by saying what is on the ballot determines voter turnout. That is his whole point.

Glatt: It is key issues. One would think that the more candidates you have, the better voter turnout, but that is not the case.

Chairman Flakoll closes the hearing on SB 2213.

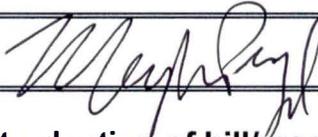
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2213
1/27/2015
Job # 22649 (28:29)

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

COMMITTEE ACTION

Minutes:

1 attachment

(see attachment #1)

(2:30) Senator Davison: I didn't like the idea on the date, and was surprised that there were so many schools that didn't use the 4-year terms as Fargo does. This amendment pulls out the requirement of the June date. It requires all school districts to have 4 year terms for their school board members. It is effective and efficient.

Vice Chairman Rust: You would take out the underlined and reinsert the crossed out on page 7?

Senator Davison: Correct.

Chairman Flakoll: Where does the amendment stand as far as the effective date?

Senator Davison: it is 2017. You would find that on page 5.

Chairman Flakoll: Would anyone have their term shortened?

Senator Davison: I believe we would stagger the terms.

Chairman Flakoll: If this were to pass, those individuals who run this summer will know there is this transition phase in 2017?

Senator Davison: Correct.

(12:45) Senator Schaible: If a school board member is running June of 2015 with the 3 year term and this law goes into effect, would they have to run again in 2017?

Senator Davison: They would run for a 3 year term as it is currently stated in the law. They would do the math and figure out how each individual school district chooses to do it.

Vice Chairman Rust: Did you talk to anyone on the School Board Association with this?

Senator Davison: Yes, I visited with Jon Martinson. He agreed with everything that I said. However he and the School Board Association remain to stand opposed on this bill at this moment.

Senator Davison makes a motion to approved amendment 15.0036.01001

Senator Schaible seconds the motion

Chairman Flakoll: With these amendments, this is a better bill than the initial draft.

Senator Oban: Did you talk to any schools that do not currently have 4 year terms on their school board?

Senator Davison: All of the schools I talked to had 3 year terms. The ones who have 4 year terms are content. It's nice not to have an election every other year.

Senator Marcellais: On page 7, you are removing lines 3-30 and that removes the special election. When will you have it then?

Senator Davison: I can only tell you my intent.

Senator Marcellais: I don't see where special elections are covered after the amendment passes.

Senator Davison: I would have to check on that. I can only tell you what my intent was. They can appoint someone instead of holding an election. If the special election piece needs to be in there, that was not my intent to take it out.

Vice Chairman Rust: The current law is that if you have someone who leaves the school board, the school board appoints someone to fill that position until the next election is held.

(22:30) **Senator Oban:** Why don't all of the schools change to 4 year terms if they think it is more efficient as you've stated?

Senator Davison: I didn't ask that question. It isn't their priority to focus on. Your question gets back to the purpose of how we can help with efficiency from a legislative standpoint.

Vice Chairman Rust: When we pass a law, there are unintended consequences. I would caution us with that.

Senator Oban: I want to note that I wholeheartedly trust the intent of Senator Davison. My concern is that not everybody considers what we do to be helpful. I question if we should force school boards to do this, if they already have the option to do so.

Senator Schaible: I agree with the amendment, but I'm not sure if I agree with the bill.

A vote was taken: Yes:6, No:0, Absent: 0

Senator Schaible makes a motion for a do not pass as amended.

Vice Chairman Rust seconds the motion.

Senator Schaible: Local control is better, and that is the reason I am voting against this.

Vice Chairman Rust: I agree.

A vote was taken: Yes: 5, No: 1, Absent: 0

Senator Davison was opposed but the motion passes.

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

1 of 3
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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2213

- Page 1, line 3, remove "15.1-09-07,"
- Page 1, line 3, remove "15.1-09-12,"
- Page 1, line 4, replace "15.1-09-14, 15.1-09-15, 15.1-09-16, 15.1-09-17, 15.1-09-18, 15.1-09-20, 15.1-09-21" with "15.1-09-09, 15.1-09-13, 15.1-09-22"
- Page 1, line 6, replace "subsections" with "subsection"
- Page 1, line 6, remove "and 4"
- Page 1, line 6, after the second comma insert "and"
- Page 1, line 6, remove ", and"
- Page 1, line 7, remove "section 16.1-16-01"
- Page 1, line 8, replace "sections" with "section"
- Page 1, line 8, remove ", 15.1-09-09, 15.1-09-10, 15.1-09-13, 15.1-09-19, 15.1-09-22, and"
- Page 1, line 9, remove "15.1-09-24"
- Page 1, line 9, replace "district elections" with "board changes in terms of office"
- Page 5, line 17, remove "on the second Tuesday in"
- Page 5, line 18, remove "June"
- Page 6, remove lines 1 through 24
- Page 7, remove lines 3 through 30
- Page 8, remove lines 1 through 30
- Page 9, replace lines 1 through 16 with:

"SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-09-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-09-09. School district elections - Notice.

Thirty days before the filing deadline for candidate names to be printed on the ballot, an official notice of this deadline must be published in the official newspaper of the city or county. At least fourteen days before the date of ~~an annual or special~~ a school district election, the school board shall publish a notice in the official newspaper of the district stating the time and place of the election and the purpose of the vote. If a school board agrees to hold the election in conjunction with a primary election, the deadline for giving notice of the school district election and the purpose of the vote must meet the publishing requirements of the county. The governing body of the city of Fargo shall publish notice with respect to Fargo school district elections.

SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-09-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2 of 3
#1

15.1-09-13. Election precincts - Polling places - Election officials.

1. At least thirty-five days prior to the ~~annual~~ election, the board of each school district shall designate one or more precincts for the election. The board shall arrange the precincts in a way that divides the electors of the district as equally as possible.
2. At least thirty-five days prior to the ~~annual~~ election, the board of each school district shall designate one or more polling places for each precinct. The board shall locate the polling places as conveniently as possible for the voters in the precinct. Once established by the board, a polling place must remain a polling place for a precinct until it is changed by subsequent action of the board.
3. For school board elections not held in conjunction with county elections, the board shall appoint two election judges and two election clerks for each polling place. Before opening the polls, the judges and clerks shall take an affirmation or oath to perform their duties according to law and to the best of their ability. The affirmation or oath may be administered by any officer authorized to administer oaths or by any of the judges or clerks.
4. For school board elections held in conjunction with county elections, the county election boards shall administer the election in the same manner as the county or state election.

SECTION 12. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-09-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-09-22. School boards - ~~Annual~~ Biennial elections - Poll books.

1. ~~The~~ In each even-numbered year, the board of a school district shall hold an election ~~each year~~ between April first and June thirtieth to fill all vacancies, including those caused by the expiration of terms of office.
2. Upon resolution of the school board, the ~~annual~~ biennial election may be held in conjunction with the regular election of a city, as required by state law or by the home rule powers of the city, provided the city is located wholly or partially within the school district. The school board may agree with the governing body of the city to share election costs and responsibilities, including those associated with election personnel, the printing of election materials, the publishing of legal notices, and the use of poll books.
3. If a school board holds its election in conjunction with a city, references in this chapter to the date of a school board election mean the date of the applicable city election.
4. If a school board holds its election in conjunction with a city and only one set of poll books is used, the set must reference the voter's eligibility to vote in the city election, in the school district election, or both."

Page 10, remove lines 20 through 24

Page 11, remove lines 3 through 31

30
#1

Page 12, remove lines 1 through 31

Page 13, remove lines 1 through 31

Page 14, remove lines 1 through 30

Page 15, remove lines 1 through 15

Page 15, line 16, replace "Sections" with "Section"

Page 15, line 16, remove ", 15.1-09-09, 15.1-09-10, 15.1-09-13, 15.1-09-19, 15.1-09-22, and 15.1-09-24"

Page 15, line 16, replace "are" with "is"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2213: Education Committee (Sen. Flakoll, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2213 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

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Renumber accordingly

2015 TESTIMONY

SB 2213

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Education

SB 2213

Senator Joe Miller

Mister Chairman and members of the committee:

It would be hard to find a person here in this free nation that would express an opinion contrary to the idea of promoting a learned and active citizenry. In fact, many of the issues you discuss in this committee center directly on the effort to assure the people of North Dakota are well educated.

There are no shortage of scholars that have emphasized the importance that a well-educated, active voter is essential to the success of our democratic republic. Thomas Jefferson said, "Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."

SB 2213 is intended to strengthen the role of the citizen in our government. By creating a greater uniformity and regular process for the election of our local school boards, we can increase the ease and participation of the people in this particular election.

We currently have two methods available to school districts for conducting an election. One being they may conduct their own entirely by themselves. The other is to contract with the county and have the election on the primary ballot. This bill would embrace the latter option as the standard for school board elections. The bill would retain the option for school district to conduct elections for bond issues or other special election needs.

The purpose for this move and this bill is simple. Voter participation is dramatically higher on primary ballot elections as compared to standard board elections. (See Appendices 1, 2, and 3)

The Mandan School district has recently conducted board elections by use of the primary ballot (Appendix 3) and by through the traditional process of the business manager conducting the election. (Appendices 1 and 2) It is my findings that turnout was higher by approximately 500 compared to 2009 and 800 compared to 2011 when conducted by use of the primary ballot.

Also I included the Park River 2014 board election which was conducted by the school business manager. This was held on June 10 the same day as the primary but as you can see in Appendices 5 and 6 voter turnout was much greater on the primary ballot as compared to the school ballot. Only 55 voted in the board election (appendix 5) compared to 381 in the Park River Mayoral election (Appendix 6) which was on the primary ballot.

Currently, a number of schools are already conducting elections through the use of the primary ballot. Appendix 4 shows the list of schools that utilized this in the last election. The Grand Forks school district has been using the primary ballot for a number of years and has seen good participation numbers.

Other reasons for considering the adoption of this bill is it creates a date certain for the election as opposed to the April 1st through June 30th window in current law. With a date certain voters can plan for the election. The bill provides potential cost savings to both government and voters. There will be one ballot and one ballot location. The bill moves the terms of office from 3 to 4 year terms. This will provide more uniformity in comparison to other offices in North Dakota.

I believe that it has been demonstrated that both school districts and the auditors are easily capable of making this adjustment. Every ten years auditors must make adjustments for legislative districts that may cross county lines as school districts might; transition should not be a major issue.

It is within our interest as state legislators to promote uniform systems of education as it is also our duty as defined in the state constitution. That uniform system should not be limited to the instruction of the students but also the process by which we govern and elect those whom govern.

The state has made a tremendous effort to both increased funding for school and cut taxes. I believe that effort is best complimented by a strong voter participation rate. Having more engagement by the people and more awareness as to who the decision makers are will provide for better government. This bill is the logical next step in building public engagement in government.

Appendix I

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

VOTE TALLY ABSTRACT

	Seven Seas		Spirit of Life		Unofficial Totals		Canvassing Board Votes added	Official Total	
	Precinct A	Percent	Precinct B	Percent	VOTES	Percent		VOTES	Percent
- Total	740		355		1,095	100.00%			
Ballot Cast - Blank	0		0		0				
Mandan School #1 School Board Member 3 year position									
Vote for no more than Two.									
Tim Tausend	495	35.51%	252	37.78%	747	36.24%	0	747	36.24%
Dustin Gawrylow	234	16.79%	125	18.74%	359	17.42%	0	359	17.42%
Jill Goetz	423	30.34%	193	28.94%	616	29.89%	0	616	29.89%
Susan Beehler	241	17.29%	96	14.39%	337	16.35%	0	337	16.35%
Write-In	1	0.07%	1	0.15%	2	0.10%	0	2	0.10%
Mandan School #1 Rural School Board Member 3 year position									
Vote for no more than One.									
Beth Allen	632	99.53%	311	99.68%	943	99.58%	0	943	99.58%
Write-In	3	0.47%	1	0.32%	4	0.42%	0	4	0.42%
Mandan School #1 School Board Member Unexpired 1 year position									
Vote for no more than One.									
Karen .bhner	417	58.73%	176	53.17%	593	56.96%	0	593	56.96%
Karmen Sirtola	293	41.27%	155	46.83%	448	43.04%	0	448	43.04%
Write-In	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%

Approved Vote Totals by Board Motion:

Kristen Baesler, Mandan School Board President

MANDAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Mandan, North Dakota

June 9, 2011

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

A special meeting of the Mandan Public School Board was held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 11:35 a.m. in the Conference Room, The Brave Center, 901 Division Street NW. Members present: Kirsten Baesler, Lee Fleischer, Jill Hanson, Dr. Tim Rector, and Tim Tausend. Others present: Dr. Mike Bitz; Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Brooke Klein, and Kim Pittman – Morton County Auditors Office

Members Absent: Beth Allen, Dr. Donna Fishbeck, Karen Johner, and LouAnn Nider

The meeting was called to order by President Baesler.

This meeting was held to affirm the canvassing of the board's ratification for the School Board election held on June 7, 2011. Total votes casted were 458. Wendy Egli received 144 votes, Donna Fishbeck received 309 votes, Dustin Gawrylow received 115 votes, Leland Fleischer received 273 votes, Jay Volk received 301 votes, John Paul Engwicht received 114 votes and there were 3 write-ins.

Mr. Fleischer stated he has a conflict of interest in participating in the canvassing of the election, since he was a candidate.

Dr. Rector moved, seconded by Mrs. Hanson, to allow Mr. Fleischer to vote on the approval of the School Board election results. On a roll call vote, all members present voted Yes. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Fleischer abstained which means his vote is assigned to the majority 5-0.

Mr. Tausend moved, seconded by Mrs. Hanson, to approve the voting results from the June 7, 2011 School Board election. On a roll call vote, all members present voted Yes. Motion passed 5-0.

The special board meeting adjourned at 11:39 p.m.

ATTEST _____
Kirsten Baesler, President

Joe Lukach, Business Manager

DATE June 20, 2011 _____

Brooke Klein, Recorder

Appendix 3

North Dakota Voting Information & Central Election Systems

North Dakota Election Officials, County Auditors and Secretary of State

Official Results Primary Election - June 10, 2014

Last Updated: 6/25/2014 9:21:33 AM

Precincts Reporting
427 427

Ballots Cast 93,624 Total VAP

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Mandan School District Election Results

School Board Member At Large - Mandan School District - Non-Partisan - Vote For 3 Follow This Contest [County Results](#)
 Precincts Reporting: 13/13

		Votes	Percent
Elected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Klemisch	1,288	35.06%
Elected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jay M Volk, Ph.D.	1,216	33.10%
Elected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marnie Butcher Piehl	1,165	31.71%
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> write-in <input type="checkbox"/>	5	0.14%
Total Votes		3,674	

School Board Member at Large Rural Unexpired 1-Year Term - Mandan School District - Non-Partisan - Vote For 1 Follow This Contest [County Results](#)
 Precincts Reporting: 13/13

		Votes	Percent
Elected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheldon Wolf	1,265	99.84%
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> write-in <input type="checkbox"/>	2	0.16%
Total Votes		1,267	

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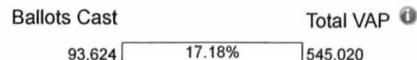
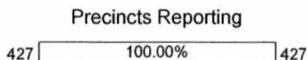
Appendix 4

North Dakota Voting Information & Central Election Systems

North Dakota Election Officials, County Auditors and Secretary of State

Official Results Primary Election - June 10, 2014

Last Updated: 6/25/2014 9:21:33 AM



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School Contest Results

● Alexander SD#2	● Grand Forks School Dist	● McClusky School #19
● Beach School District	● Halliday School	● McKenzie SD#1
● Belfield School	● Hazen #3 School Dist	● Minot School District
● Beulah School	● Hettinger School	● MPCG School
● Bismarck Public School Dist. 1	● Hillsboro School	● Northern Cass School
● Bowman School	● Jamestown School Dist #1	● Northern Cass School Dist #97
● Center/Stanton School District	● Killdeer School	● Richardton/Taylor
● Central Cass School #17	● Lone Tree School District	● Richardton/Taylor School
● Dickinson School	● Mandan School District	● South Heart School
● Fargo School District #1	● Mapleton School Dist #7	● West Fargo School Dist #6
● Fort Yates School	● Mayport CG School Dist #14	● Williston School District
● Goodrich School #16		● Yellowstone SD#14

619

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
OF PARK RIVER AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
OF WALSH COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

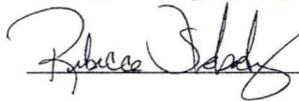
Special board meeting held June 16, 2014. Members present: Brummond, Thompson, Laaveg and Houser via conference call.

Vice-President Brummond called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon to canvass the votes cast in the annual election held June 10, 2014. There were 55 votes cast as follows: Bill Bata 53, Jennifer Thompson 55, Bob Lundquist, Jr. 1 and Kelly Houser 1.

M: Laaveg S: Houser to certify the election results, Houser aye, Thompson aye, Laaveg aye and Brummond aye, M.C.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.


Brad Brummond, Vice-President


Rebecca Svobodny, Business Manager

A special meeting of the School Board of Park River Area Public School District No. 8 of Walsh County, North Dakota, pursuant to due call and notice, was held on November 24, 2014, at 12:00 Noon.

The following members were present: Thompson, Brummond, Hahn, Bata; and absent were: Houser, Laaveg and Rost, being all of the members of the Board.

The Business Manager presented an Affidavit of Publication of the Notice of Special Election held on November 18, 2014, as directed by Resolution of this Board. The Affidavit was examined, approved, and ordered placed on file.

The Business Manager then presented the Official Returns of the Judges, Clerks and Inspector of the Special Election. After examination of the returns and the ballots cast, Member Brummond introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

b/l

Appendix S

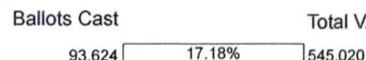
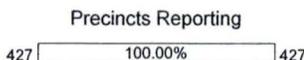
Appendix 6



North Dakota Voting Information & Central Election Systems North Dakota Election Officials, County Auditors and Secretary of State

Official Results Primary Election - June 10, 2014

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Total VAP ⓘ

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Export Results to Excel

Sort By Candidate

Sort By Votes

Park River Election Results

Mayor - Park River - Non-Partisan - Vote For 1 Follow This Contest

County Results

Precincts Reporting: 1/1

Table with 4 columns: Candidate, Votes, Percent, and an empty column. Rows include Dan Stenvold (367 votes, 96.33%), write-in (14 votes, 3.67%), and Total Votes (381).

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2015 School Election Deadlines

The following is a mock timeline using June 9, 2015, as an example election date. If you have a different election date, compute your schedule in accordance with state law cited below. Also, please be aware of the following for school elections held in conjunction with county elections: "For school board elections held in conjunction with county elections, the county election boards shall administer the election in the same manner as the county or state election." NDCC 15.1-09-13 (4)

March 7, 2015
Thirty days before the filing deadline for candidate names to be printed on the ballot, an official notice of this deadline must be published in the official newspaper of the city or county. (NDCC 15.1-09-09)

April 1 - June 30, 2015
The board of a school district shall hold an election each year between April first and June thirtieth to fill all vacancies, including those caused by the expiration of terms of office. (NDCC 15.1-09-22)

April 6, 2015
An individual seeking election to the board of a school district shall prepare and sign a document stating the individual's name and the position for which that individual is a candidate. A candidate shall also file a statement of interests as required by section 15.1-09-02. The document must be filed with the school district business manager, or mailed to and in the possession of the business manager, by four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before the election. (NDCC 15.1-09-08)

April 30, 2015
At least forty days before the election, the business manager shall prepare and cause to be printed, or otherwise uniformly reproduced, an official ballot containing the names of all individuals who have indicated their intent to be candidates by meeting the provisions of section 15.1-09-08. (NDCC 15.1-09-11)

May 5, 2015

- At least thirty-five days prior to the annual election, the board of each school district shall designate one or more precincts for the election. The board shall arrange the precincts in a way that divides the electors of the district as equally as possible. (NDCC 15.1-09-13 (1))
- At least thirty-five days prior to the annual election, the board of each school district shall designate one or more polling places for the election. The board shall locate the polling places as conveniently as possible for the voters in the precinct. (NDCC 15.1-09-13 (2))

May 26, 2015
At least fourteen days before the date of an annual or special school district election, the school board shall publish a notice in the official newspaper of the district stating the time and place of the election and the purpose of the vote. (NDCC 15.1-09-09)

June 9, 2015
School board election

June 15, 2015
On the sixth day after the election, the school board shall meet to canvass all election returns and shall declare the result of an election. (NDCC 15.1-09-15)

June 16-18, 2015
Within three days after the canvass by the school board for a school district election, the business manager of the school district shall provide to each elected individual written notice of the individual's election and of the duty to take an affirmation or oath of office. (NDCC 15.1-09-17)

June 16-25, 2015

- Within ten days after the canvass by the school board, the business manager shall certify the individuals elected and their terms to the county superintendent of schools. (NDCC 15.1-09-17)
- An individual elected as a member of or appointed to a school board shall take and file with the school district business manager an affirmation or oath of office within ten days after receiving notice of the election or appointment and before commencing duties. (NDCC 15.1-09-25)

June 30, 2015
The board of a school district shall hold an election each year between April first and June thirtieth to fill all vacancies, including those caused by the expiration of terms of office. (NDCC 15.1-09-22)



March 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



May 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



April 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



June 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

2
1/20/2015

1/20/15

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Prepared by Kevin J. Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer

Senate Bill 2213

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am here in opposition to SB2213 requiring counties to administer school district elections.

Many counties already administer school board elections where **practical and cost effective** (McKenzie, Cass, Morton, Burleigh, Stutsman, Sheridan & Ward to name a few). County auditors recognize it is extra work and extra cost – and better for the voter. Many years ago I went to the Bismarck Public School District and suggested that if they changed their terms from 3 years to 4 years I would administer their elections at no cost and we have been working together ever since.

County auditors face several issues with this legislation as school district boundaries do not usually match precinct boundaries. This creates precincts with multiple ballots (splits) which requires increased ballot printing, programming, and testing costs. More importantly, multiple ballots (splits) *put additional burden on election workers* to make sure each elector is getting the correct ballot. What happens if one voter gets the wrong ballot in a close election? The most rural precinct in Burleigh County will have 4 or more ballot styles (splits).

Another concern is the issue of getting the candidate information from all the school districts in a timely manner in order to meet ballot production and testing deadlines of state and federal law. This is particularly an issue for those precincts that will have multiple “small” school districts which span multiple counties. Who will be responsible to certify candidates *in a timely manner* to the county auditors?

Mr. Chairman and committee members I might suggest that you require the school elections to be done on the same day as the primary – just do not mandate that they be conducted by the county. A School District could then establish a separate election board for their election - use paper ballots and save the cost of printing, programming, testing, etc. at their normal election location.

Thank You.

1/1

January 22, 2015

#1

1/27/15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2213

Page 1, line 3, remove "15.1-09-07,"

Page 1, line 3, remove "15.1-09-12,"

Page 1, line 4, replace "15.1-09-14, 15.1-09-15, 15.1-09-16, 15.1-09-17, 15.1-09-18,
15.1-09-20, 15.1-09-21" with "15.1-09-09, 15.1-09-13, 15.1-09-22"

Page 1, line 6, replace "subsections" with "subsection"

Page 1, line 6, remove "and 4"

Page 1, line 6, after the second comma insert "and"

Page 1, line 6, remove ", and"

Page 1, line 7, remove "section 16.1-16-01"

Page 1, line 8, replace "sections" with "section"

Page 1, line 8, remove ", 15.1-09-09, 15.1-09-10, 15.1-09-13, 15.1-09-19, 15.1-09-22, and"

Page 1, line 9, remove "15.1-09-24"

Page 1, line 9, replace "district elections" with "board changes in terms of office"

Page 5, line 17, remove "on the second Tuesday in"

Page 5, line 18, remove "June"

Page 6, remove lines 1 through 24

Page 7, remove lines 3 through 30

Page 8, remove lines 1 through 30

Page 9, replace lines 1 through 16 with:

"SECTION 10. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-09-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-09-09. School district elections - Notice.

Thirty days before the filing deadline for candidate names to be printed on the ballot, an official notice of this deadline must be published in the official newspaper of the city or county. At least fourteen days before the date of ~~an annual or special~~ school district election, the school board shall publish a notice in the official newspaper of the district stating the time and place of the election and the purpose of the vote. If a school board agrees to hold the election in conjunction with a primary election, the deadline for giving notice of the school district election and the purpose of the vote must meet the publishing requirements of the county. The governing body of the city of Fargo shall publish notice with respect to Fargo school district elections.

SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-09-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-09-13. Election precincts - Polling places - Election officials.

1. At least thirty-five days prior to the annual election, the board of each school district shall designate one or more precincts for the election. The board shall arrange the precincts in a way that divides the electors of the district as equally as possible.
2. At least thirty-five days prior to the annual election, the board of each school district shall designate one or more polling places for each precinct. The board shall locate the polling places as conveniently as possible for the voters in the precinct. Once established by the board, a polling place must remain a polling place for a precinct until it is changed by subsequent action of the board.
3. For school board elections not held in conjunction with county elections, the board shall appoint two election judges and two election clerks for each polling place. Before opening the polls, the judges and clerks shall take an affirmation or oath to perform their duties according to law and to the best of their ability. The affirmation or oath may be administered by any officer authorized to administer oaths or by any of the judges or clerks.
4. For school board elections held in conjunction with county elections, the county election boards shall administer the election in the same manner as the county or state election.

SECTION 12. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-09-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-09-22. School boards - AnnualBiennial elections - Poll books.

1. ~~The~~In each even-numbered year, the board of a school district shall hold an election ~~each year~~ between April first and June thirtieth to fill all vacancies, including those caused by the expiration of terms of office.
2. Upon resolution of the school board, the ~~annual~~annualbiennial election may be held in conjunction with the regular election of a city, as required by state law or by the home rule powers of the city, provided the city is located wholly or partially within the school district. The school board may agree with the governing body of the city to share election costs and responsibilities, including those associated with election personnel, the printing of election materials, the publishing of legal notices, and the use of poll books.
3. If a school board holds its election in conjunction with a city, references in this chapter to the date of a school board election mean the date of the applicable city election.
4. If a school board holds its election in conjunction with a city and only one set of poll books is used, the set must reference the voter's eligibility to vote in the city election, in the school district election, or both."

Page 10, remove lines 20 through 24

Page 11, remove lines 3 through 31

|

Page 12, remove lines 1 through 31

Page 13, remove lines 1 through 31

Page 14, remove lines 1 through 30

Page 15, remove lines 1 through 15

Page 15, line 16, replace "Sections" with "Section"

Page 15, line 16, remove ", 15.1-09-09, 15.1-09-10, 15.1-09-13, 15.1-09-19, 15.1-09-22, and 15.1-09-24"

Page 15, line 16, replace "are" with "is"

Renumber accordingly