



ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS
INTERNATIONAL

November 1, 2019

To: Dr. Michael Jacoby

From: Susan Harkin

Subject: ASBO International Update

CC: Illinois ASBO Board of Directors

Greetings fellow *Illinois ASBO (IASBO)* board members! Listed below are the *ASBO International (ASBO)* happenings since September. It was great seeing many of you at the **ASBO Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE)**. I was certainly *IASBO* proud of all who attended and showcased the great things going on in Illinois!

Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE)

For those of you who were able to attend, I hope you enjoyed the **ACE** in National Harbor, MD. Not only did we have a great turnout and wonderful hospitality provided by our *IASBO* team, over 20 *IASBO* members presented at the conference. I know we sometimes value *IASBO* over *ASBO* but giving back to our profession at **ACE** is a wonderful way to connect with our peers around the world for the betterment of public education.

As I reflected on the conference, I would like to encourage us to nominate an *IASBO* member for the [Eagle](#) and [Pinnacle](#) Award for the next **ACE**. The **Eagle Award** represents those school business officials that go above and beyond to serve the profession. The **Pinnacle Award** recognizes ingenuity and resourcefulness. I know many of our members are doing amazing work in their school districts. While many of us don't want the recognition, I believe it is important to acknowledge the hard work and innovative ideas we are doing here in Illinois to celebrate our shared successes. Applications will be due May 1 and June 1.

October Board Meeting

Prior to **ACE**, the *ASBO* Board held an all-day board meeting. It was by far the best *ASBO* board meeting I have participated to date. Highlights from the meeting are as follows:

- **Strategic Plan Metrics Update** – The *ASBO* staff has developed metrics to measure progress on the strategic plan goal areas. Overall, the association is trending in the right direction with opportunities for improvement in some areas. The tool that the staff has developed to measure progress will allow the board work to stay aligned to the strategic goal areas.
- **Calendar** – The board approved its annual calendar. One thing to note was we eliminated a face-to-face meeting because we are monitoring our overall expenses. It also helps with time out of the office.
- **Visitations** – The board committed to connecting with affiliates through annual visitations. With an eye on costs and time out of the office, we have reduced the per board member visit to two instead of three. We will monitor if there is any impact that will occur through this change as the board is committed to having strong relations with our affiliates.
- **Policy Manual Update** – The board is in the process of updating and overhauling the policy manual to ensure it reflects current practices. We hope to have the update completed this next year and then develop an annual review cycle to make sure it remains current.
- **Membership Model** – The *ASBO* staff presented a new membership model for the association. Most notable, we will be looking to add a District Level Membership. This will allow districts to have multiple

members from the operational side of education to be part of a district-level membership. The membership model was developed after a similar model that is utilized in California that has been highly successful. More information will be coming out next year on this option.

- Closed Session – In closed session, we
 - Received an update the executive director’s goals,
 - Discussed the executive director’s evaluation process and timeline, and
 - Reviewed the board self-evaluation instrument.

I am proud to say that the *ASBO* staff is doing an outstanding job running the association and the board is focusing on its role of governance and oversight. I am proud to represent *IASBO* on this outstanding board.

Upcoming *ASBO* Events – Executive Leadership Forum

If you have not signed up yet, I encourage you to attend the February 13-15 [Executive Leadership Forum](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana. Sessions during the forum will include Advocacy and Empowerment, Strategic Leadership, Inclusive Leadership, and Leading Positive Performance. The forum is designed specifically for school business professionals to explore leadership techniques and strategies through the lens of school business management. If that doesn’t close the deal, who doesn’t love New Orleans. I hope to see you there!

ASBO Programs & Benefits – A Little Competition

As we all prepare to finalize our budgets, I would like to remind you of the *ASBO* **Meritorious Budget Award (MBA)** and **Pathways** program as an opportunity to take your budgeting documents to an award-winning and recognition level. To date, *IASBO* has the 3rd highest number of **MBA** participants; however, to quote Ricky Bobby, “If you are not first, you are last.”

If you have never participated in the **MBA** program, the **Pathways** program is a great starting point to step into the full meritorious budget document. I have participated in the **MBA** program since 2006. I refer to the data points in this document weekly to support and guide financial decisions. If you have any questions about the program, I would be happy to answer them for you as I believe this is another excellent tool to enhance the professionalism of school business officials. Let’s see if we can get *IASBO* to #1!

Closing

Lastly, my thanks to all of you for all of your support for my campaign at the conference and throughout the year. From the wearing of the blue shirts, the great notebooks that were handed out and to the cheering me on at the General Sessions and the Affiliate events, your support is making a huge difference in my campaign. The road ahead is still long and hard but I know we are on the right path together. So thank you from the bottom of my heart for your collective commitment, it means the world to me!