



ASBO INTERNATIONAL

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ASBO SPECIAL: VOICES FROM VETERANS

Wisdom from ASBO International Luminaries

If you knew then what you know now, how would that change your thoughts, actions, and processes? The school business professional's role encompasses so many different areas, sometimes it's hard to know where to turn.

Here's some advice from those who have been there before you.

Find a Mentor

"Find yourself a mentor and take full advantage of what they have to offer. Mentors will assist you in navigating the maze of school finance, helping you avoid missteps and showing you ways to make the job easier. Build a network of colleagues to call on when you hit bumps in the road. This group of friends will be there to lift you up and ease the difficult role you have assumed."

TERRY HAAS, CPA
*Retired Chief Financial Officer
North Carolina
ASBO International Member for 23 Years*

Never Stop Learning

"Focus on career growth by continuing to learn new skills and expand knowledge. Don't be afraid to try new ideas and strategies; embrace change. Join your professional association and actively participate, sharing knowledge and skills with a network of other school business professionals."

LINDA MCGHEE
*Professional Development Coordinator, Alabama ASBO
Retired Chief Financial Officer
Alabama
ASBO International Member for 29 Years*

Ask Questions

"Question the norm and trust your instincts to make positive impactful improvements to our schools for our students and community. Pride has no place in our

profession; we must question everything, but—more importantly—encourage others to question us. This is how we build trusting and transparent leadership in our organizations."

JASON HALE, EdD, CPA
*Director of Operations
Delaware
ASBO International Member for 22 Years*

Fight for What's Right

"As spoken by Poe Dameron in *Star Wars: Episode IX – The Rise of Skywalker*, 'We're not alone. Good people will fight if we lead them.'

I have seen this truth play out over the course of my career. Many years ago, my superintendent asked me to assist two impassioned businessmen from the community, self-appointed founders of an 'Alternative Energy Committee' seeking information regarding energy usage in the town and public schools. They were interested in building a wind turbine—the first of its kind in our coastal Massachusetts community.

I prepared a simple spreadsheet of projected expenses, construction costs, and utility rebates over 10 years, revealing that such a project could pay for itself over five years and return energy credits to the town every year going forward.

A favorable newspaper article about the project encouraged local citizens—and experts—to attend committee meetings. Part of the project's momentum but not a technical expert, I served the committee as its recording secretary.

Today, there are thousands of educators and local citizens serving on committees to protect our environment and halt global warming. Good people will fight if we lead and support them."

RICHARD WEEKS
*Retired Business Manager
Past President, Massachusetts ASBO
Certified Green Classroom Professional—U. S. Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools
ASBO International Member for 32 Years*