



Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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Jason Schmidt Posthumously Awarded School Board Legacy of Service Award

At the 2025 North Dakota School Boards Association Annual Convention in Bismarck last week, Kidder County School Board member Jason Schmidt was recognized posthumously with the NDSBA Legacy of service award in the Profound Impact category for his dedicated service to his local school board for the past 17 years. Schmidt passed away in August. His wife, Serena, and daughter Madelyn, were there to accept the award on Jason’s behalf.

The NDSBA Legacy of Service Award was created in 2024 to honor North Dakota’s longest-serving school board members and the impact they have made on their local school districts, their communities, and the State of North Dakota. The award may only be received once in a lifetime and there are two ways in which a North Dakota school board member may qualify for the NDSBA Legacy of Service award. To qualify for the Steadfast Commitment category, school board members, just

retired or still serving, must have completed their 20th cumulative year of school board service to be immediately eligible and honored at that year’s NDSBA Annual Convention.

To qualify for the Profound Impact category, school board members who have completed their 15th cumulative year of school board service but leave the board prior to serving 20 years, will have made a significant and recognizable impact on their district, within North Dakota education, or the North Dakota School Boards Association despite not reaching the 20-year service mark. Board members may be nominated by their district, themselves, or any other individual. The NDSBA Board of Directors selects recipients annually based on merit.

Brad Bachmeier is the artist who commissioned the Legacy of Service Awards. Brad is a native of Anamoose, who completed his MFA degree in ceramics from the University of North Dakota in 2007. In 2009, he was

recognized with the prestigious N.D. Governor’s Award in Arts Education for his “numerous,

significant and continued contributions to the state and region.” In 2013, he was granted



Jason Schmidt

the “Excellence in Research and Creative Activity” award at MSUM, where he is currently a School of Art Professor. Bachmeier’s work has garnered over 40 Best of Show awards and grants including the national NICHE award.

The letter nominating Schmidt for this award commented on his never-ending dedication and outstanding leadership. Jason’s seventeen years included some rough patches including the closure of his own district’s school and an attempt to pass a referendum aimed at supporting the future of the school we have. His focus to do what was best for the students never wavered. On committees, he served on the negotiation and building committees as well. His impact will forever be felt as his leadership, integrity, and dedication was second to none and he has heightened our standards for those who follow.

To the Schmidt family, congratulations on this well-deserved, very meaningful award.

KC Continues to Improve Local Ballfields Thanks to the Community

When the KC Baseball Club was first formed, its members made major strides to enhance safety and create a better baseball experience for both players and fans. Those improvements haven’t stopped — and as the club continues to grow and evolve, so does its commitment to maintaining one of the best local sports facilities in the area.

Even as members come and go, the KC Baseball Club remains dedicated to progress — and always welcomes new members and ideas. This past spring, the KC baseball and softball programs, which together serve more than 100 local boys and girls from T-ball through Legion, received a generous donation from JKM Post #20 for a Sand Pro field-grooming machine. The new equipment has made

a big difference, allowing the fields to be maintained more evenly, efficiently, and quickly — especially between games. The Sand Pro even helps groom the

sand volleyball court before each weekly summer match. In addition, the Heim family donated benches and picnic tables, adding more comfortable

seating around the park. Historically, upgrades like these have been made possible through **Ballfields..**
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