



KEYPOST

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS



IN THIS ISSUE:

- MENTORS INSPIRE EMERGING SBAS**
- ABM CHARTS PATH FOR '24**
- TOOLS YOU CAN USE: IT UPDATES**
- BEST CHANCE FOR SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM**
- ASBO INTL CONFERENCE**
- EXPLORING INNOVATION AT ASBO INTL**
- NJBOE WELCOMES NJASBO MEMBER**
- NJASBO RECEIVES ASBO INTL AWARD**
- RETIREES**

NJASBO MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR PIVOTAL ROLE IN ANTI-HUNGER EFFORTS

NJASBO was honored to receive a resolution from Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin last week, recognizing the organization alongside the New Jersey School Nutrition Association and Hunger Free NJ for their pivotal roles in making the inaugural year of the Summer EBT program a tremendous success. Speaker Coughlin highlighted New Jersey's leadership in this initiative, noting that while some states did not participate and others are still facing challenges with distribution, New Jersey set an example for the nation.

Thanks to the collective efforts of NJASBO members, by the end of August, 564,000 students received a total of \$68 million in food benefits. NJASBO Executive Director Sue Young and Assistant Executive Director Matt Clarke proudly accepted the resolution on behalf of each and every NJASBO member who made this achievement possible. NJASBO members - thank you for your commitment to making a difference in the lives of countless students!



[Click to view the resolution](#)



Q&A

NJASBO MENTORS INSPIRE EMERGING SBAs

This year, more than 90 candidates applied to the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials' (NJASBO) [school business administrator certificate and mentorship program](#). Coming from various professional financial and educational backgrounds, these candidates share the same goal: earning the certification and beginning a career that ensures the financial well-being of a school district.

"Being a school business administrator is a demanding job," NJASBO Assistant Executive Director Matt Clarke said. "You constantly have to multi-task, but it's a life-long learning position and one that is rewarding, too."

NJASBO is the only organization authorized by the state to conduct and oversee the school business administrator training and mentorship program. To receive certification, candidates must complete 145 hours of coursework and participate in a mentorship residency.

"Mentors have experience and knowledge, and they are teaching mechanics instead of theory," Clarke, a former business administrator said. "They help the new business administrators solve problems by looking at the issues in a different way. And through this program, we have seen some excellent new business administrators who are quietly becoming experts in the field."

We asked new business administrators from throughout the state – your colleagues – to share their experiences!

Jeanine DeOre

*Assistant Business Administrator
Princeton Public Schools
Got her start in public accounting*



Jeanine DeOre has been the assistant business administrator at Princeton Public Schools since July of 2023. Prior to this, DeOre worked at Robbinsville Public Schools starting in the accounts payable office in 2013 and later became the assistant business administrator in 2022. DeOre spent 10 years working for public accounting firms and as a consultant.

What inspired you to become a school business administrator?

"It's all about the students; for me, it's always been about helping kids. I have a financial background, and I'm excited to use it to help the students and the community. Everyone wants what is best for the students, and we all work together to reach this same goal."

What do you enjoy about being a school business administrator?

"The biggest reward is also the biggest challenge. A business administrator gets pulled in many different directions, and you want to make everyone happy, but you can't. We have everyone's best interest at heart, but we also have a budget to balance."

What was your experience with the mentorship program?

"The mentorship program was my favorite part of earning the school business administration certification. Tom Eldridge, the business administrator for Lawrence Township Public Schools, was my mentor and he was instrumental in my success. I'm still learning from him and will call him with questions."

continued on page 3



Q & A *continued from page 2*

Do you have any advice for those considering a career as a school business administrator?

“Having good organizational skills is key to being a successful business administrator. Some days can be challenging, but it is rewarding to see the results of your work benefit the students, schools, and community.”

Christopher DeSanto

*Business Administrator
Hainesport Township School District
Got his start in banking and finance*

Before becoming Hainesport Township School District’s business administrator in July 2023, Christopher DeSanto was the assistant business administrator for Deptford Township School District. He also taught business classes at Millville High School for more than 16 years.

DeSanto spent 12 years working in banking and finance.

What inspired you to become a school business administrator?

“When I was working in finance, I realized my favorite part about the job was educating my clients about stocks, bonds, mortgages, and their money. I decided I wanted to become a teacher, earned my teaching certificate, and taught high school business classes for about 16 years. While teaching, I started to develop an interest in the school business office. My interest gained momentum, and I proceeded to obtain a certificate as a school business administrator.”

What do you enjoy about being a school business administrator?

“I like the responsibility that comes with being a school business administrator. I like the challenges the job presents. You must come to grips with the fact that you are not going to make everyone happy, but if you are fair and consistent, people will understand your decisions.”

Who has had the most significant influence on your career as a business administrator?

“I have a good relationship with my mentor through the NJASBO mentorship program. We still talk and he was helpful. But Richard Davidson, who is the business administrator for Millville Public Schools, was also a big influence. He took the time to talk to me and show me how the business office is run.”

Do you have any advice for those considering a career as a school business administrator?

“Make sure you can manage your time and stay organized. Don’t be scared to ask questions. Some days you feel like Santa Claus and other days you will feel like the Grinch, but there is a lot of reward in this field.”

Carisa Rose

*Assistant Business Administrator
Washington Township Public Schools
Got her start operating a dance studio*

In April, Carisa Rose accepted the assistant business administrator position at Washington Township Public Schools. Prior to this, she worked at Pitman School District for 10 years, starting as an administrative assistant and then advancing to the assistant business administrator and business administrator positions. She has always enjoyed working in finance and began her career managing the business office of a dance studio she operated with her aunt.

What inspired you to become a school business administrator?

“I have always loved numbers and was fortunate to have some amazing, strong women around me who encouraged me to go into accounting. I got a taste of working in a school’s business office and realized

continued on page 4





Q & A *continued from page 3*

I wanted more. I really enjoy helping the district navigate the financial world."

What do you enjoy about being a school business administrator?

"I love feeling like a "fixer" for the district. School business administrators wear multiple hats and work with many different departments. I like interacting with my team and figuring out how to make things better for the district while saving them money."

What was your experience with the mentorship program?

"Collingswood Public Schools business administrator Beth Ann Coleman was my mentor, and she was amazing. We talked and got together monthly. She has become my friend and she still answers all my questions."

Do you have any advice for those considering a career as a school business administrator?

"Go to all the school business administrator classes, seminars and workshops. Be involved and absorb everything you can from them. It is important to understand how a school works."

Michele Rainere

*Assistant Business Administrator
Tenafly Public Schools
Got her start in finance*

Michele Rainere spent more than 20 years in the financial corporate world when she decided it was time for a change. She applied for a business administrator certificate of eligibility in 2020 and began working as a financial analyst for Tenafly Public Schools in 2021. In 2022,

Rainere accepted the assistant business administrator position at the school district.

What inspired you to become a wschool business administrator?

"I learned about the business administrator position through my family, who were educators. I was a director of finance for a company, and realized I enjoy working with people and being a manager. As an assistant business administrator, I get to work with many people and help the district with finances. This career seemed like a good fit for me."

What do you enjoy about being a school business administrator?

"I love that I get to learn something new every day. I chose this career to continue to learn about the field, and then apply that knowledge to help make the school district the best that it can be."

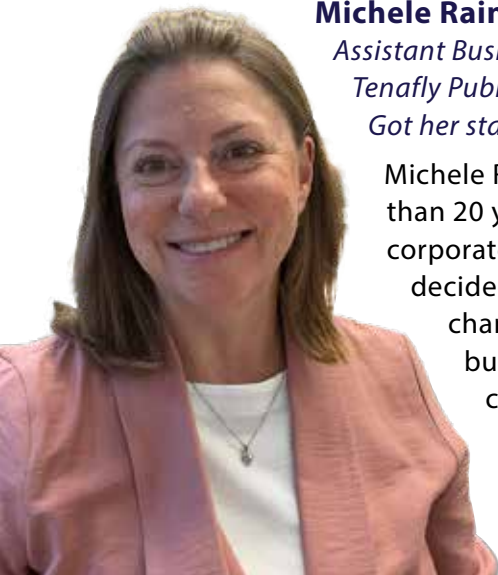
What was your experience with the mentorship program?

"The mentorship was one of the most important pieces of the certification program. My mentor was Midland Park Public Schools Business Administrator Stacy Garvey who was an excellent source of knowledge. She taught me the day-to-day workings of a school, and I could bounce ideas off her and seek her advice. Having a mentor is an invaluable experience."

Do you have any advice for those considering a career as a school business administrator?

"It's important to build strong relationships with people in your school district and with other business administrators. You will be able to learn from each other."

continued on page 5





Q & A *continued from page 4*



Jenny Deuel
Business Administrator
 Sussex County Technical School
 Got her start in science/biology

Jenny Deuel has been the business administrator for Sussex County Technical School since March of 2023. Previously, she was the confidential secretary for the superintendent before becoming the business administrator for Frelinghuysen

Township School District. Deuel also worked as an office manager for an after-school program and did grant writing and program development for local nonprofit organizations. She began her career working in a research laboratory and has a science and biology background.

What inspired you to become a school business administrator?

“When I learned about this position, it really interested me. I’m a math person, so I enjoy working with numbers all day, but I also like to keep busy. As a school business administrator, there is always something new to learn. I like the challenge.”

What do you enjoy about being a school business administrator?

“There’s a lot I like about this career, especially that I can help my community. My daughter attended Sussex County Technical School, and it was instrumental in giving her a good start. I feel like I can give back to the students, school, and community in this role by making sure they get everything they need to succeed.”

What was your experience with the mentorship program?

“My mentor, Kittatinny Regional School District Business Administrator Theresa Linskey, was fantastic. I don’t know what I would have done without her. I could ask her anything from basic questions to more

detailed ones. We developed a good relationship, and I still reach out to her for advice.”

Do you have any advice for those considering a career as a school business administrator?

“Don’t expect to know everything on the first day of the job. There is a lot to learn; give yourself some grace. If you have questions, ask other school business administrators for help. We have our own little community and look out for each other. If you are thinking about this as a career, do it. It has challenges but being a business administrator is very rewarding.”



Anthony Sciarrillo
Business Administrator
 Red Bank Borough
 Public Schools
 Got his start in accounting

Anthony Sciarrillo has been the business administrator for Red Bank Borough Public Schools since July 2023. He previously was

the assistant business administrator for Princeton Public Schools. Before beginning a career in education, Sciarrillo was a Certified Public Accountant.

What inspired you to become a school business administrator?

“Education has always been in my blood. My dad was a school board attorney and my mom was head of an all-girls school. I’ve always had an interest in the school business administrator position, and I just got to the point where I decided I could contribute and go for it.”

What do you enjoy about being a school business administrator?

“I love this career. It’s always interesting; it always keeps you on your toes. Anything not covered under curriculum and education instruction is handled

continued on page 6



Q & A *continued from page 5*

by the business administrator, including finance, transportation, food services, construction, and building and grounds.

It is so rewarding to see smiles on the students' and faculty's faces when you can help them achieve their goals. It feels good to contribute to and support education."

What was your experience with the mentorship program?

"I have a great mentor, Long Branch Public Schools Business Administrator Pete Genovese. He is incredible; I can ask him all the questions I have. I do

have a lot! He helped me get through the everyday stuff, especially that first year of being a school business administrator. I still lean on him today."

Do you have any advice for those considering a career as a school business administrator?

"Network and connect with others in the field. Reach out to the many resources available such as NJASBO. Stay in touch with your classmates. I have a group text with four or five of my classmates, and we keep in touch and ask each other questions. It's impossible to know everything about the job when you start, and the connections you make are very valuable."

NJASBO ABM COMMITTEE CHARTS PATH FOR 2024

Focus on Engagement, Collaboration and Strengthening Partnerships with K-12 Districts

On October 1, the NJASBO Associate Business Members Executive Committee held its first meeting to chart the course for the year, discuss key initiatives, and review NJASBO updates and challenges for the coming year.

This year, the committee will prioritize enhancing engagement among associate business members, a task that can be challenging due to the diverse industries it represents. ABM Executive Committee President Greg Burns emphasized that the goal is to support members in navigating partnerships with

K-12 school districts while also highlighting the value of NJASBO membership and fostering a stronger sense of camaraderie.

"Our focus is to offer support, not only as professional colleagues but as friends, helping each other succeed in our business endeavors," Burns added. "I'm excited

to collaborate with Sue Young, Matt Clarke, Katie Attwood, the NJASBO Executive Committee, and the ABM Executive Committee in serving school districts and supporting the NJASBO conference and organization as a whole."



NJASBO Associate Business Members kicked off the 24/25 year in their favorite team's gear, including (l to r) President Greg Burns (Notre Dame), President-Elect Phaedra Laird (Phillies), Vice President Lindsay Becker (Giants), Secretary Robin Campbell (Giants), Professional Development Chair Brian Reilly (NY Red Bulls Soccer Club), and New Member Chair Michael Manfre (Mets).



TOOLS YOU CAN USE: NJASBO IT UPDATES

NJASBO Tools and Resources

By Susan Young | NJASBO Executive Director



The role of a School Business Administrator (SBA) is challenging, and NJASBO strives to lighten that load by providing tools, resources, and current, relevant information. While I would like to remind you of some existing resources, I am also thrilled to introduce the newest member

of the NJASBO staff, Nicholas Peteya.

Meet Nicholas Peteya

Nick is our first Software Support Administrator. He joins us from Caldwell University, bringing over ten years of experience as a Senior Technology Support Specialist and Systems Technician. His decade of experience includes systems administration, technical support, IT systems implementation, on-premise and cloud services, device deployment, and client support. Nick has implemented and managed a wide range of IT solutions, focusing on driving efficiency, enhancing security, and delivering exceptional user experiences. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts & Media Studies.

Nick hit the ground running at the end of June, familiarizing himself with our back-office systems and operations. If you have visited our [website](#) recently, you may have noticed a fresh look. Nick has been busy redesigning pages and working collaboratively with the Technology Committee and NJASBO staff to update and reorganize content and page design. Additionally, he is working on improving NJASBO's visibility in Google searches for those seeking an SBA career in New Jersey. Simultaneously, he is promoting the profession through videos and promotional/informational materials. Managing our systems, software, and related security elements is also within

his domain. Nick has been harnessing, inventorying, and organizing our library of over 200 presentations, webinars and videos. He is also exploring learning management systems that NJASBO hopes to acquire and implement to provide learning opportunities for members via various delivery methods. The integration of AI into our operations also remains a constant focus.

Existing Resources

Please remember to log in with your member ID and password, as all resources and features are not visible on the public-facing website.

- **Resource Tab** - A popular tool is our downloadable calendar which can be added to Outlook or Google Calendars. NJASBO updates the calendar and its links as new memos, broadcasts or other important updates are announced. Tasks are listed on their due dates, so please look ahead during the month to see what is upcoming.
- **Resources/Resources and Resources/Purchasing Tabs** - With the help of the Technology Committee, we have updated the documents and links provided here wherever possible.
- **Professional Development** - Matt has been busy scheduling and providing multiple professional development opportunities from monthly three-hour in-person professional development sessions to in-person Academy sessions for newer members and virtual Lunch 'n Learn sessions, along with coordinating certification classes.
- **Key Alerts** - These notices are sent out on an 'as needed' basis to provide timely information on important topics.

We are excited to provide these and other benefits to our members and look forward to continuing to serve your needs now and in the future.



THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION – WHEN IS THE BEST CHANCE FOR A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM?

Monthly Pass Rates for New Jersey School Bond Referenda: 2014-2023

By Ryan Mullins

A statistical analysis of 10 years’ worth of bond referendum results in New Jersey reveals that most school districts are more likely to find success in January. However, the margin is slim. The highest pass rate was in April for the small number of districts that had the choice of voting that month.

The results can help professionals – architects, bond counsel, financial advisors and communications professionals – who work with school districts to answer the oft-asked question during the referendum planning stage. Boards of education and administrators want to know if certain vote dates carry a higher probability of passing bond-funded construction and capital improvements questions. Analysis by the public finance team at Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., sought to determine which dates historically offer the best chance for a district’s hard work to pay off.

This article solely examines the passage rates to determine whether any trends exist during certain bond referendum dates. The article does not delve into other factors that may have influenced the outcome of those votes, such as tax impact, project details/scope, existing debt, local economy or local politics.

Six of 11 districts that proposed capital projects on September 17 of this year gained voter approval. Proposed improvement packages ranged from \$3 million to \$87 million for a total over the half-billion mark. Significant effort goes into developing these proposals, so it makes sense to consider success rates.

According to [N.J.S.A. 19:60-2](#), type II school districts may present bond proposals to voters on five specific dates throughout the year. Those dates are the fourth Tuesday in January, the second Tuesday in March, the last Tuesday in September, the second Tuesday in December, or during a district’s annual school

election. For the vast majority of districts, that’s on the General Election ballot in November. A handful hold budget and school board elections in April.

A compilation of results is recorded on the New Jersey School Boards Association’s website¹. From 2014-2023 (the “Entire Period”), New Jersey citizens voted on 463 school bond referendum questions. Notably, only 10 ballot questions were presented to the voters in April. The available information was used to calculate the mean pass rate for each month, as well as the mean pass rate for the Entire Period. The resulting data is as follows:

Month	Approved	Denied	Total	Pass Rate
January	42	12	54	77.78%
March	69	27	96	71.88%
April	8	2	10	80.00%
September	84	38	122	68.85%
November	66	29	95	69.47%
December	48	38	86	55.81%
Entire Period	317	146	463	68.47%

To confirm the results, six one-tailed Welch’s t-tests² were conducted. The monthly mean pass rates were individually compared with the Entire Period pass rates using the t-tests. This computed whether the mean of the two data sets were statistically significantly different. The result of a Welch’s t-test is a P-value, a number from 0 to 1 that represents how likely it is that the means from both sets are equal. The higher the number is the more likely it is that the sets are equal. The resulting P-values are listed below:

Month	P-value
January	0.066
March	0.669
April	0.207
September	0.468
November	0.424
December	0.016

continued on page 9



THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION – WHEN IS THE BEST CHANCE FOR A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM? *continued from page 8*

The threshold for statistical significance often varies by field and usage, commonly set at 0.05, although 0.1 can also be used in less rigorous settings. March, April, September, and November all have P-values above both thresholds. Thus, bond proposal questions were equally likely to pass in these months as during the Entire Period.

On the other hand, December had a mean pass rate of 55.81 percent. Comparing this with the Entire Period's pass rate using a t-test resulted in a P-value of 0.016, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, at the 5% significance level, bond proposal questions were statistically significantly less likely to pass in December as compared to the Entire Period.

In contrast, January had a mean pass rate of 77.78 percent. The t-test resulted in a P-value of 0.066, which is greater than 0.05. At the 5 percent significance level, there is no statistically significant difference between January's pass rate and the Entire Period's pass rate. However, this changes at the 10 percent significance level, because 0.066 is less than 0.1. At the 10 percent significance level, referendum questions were statistically significantly more likely to pass in January as compared to the Entire Period. Thus, a

bond proposal was somewhat statistically more likely to pass in January compared to the Entire Period.

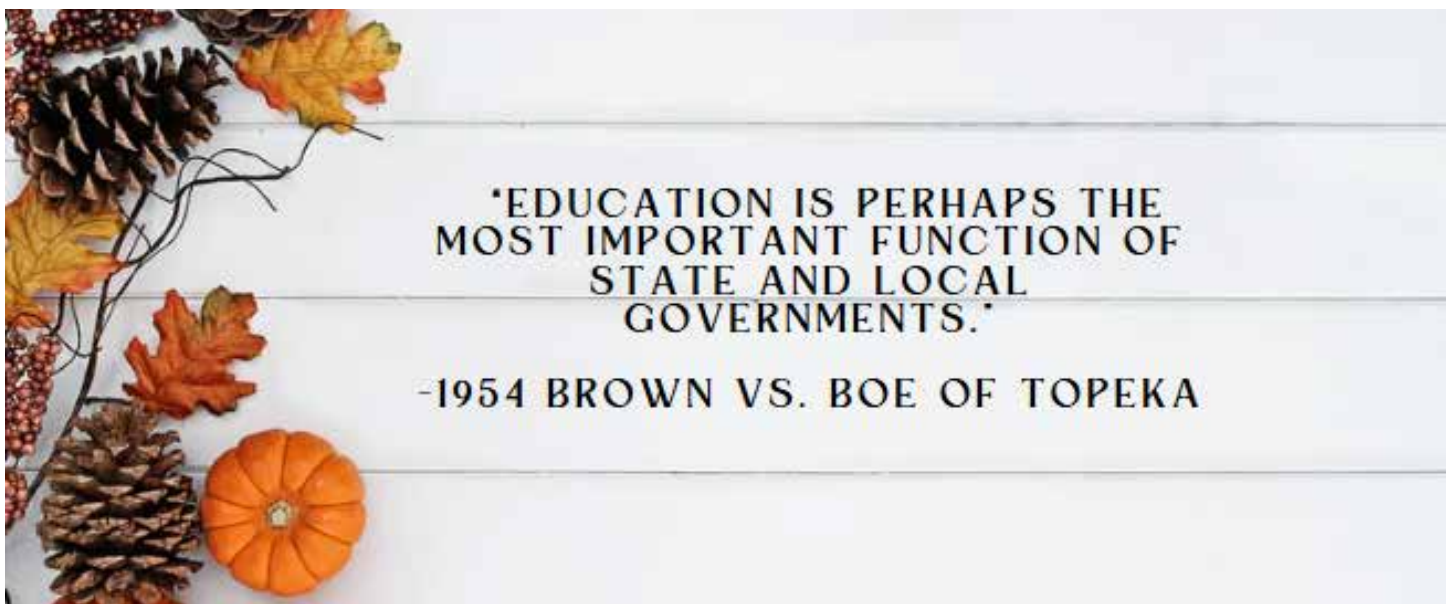
In summary, from 2014 to 2023, bond proposals in New Jersey were equally as likely to pass in March, April, September, and November as during the Entire Period. January showed a somewhat higher likelihood of passage, albeit only statistically significant at the 10 percent confidence level. Conversely, bond proposals voted on in December had a statistically significantly lower chance of passing compared to the Entire Period.

About the Author

Ryan Mullins is a 2023 graduate of The University of Miami with a double major in Economics and Marine Affairs and a minor in Business Law. Mr. Mullins currently works as a clerical assistant on the public finance team at Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.

¹ <https://www.njsba.org/news-information/data/>

² Welch's t-tests determine whether two sets of data have equal means, taking into account variance and sample size.





NASHVILLE SETS STAGE FOR ASBO INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

New Jersey School Business Leaders Honored and Inspired

By Susan Young | NJASBO Executive Director

Affectionately known as Music City, Nashville was the lively backdrop for ASBO International's Annual Conference and Expo, where over 70 New Jersey school business administrators came together to enhance their skills, exchange best practices and connect with peers from across the country.

The event kicked off with an in-depth pre-conference featuring a timely workshop on AI strategies for school business. The main conference tackled a wide range of critical topics, from creating award-winning budgets and maximizing productivity with AI tools to federal policy updates, staffing solutions, special education costs, and cybersecurity threats. Notably, Brian Savage (SBA, Point Pleasant Beach) and his superintendent led a standout session on balancing staff and student wellness. The conference also offered valuable educational credits toward SFO, CPE, and CAE certifications.

Parallel to these sessions, ASBO state executive directors and staff participated in professional development seminars, focusing on topics such as harnessing AI tools, increasing membership engagement, and building brand identity—topics vital to effectively managing ASBO affiliates.

A standout moment of the conference was the inspiring recognition of New Jersey's rising stars—Samantha Katz from Millstone, Ken Londregan from Oceanport, and Matthew Whitford from Rutherford—who were each awarded the Emerging Leaders Scholarship. This honor recognizes school business



NJASBO members enjoy an evening at the Johnny Cash Restaurant, an event organized by NJASBO President Katherine Atwood.

professionals with five or fewer years in the field and helps them develop into tomorrow's leaders. The trio were among 20 scholarships awardees from across the nation. Additionally, Brianna Biesiada (MOESC) returned to the program as a mentor, offering guidance to the next generation of leaders.

Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, Summit's Derek Jess was sworn in as a member of the ASBO International Board of Directors following his recent election. This prestigious board represents school districts from across the United States, Canada, and beyond, working to lead ASBO members and uphold professional standards in education administration.

continued on page 11



NASHVILLE SETS STAGE FOR ASBO INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

continued from page 10

Beyond the formal sessions, the conference provided abundant networking opportunities and an expansive exhibition hall featuring over 125 vendors showcasing the latest products and services tailored to the needs of school business administrators. Attendees also enjoyed a keynote speech by Showtime Comedy All-Star Steve Rizzo, a renowned motivational speaker. Rizzo’s humorous and insightful presentation encouraged attendees to shift focus, boost productivity, and find joy in their personal and professional lives. Additionally, a special evening was enjoyed by the NJASBO group, thanks to President Katherine Attwood, who organized a dinner at the Johnny Cash Restaurant, with an optional tour of the Johnny Cash Museum. This provided a relaxing

opportunity for members to unwind and strengthen connections.

The closing session featured National Teacher of the Year Missy Testerman, who acknowledged the dedication and essential role of school business officials in ensuring the smooth financial and operational health of schools.

As attendees reflect on the knowledge gained and the relationships formed at this year’s conference, the experience will undoubtedly benefit the future of our schools and careers. Upcoming ASBO International events include the Leadership Forum in March 2025 in Tampa, Florida, and next year’s Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, set for October 2025.



NJASBO LEADERS EXPLORE INNOVATION AT THE ASBO INTERNATIONAL EAGLE INSTITUTE

By Susan Young | NJASBO Executive Director

Since 2002, NJASBO has proudly supported a policy highlighting the immense value of attending ASBO International’s Eagle Institute. Designed for district leaders and school business professionals, the Eagle Institute is a transformative experience that takes school business administrators on a journey through history and innovation, helping them grow as leaders. With engaging presentations from top experts, attendees return to their communities with fresh perspectives and a renewed sense of purpose.

ASBO firmly believes that attending the Eagle Institute strengthens leadership and communication skills while boosting the overall effectiveness of executive committee members. Additionally, the NJASBO School

Business Administrator of the Year has the honor of attending this prestigious event.

In July, I joined our SBA of the Year, Diane Fox, and NJASBO President-Elect Chandra Anaya at this year’s Eagle Institute, held at the historic Henry Ford complex in Dearborn, Michigan. The theme, "Leadership Lessons from the Stories of Innovation," was genuinely captivating. Attendees from across the country exchanged valuable insights and the networking opportunities were priceless.

Some conference highlights included tours of Greenfield Village, the Henry Ford Museum, and the

continued on page 12



NJASBO LEADERS EXPLORE INNOVATION AT THE ASBO INTERNATIONAL EAGLE INSTITUTE *continued from page 11*



Ford Factory—each showcasing incredible examples of past and present innovation. We also participated in a group innovation challenge, and I’m excited to share that Diane Fox’s group won!

Another standout feature was the introduction of the Innovation Atlas, an interactive map developed by the Henry Ford Museum in collaboration with Harvard and Stanford Universities. It provides a powerful visualization of education and socioeconomic barriers

that impact innovation across the U.S. I encourage you to explore your district on the Innovation Atlas via the link [here](#). The goal of this dynamic tool is to help reduce the innovation opportunity gap in our communities.

The Innovation Atlas leverages data from Opportunity Insights at Harvard, incorporating K-12 school data and socioeconomic attributes to develop an Innovation Atlas Score. This score applies to over 85,000 public schools in the U.S., grouping them based on barriers to innovation. The data shows that children’s chances of becoming innovators are increasingly affected by these barriers, highlighting the need for continued focus on upward innovation in our schools and communities.

Following this year’s success, ASBO International has decided to align the Eagle Institute with its Leadership Conference to avoid summer date conflicts and help reduce participant travel costs. The 2025 Eagle Institute will be a one-day event on March 5 in Tampa, Florida, prior to the Leadership Conference. Given this change, NJASBO’s trustees will be considering updates to our policy to make participation even more flexible.





NJ STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION WELCOMES NJASBO MEMBER



The New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) is proud to announce the appointment of Ahmed Shehata, Clifton Public Schools’ business administrator, board secretary, and CFO, to the New Jersey State Board of Education.

Ahmed Shehata has been Clifton’s BA for the last year, having served as the district’s assistant business administrator/board secretary and assistant CFO from 2021-2023. Before he came to school finance, Shehata worked for Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.

Shehata earned his MBA in data analytics from Seton Hall’s Stillman School of Business in 2023, an MPA in administration from Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and Administration in 2018, and a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and political science from Rutgers University in 2016. He was also a Muslim Student Delegate at the Student Conference on U.S. Affairs at West Point in 2015.

Shehata received a certificate in American politics and public policy from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers in 2016 and currently serves as an alumni committee member for the Institute. A member of the Linden Board of Education from 2018 to 2021, Shehata has also served as a Union County Improvement Authority board member since 2020.



Ahmed Shehata is sworn in as the newest governor appointee to the New Jersey State Board of Education.

The [New Jersey State Board of Education](#) is a 13-member panel appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. The state board adopts the [administrative code](#), which are the regulations that detail how education law will be implemented. Regulations cover the supervision and governance of the state’s local educational agencies, which include all traditional public school districts, charter schools, and renaissance

school projects that collectively serve nearly 1.4 million students. In addition, the state board advises on educational policies proposed by the education commissioner and confirms Department of Education staff appointments made by the commissioner.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING OUR RETIREES ON A JOB WELL DONE!

- Cherie Bratty, SBA, Pine Hill School District
- Lisa Giovanelli, SBA, Rancocas Valley Regional High School
- Kerry Keane, SBA, Kinnelon Public Schools
- Denise Kinney, Asst. SBA, Camden City School District
- Vita Marino, SBA, Spotswood Public School
- Rob Scharle, SBA, Harrison Township School District

ASBO INTERNATIONAL RECOGNIZES SUE YOUNG



NJASBO’s Executive Director Susan Young accepts a plaque from ASBO INTL President Ryan S. Stechschulte to recognize her contributions as vice chair of the ASBO International Affiliate Executive Director Group (AEDG) in 2023 and as chair in 2024. The AEDG is made up of the ASBO

state executive directors and the ASBO International Executive Director. The group meets in person and virtually multiple times during the year to share professional development topics, legal updates, association best practices and common issues among the members.

