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Douglas School District's Trista Olney Elected Secretary of NAFIS Board

Washington, D.C. – March 20, 2025 – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce that Trista Olney, Business Manager for Douglas School District in South Dakota, has been elected Secretary of the NAFIS Board of Directors. The election took place at the 2025 NAFIS Spring Conference in Washington, D.C.

As Secretary of the NAFIS Board, Olney is a national leader advocating for school districts that receive Impact Aid. She will also work with other board members from across the country to shape the association's public policy priorities and oversee plans for its continued success.

Impact Aid reimburses school districts for the loss of revenue caused by the presence of nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. It helps ensure students who attend schools on or near Federal property have access to a quality education.

Olney has served on the NAFIS Board of Directors for nearly nine years and has been actively engaged with the association for over 20 years. With more than two decades of experience as the Business Manager for the Douglas School District, which serves Ellsworth Air Force Base and the surrounding community, she has a deep understanding of the critical role that Impact Aid plays in school district finance and operations. Prior to her current role, she served as the Business Manager for four years at Andes Central School District (SD), which also benefits from Impact Aid.

In 2022, Olney was named Outstanding School Business Official of the Year by the South Dakota Association of School Business Officials. She also serves on the board of Impact Schools of South Dakota (ISSD) and is active in the School Administrators of South Dakota, where she has served in various leadership roles, including on the executive board.

"I am honored to serve as the NAFIS Board Secretary and look forward this new role," said Olney. "My experience working in a district serving Indian lands students, coupled with my current role in a district that serves military families and includes federal properties, provides me with a unique perspective on the needs of federally impacted school districts. I am confident that my background will allow me to contribute meaningfully to our NAFIS Family. We are a diverse community with a common goal, and I look forward to advancing our mission, especially during these uncertain times."

"Impact Aid is a huge funding source for Douglas," she continued. "We use these funds for everything, including staff to keep class sizes smaller and instructional programs to give students the best education possible. As we plan for the arrival of the B-21 Raider, the importance of Impact Aid to our community will only grow."

"The NAFIS Board is vital in ensuring that students in federally impacted school districts have access to the resources and opportunities they need to meet their potential," said NAFIS Executive Director Nicole Russell. "Trista's expertise in school finance and experience working with diverse Impact Aid constituencies will be invaluable in strengthening NAFIS advocacy and addressing the challenges ahead. I am excited to collaborate with her in this new leadership role to drive our work forward."

Olney's term will last for two years.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents more than 1,000 federally impacted public school districts that together educate nearly eight million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property, including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. Learn more at www.nafisdc.org.