North Dakota School for the Deaf
Chronological History
1890 - 2009
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Format of presentation (56 slides):

1. Superintendent name and years of service
2. Average number students during tenure at NDSD
3. Communication mode used during tenure
4. Major initiatives during tenure
5. Photos of campus scenes during tenure

Note: information herein was compiled from NDSD Biennial Reports
History of the North Dakota School for the Deaf
School Motto

Looking back with pride

Looking forward with confidence
Superintendent Anson Spear
1890-1895

Average number of pupils during Spear tenure: 28

Communication:

Combined method - use of signs and manual alphabet
Use of oral methods with pupils who showed ability
Spear tenure

- Only deaf superintendent - 1890 helped establish North Dakota School for the Deaf
- Oversaw construction of main building ready for occupancy-1893
- Implemented trade programs: farm, dairy, garden, printing, sewing and housekeeping
- Established the *Banner*, a semi-monthly newspaper printed by students
- Law passed - $50 penalty for parents who refused to send their deaf child to school
1890-1895 scenes from campus

1890

1893

1894

MISS CLARA HALVERSON AND HER CLASS, MAY, 1894
Left to right: Milley Gerke (Melina), Gillman Nordhougen, Hubert Miller, Effi Smith (Mrs. Ringseth), Anna Magnus, George Kneidt (deceased), Clara Halverson, Teacher (now Mrs. Joseph H. O'Tearry), Mary Higgen, Angela Huesker, Willie Messner (deceased), Chade Zeigler, and Elise Iverson.
Superintendent Dwight Bangs
1895-1912

Average number of pupils during Bangs tenure: 66

Communication:

**Combined Method:** use of signs, finger spelling, writing, and speech, adapting their uses with pupils as needed

The Bangs-mobile
• Pupils awarded seven first prize medals at world fair for excellent exhibit of school work
• Added steam heat, sewers, electricity and fire escapes
• Construction of infirmary, barn and new school building (construction of school was not completed until 26 years later)
• Implemented carpentry class
• First class of graduates – 1900

• Lobbied for:
  - stricter laws regarding school attendance for deaf children
  - procedures for reporting deaf children from tax assessor’s office to school census
  - change school name from *Deaf & Dumb Asylum* to *ND School for the Deaf and Dumb*
1895-1912 scenes from campus
Superintendent J.W. Blattner
1912-1915

Average number of pupils during Blattner tenure: 103

Communication:
combined method - emphasis on oral method - if pupils did not show benefit, transferred to manual department
Blattner tenure

• Construction of:
  – concrete silo
  – coal storage shed
  – Pupils won state merits for art work

• Lobbied for:
  – funds for additional trade programs
  – construction of Trades building (failed)
  – source of clean drinking water
1912-1915 scenes from campus

North Dakota School for the Deaf, Devils Lake, First Year Class. 1914

Concrete Silo
Superintendent Frank Read 1915-1920

Average number of pupils during Read tenure: 118

Communication:

combined method – upon entry into school pupils placed in oral method and instructed in speech. If progress was not successful pupils transferred to manual department (1916: seven oral classes and three manual classes)
Read tenure

• Lobbied for Trades building (failed)
• Purchased new printing equipment
• Implemented cabinet making and china painting
• Initiated *lawn fete*, an elaborate outdoor program performed by pupils
• Requested funds for additional trade courses: shoe repair and cooking
• North Dakota Association of the Deaf was established (1916)

Note: Mr. Read died during his tenure - his wife assumed duties until a new superintendent was hired
1915-1920 scenes from campus

1917

Boys in the hay loft
Superintendent M.C. McClure
1920-1921

Average number of pupils during McClure tenure: **120**

**Communication:**

**Oral method** however if pupils were unsuccessful they transferred to manual department
McClure tenure

- Main building re-shingled by carpentry pupils and instructor
- Lobbied and obtained funds to build new boys’ dormitory
1920-1921 scenes from campus
Superintendent Burton Driggs
1921-1937

Average number of pupils
during Driggs tenure: 123

Communication:
oral method; pupils were taught speech
and lip reading
aural method; pupils were reached through
medium of the ear
manual method; use of signs and finger spelling
Driggs tenure

• Implemented new programs: barbering, nursing, beauty culture, typing, shoe repair, bookbinding, home economics, rug weaving
• Lobbied for completion of unfinished school building and need for new gymnasium
• Construction of Trades building and boys’ dormitory
• Commencement pageants by pupils – thousands of people attended
• Employed trained nurse to provide health care
• Established campus pond and bridge
• Built fire proof vault to protect school records
• The *Banner* elicited high praise nation wide
1921-1937 scenes from campus
Superintendent A. P. Buchanan
1937-1945

Average number of pupils during Buchanan tenure: **119**

**Communication:**

**Combined method** - all pupils began in oral department and transferred to manual department as necessary
Buchanan tenure

- 1937-1939 highest enrollment in history, 140 pupils
- Pupils presented popular outdoor revues
- Lobbied for increase in size of school and need for new gymnasium
1937-1945 scenes from campus
Superintendent Carl Smith 1945-1969

Average number of pupils during Smith tenure: 89

Communication:

1945 pupils taught orally until 7th grade - if progress was not made then manual communication used
1951 pupils taught orally until 5th grade
1963 Rochester method adopted – oral and speech reading supplemented with finger spelling
Smith tenure

- Discontinued farming operation
- Discontinued shoe repair program
- Construction of buildings: administration/girls’ dormitory, gymnasium and completion of school
- Connected campus to city water and sewer lines
- Implemented new programs: driver training, maintenance, baking, painting, upholstery
- Lobbied to increase teacher salaries
- Sold 70 acres of land to city of Devils Lake for construction of junior college (1961)
Smith tenure

- Cooperated with *Minot State University* to provide onsite training for teachers of the deaf
- Captioned Films for the Deaf
- Recommended *Old Main* be razed and new superintendent’s house built
- Lobbied to change name from *ND School for the Deaf and Dumb* to *ND School for the Deaf*
1945-1969 scenes from campus
Superintendent Alan Hayek
1969-1981

Average number of pupils during Hayek tenure: 101

Communication:
oral supplemented by use of sign language and finger spelling
Hayek tenure

- NDSD fully accredited
- Implemented:
  - Audiology Department
  - Captioned Video Lending Library
  - Parent-Infant Program
- Initiated idea of NDSD as state resource center
- PL 42-142 *Education for All Handicapped Children Act*
- Media Resource Center-High School and superintendent’s house constructed
- North Dakota Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf established
- Land sold for construction of Vocational-Technical Center
- Students enroll in trade classes at Vo-Tech Center
- Jr. Association of the Deaf established at NDSD (1971)
- Students participate in World Games for the Deaf
1969-1981 scenes from campus

Frank Turk
Superintendent Dr. Gary Holman
1982-1986

Average number of pupils during Holman tenure: 67

Communication:

*Signing Exact English* – signs devised to represent English, accompanied by spoken language, the SEE system provided simultaneous representations of visual and oral English
Holman tenure

- Implemented
  - Psychology Department
  - Close-Up Program
  - Communications Department (interpreters provided for mainstream students)
  - Reverse mainstream programs
  - Weekend flight transportation
  - Sports coops
- Construction of swimming pool
- Pool open to community coops
1982-1986 scenes from campus

Captioned TV

Western area students swoop home and back by airplane.
Superintendent Alan Mealka
1986-1990

Average number of pupils during Mealka tenure: **48**

**Communication:**

**Total communication** – used combination of communication modes including sign language, finger spelling, speech, speech reading, amplification and writing
Mealka tenure

- Implemented
  - Summer camps for deaf and hard of hearing children
  - Family Learning Vacation
  - NDSD Outreach Program (1988)
  - Parent Hotline
  - Volunteer Program
  - NDSD’s first promotional video
- Collaborated with special education units to form the *ND Coalition of Service Providers for Hearing-Impaired*
- NDSD *Heritage Center* established
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) enacted
1986-1990 scenes from campus

Sports coop

Seniors
Superintendent Jaime Galloway
1990-1998

Average number of pupils during Galloway tenure: 55

Communication:

bilingual-bicultural - affirmed role of *American Sign Language* as natural language of deaf persons and fostered competency in both English and *American Sign Language*
Galloway tenure

- Celebrated NDSD Centennial (1990)
- Revised NDSD mission statement to include outreach services to deaf and hard of hearing children in North Dakota
- Caption-ready televisions (1993)
- FCC enacts captioning law (1996)
- Internet service
- Telephone relay service
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act reauthorized (direct communication)
1990-1998 scenes from campus
Superintendent Rocklyn Cofer
1998–2005

Average number of pupils during Cofer tenure: 36

Communication:
bilingual-bicultural - affirmed role of American Sign Language as the natural language of deaf persons and fostered competency in both English and American Sign Language
Cofer tenure

- Hearing screening for infants
- Discontinued Trades program
- ND Interpreter Law passed
  (Collaboration with ND Association for the Deaf)
- Implemented ASL & Interpreter Training Program
  (Collaboration with Lake Region State College)
- Implemented ND Captioning Center
  (Collaboration with ND Friends of Deaf Children Foundation)
- Interactive Television Network classes offered
  (Collaboration with Lake Region State College)
- ND Deaf/Blind Services housed at NDSD
- Blue Ribbon Task Force established
- Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) amended (2004)
- Down-sized - school building leased to Head Start
1998-2005 scenes from campus

Built 1907
Superintendent Dennis Fogelson
2006-2009

Average number of pupils during Fogelson tenure: **26**

Communication:

Endorse use of visual communication and promote an environment in which *American Sign Language* and English mutually co-exist – communication must be direct, comprehensible and accessible.
Fogelson tenure

- Legislature authorized expansion of services to adults
- Legislature passed Interpreter bill – NDSD delegated to distribute financial reimbursements to state institutions of higher learning for interpreters and real-time captioning costs incurred
- *American Sign Language* approved as vocational course by *ND Department of Career & Technology Education*
- Legislature mandated formation of transition team to review future role of NDSD
2006-2009 scenes from campus
Superintendent Carmen Suminski
2009 – present

Average number of pupils
during Suminski tenure: 23

Communication:
Endorse use of visual communication and
promote an environment in which American
Sign Language and English mutually
co-exist – communication must be direct,
comprehensible and accessible
Suminski tenure in progress

- Installation of elevator (in progress)
- Transition team established to review future role of the North Dakota School for the Deaf
2009 scenes from campus

IVN ASL class
Times have changed
Demographics have changed
Laws have changed
Educational trends have changed
NDSD has changed
The North Dakota School for the Deaf adapted with changing times and assumed a dual mission:

1. Provide educational and residential services for deaf and hard of hearing children

2. Provide outreach services to deaf and hard of hearing people of all ages
Outreach services have been an integral part of NDSD since 1988

Thousands of individuals have been served
Throughout its long and proud history, the North Dakota School for the Deaf has encountered many challenges but one thing has remained constant …
North Dakota School for the Deaf continues to provide quality programs for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in our state.
NDSD has evolved into

North Dakota’s
Educational Resource Center on
Hearing Loss & Deafness
Thank you