Jason Koester
Building Relationships and Collaboration Between Local Unions

2016 NEA National Leadership Summit | February 26-28, 2016 | Hilton Anatole | Dallas, Texas
COMPETENCY: Organizing

• 1: Foundational and Level 2: Mobilizing & Power Building

• Utilizes organizing best practices
• Builds meaningful community partnerships
• Creates conditions for continuous association growth and strength
• Fosters the development of leaders at all levels of the organization
Overview

• Background Information
• What has been successful in Bemidji
• Identifying Local Unions
• Identifying Common Interests and Goals
• Conclusion
Bemidji Minnesota

- Science teacher for 14 years
- President of the Bemidji Education Association for 4 years
- Northland United Board Member
- Executive Board
- Negotiations Council
- Settlement Committee Chair
Collaborating Unions

- Teachers
- Educational Support Paraprofessionals (ESP’S)
- Secretaries
- Administration
ESP’s and Secretaries

• First Book
• Early Childhood Screening
• Back Pack Buddies
• Preschool Graduation
• Homeless Shelters
• Soup Kitchen
Working together of little projects has brought success on larger projects

- Operating Levy - Passed by highest margin in the state
- Building Bond - Passed (last attempt failed 28% to 72%)
- Conflict Resolution
- Negotiations
Administration

• School Calendar

• Conflict Resolution

• Negotiations
Identifying Local Unions

- Administration
- ESP’s
- Food Service
- Custodians
- Bus Drivers
- Secretaries
Identifying Common Issues
Session Outcomes

• The content from this session can be used in the following ways in your current position/role:
  – Achieve Common Goals
  – Provide members new opportunities to get involved
  – Build stronger relationships with other unions
Please complete the evaluation for this breakout session!

Thank You
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