



ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS  
INTERNATIONAL



Susan  
Harkin   
*at the heart of school business*

January 16, 2021

To: Dr. Michael Jacoby  
Illinois ASBO Board of Directors

From: Susan Harkin 

Subject: ASBO International Update

Greetings, fellow *Illinois ASBO (IASBO)* board members! Listed below are the *ASBO International (ASBO)* happenings since August. I am looking forward to participating in our first *IASBO* virtual conference and seeing you at our upcoming board meeting.

## ASBO Events

### Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE) – Request for Proposals

The *ASBO* Annual Conference & Exhibition will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from October 13-16 this year. Due to its proximity, it is the perfect opportunity for *IASBO* members to attend and see what great things ACE offers to them. Please encourage your colleagues to become members and to participate in this year's conference.

ACE is also an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge with colleagues from around the world. I encourage *IASBO* members to submit a proposal for a topic they would like to present to others. *ASBO* is explicitly looking for presentations on "how your district is moving forward and reframing school business topics like human resources, financial management, strategic budgeting, facilities, school nutrition, and more."

Proposals are due by February 5<sup>th</sup>. [Click on this link](#) to submit your proposal to present on the great things happening in your district that you would like to share with your peers around the world!

### ASBO Winter Conference

The *ASBO* board will be making its final decision about the Winter Conference at its upcoming board meeting on Thursday, January 21.

## ASBO Board Meetings

At our November board meeting, the board:

- Appointed a new attorney;
- Finished its review and approved policy manual edits;
- Adopted a revised election manual;
- Suspended its international board representation program; and
- Decided to hold a smaller scale Winter Conference in place of ELF due to COVID.

This meeting was our last meeting for this board calendar. As such, we thanked Tom Wohlleber and Marvin Dereef for their service on the board and welcomed Aubrey Kirkpatrick and Wanda Erb as new board members.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21.

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## Campaign Updates

### *ASBO Campaign Activities*

My thanks to Stacia and Bekah for their outstanding work to send out the Holiday Postcard. They did a fantastic job designing and getting it sent out to all active ASBO members. I also submitted my ASBO Vice President application before the New Year. I feel like these two actions are the official kickoff to our campaign. Now the real work begins.

The IASBO staff has created a great project plan mapping out the campaign activities for the next several months. Dr. Jacoby has coordinated many opportunities to present at affiliates conferences. Once in-person meetings begin again, we will use our affiliate visits to make strong connections with their members. Until then, we will work to find ways to connect with all ASBO members.

### *ASBO Campaign Themes: Equity for all Students*

I am thrilled to be on the IASBO Equity Committee. I know Seth, Tamara, and Ed will provide an update on the work-to-date at your meeting. I look forward to supporting that work and participating in the change we can make in public education on this topic.

### *ASBO Campaign Themes: Leadership*

In my effort to grow as a leader, I ran across this article, [“High-Performing Teams Need Psychological Safety. Here’s How to Create It.”](#) It highlights that the key to becoming a high-performing team is to create psychological safety within the team. For those looking for ways to continue growing your team, I thought this article provided some great insight.

### *ASBO Campaign Themes: Well-being*

As we enter what we hope will be the last stretch of COVID, your resiliency and self-care are more critical than ever. I thought this article, [“How to Lead When Your Team is Exhausted – and You Are, Too,”](#) provided some great thoughts on how to lead during this next wave. Best said, “Leaders need to be serious about mental wellbeing and intervene sooner rather than later. This means that your employees need more warmth and comfort than they might have prior to the pandemic.”

## Closing

Our campaign race has started. I am super excited to see how the next nine months unfold. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share my passion for public education along the way with you and our colleagues throughout the world. As always, thank you for all you are doing in your school districts, and thank you for your support of our campaign!!