LIGHTING THE WAY
IASB • IASA • IASBO
76th JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 21-23, 2008
CHICAGO

CONFERENCE PREVIEW
IASB • IASA • IASBO
76th Joint Annual Conference

Lighting the Way — that is your 2008 Joint Annual Conference theme, a theme derived from the motto of the Illinois Association of School Boards: Lighting the Way to Excellence in School Governance.

The conference theme mirrors the task you have chosen as a public school leader — whether as a school board member, district superintendent or school business manager — to blaze a trail toward excellent schools and a brighter tomorrow.

In pursuit of that vital calling, thousands of school leaders will make their way from every township’s end of Illinois to Chicago this fall in order to explore ideas and information essential to improving education in local public schools. Together, you and your colleagues will study the solutions and examine the techniques that can help “light the way.”

On November 21 through 23, 2008, the Hyatt Regency Chicago, Sheraton Chicago and Swissotel will host the year’s most extensive and valuable conference for local school officials. A wide variety of discussion sessions, workshops and worthwhile learning opportunities await you.

This will be your best opportunity of the year to consult with colleagues from other school districts who have solved the same the problems that confront you. You will learn from authorities on a myriad of topics, ranging from funding matters to legal issues. You will be inspired by the keynote speakers. And you will have an opportunity to meet and talk informally with school leaders from across the state.

This brochure offers only a glimpse of all the entertaining, enlightening and engaging activities the Conference has to offer. So plan now to attend the 2008 Joint Annual Conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), and Illinois Association of School Business Officials (Illinois ASBO).
The following checklist maps out the key deadlines to watch to make sure your delegation is properly registered and housed at the Joint Annual Conference:

**October 14**
Payments, registration and housing forms, as well as any changes in existing registrations, must be received by the IASB office by this date in order for registration materials to be mailed to you. Forms received in the IASB office after October 14 will be taken to the conference, where registrants will need to pick up their materials and I.D. badges. Registration fees after October 14 are $355.
Registration refunds, minus a $75 service fee per registrant, can be honored only if made in writing to IASB by November 1, 2008. No refund requests will be honored after this date, and all refunds will be processed after the conference.

October 14 is the last day for receiving registration changes by mail or by fax at 217/241-2144. After this date, all changes must be made at the conference registration desk. Replacement badges will be issued only upon exchange of the original registration badge.

**November 7**
Conference registration packets and badges, for registrations received prior to the October 14 deadline, will be mailed on this date.

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**Conference hotels**
All events will take place at three downtown hotels: Hyatt Regency Chicago (151 East Wacker Drive), Sheraton Chicago (301 East North Water Street), and Swissotel (323 East Wacker Drive). There is easy walking access among all three hotels.
To reach the Sheraton from the Hyatt, exit from the Grand Ballroom Foyer of the Hyatt (this is near the conference registration and coat check desks) to Columbus Drive. The Sheraton is just across the Chicago River bridge and to the right. To reach the Swissotel from the Hyatt, take the up escalator located one flight above the escalators leading to the Riverside Center exhibit hall. Turn right from this upper escalator and proceed to the far end of One Illinois Center, the city’s underground shopping mall. Or, if weather permits, walk outside two blocks east on Wacker Drive.

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**Note:** Information is continuing to come in about the conference. As a result, changes could create cancellations, relocations or additions to the list of conference events contained in this brochure. Please refer to the Program Guide you can find at the Conference Registration Desk for an accurate, updated listing of events and activities.
**Thursday, November 20**

Noon – 4 p.m.  IASB Board of Directors’ Luncheon Meeting

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**Friday, November 21**

7 a.m. – Illinois ASBO Workshop Registration

7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Illinois ASBO Workshops

7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Conference Registration
- IASB Delegate Assembly Registration

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
- Workshop Continental Breakfast Sheraton
- Workshop Registration, Sheraton
- Chicago Schools Tour Breakfast

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**Saturday, November 22**

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. – IASB Service Associates Breakfast

7:30 a.m. – noon – Conference Registration

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Conference Information

8:30 a.m. – IASA Workshop Registration, Sheraton

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. – IASB Information Room

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Pre-Conference Workshops, Sheraton

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – IASB Workshops, Sheraton

10 – 11:15 a.m. – IASB Resolutions Committee Meeting

10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Board Support Professionals’ General Session, Swissotel

11 a.m. – noon – Welcome to Conference Orientation Panel

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Combined Workshops Luncheon, Sheraton

12:25 – 1 p.m. Illinois Council of School Attorneys’ School Law Seminar luncheon

1:30 – 3 p.m. – Discussion Panels, Hyatt, Sheraton

3:30 – 5 p.m. – First General Session, Speaker: Alan Blankstein, HOPE Foundation

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**Sunday, November 23**

7:30 – 9:30 a.m. – IASB Board of Directors’ meeting

8 – 9:30 a.m. – Discussion Panels: Coffee and Conversation

8 – 10 a.m. – IASB Bookstore

8 – 11 a.m. – Legislative Information Counter

9:45 – 11:30 a.m. – Third General Session, Speaker: Joe Martin, Real World University
For extra credit: Pre-conference workshops offer a whole lot of learning

Want to learn more about school board leadership, including the proper role and work of school boards? Want to understand the basics of financial oversight? Wish you could develop a teambuilding approach for the board? Do you want to develop an effective relationship between the board and the superintendent? Want to learn how to monitor school district progress and operations in order to be more accountable to the community? Would you like to partner with parents from various circumstances of poverty to create opportunities for success by learning to better understand their challenges and strengths? Want to learn more about the sense of urgency behind the demands for more rigorous science, mathematics and technology standards and instruction in America’s schools? Or are you a board president who simply wants more information about the job? Then participate in a concise, in-depth workshop on Friday to learn the ropes on any of these school leadership topics. You can’t go wrong with the expert advice you’ll receive.

When and where?

Conference registrants can choose from one of the six full-day workshops (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or two half-day workshops (9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.) on Friday, November 21. Workshops will be presented at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel, one level above the main lobby.

How do I register?

A brochure with attached registration form was mailed separately. Full-day workshop fee is $200 per person and includes continental breakfast, luncheon, breaks and workshop materials. Half-day workshop fee is $130 per person. Registration for the half-day morning session includes continental breakfast, break and materials; registration for the half-day afternoon session includes lunch, break and materials. Note: You must be registered for the conference to attend these pre-conference workshops. Participants may register for both half-day workshops for a total of $200, which includes continental breakfast and luncheon, breaks and materials. Workshop participants will be awarded 10 Master Board Member points for a full-day workshop or 5 points for a half-day workshop in addition to the 30 points earned for conference attendance. Workshop participants also will receive credit toward membership in the IASB LeaderShop Academy. Descriptions of this year’s pre-conference workshops follow.

LeaderShop CORE Curriculum Offerings

School Board Leadership

Effective, locally elected school boards add unique value to the system of public education and are essential to providing the best possible education for our communities’ children. Make sure you are a member of an effective school board. Whether you’re a 10-year veteran or recently seated, a board member or superintendent, this workshop will provide you with an opportunity to think and talk about the important role and work of the board. Learn to:

• Analyze the role and work of the school board;
• Compare and discuss effective and ineffective board and board member practices;
• Exercise valuable interpersonal and decision-making skills.

The Board and Its Superintendent: Developing and Maintaining an Effective Relationship

An effective school board works to build and maintain a productive relationship with the superintendent — a relationship consisting of mutual respect and a clear understanding of roles and expectations. The board-superintendent relationship does not have to be left to chance. Learn how to engage in a deliberate process that benefits your board, superintendent and district. Participants will:

• Understand the legal responsibilities and the complementary roles of the board and the superintendent;
• Learn how to communicate clear expectations to the superintendent through policy and goals, and delegate authority to the superintendent for meeting those expectations;
• Walk away with a tool and process for developing a meaningful superintendent evaluation process.

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School Board Accountability: Monitoring District Performance

An effective board of education understands that it is accountable to its community for the performance of the school district. This workshop will provide board of education members and administrators an opportunity to think and talk about how boards can fulfill their role as trustee for the community through their efforts to monitor district progress and operations without overwhelming anybody. Specifically, it will provide participants the opportunity to:

- Define the appropriate board role in monitoring;
- Develop monitoring processes that:
  - Identify monitoring criteria;
  - Identify indicators of district progress and evidence of compliance with board policy;
  - Use a board monitoring calendar and dashboard.

**LeaderShop ELECTIVE Curriculum Offerings**

A Comprehensive Workshop for Board Presidents

Being an effective board president requires special skills. This is a hands-on, interactive workshop, where you will have the opportunity to practice the leadership skills you are learning. Participants will learn:

- The role of the president as it relates to the rest of the board and superintendent;
- The keys to effective meetings;
- Parliamentary procedure;
- Illinois Open Meetings Act;
- Managing board conflict; and
- Communications, ethics and teamwork.

Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities

If your district works with students and parents from poverty, only a deeper understanding of their challenges — and strengths — will help you partner with them to create opportunities for success. Based in part on Dr. Ruby Payne’s myth-shattering *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, which has been used by district staff from all over Illinois, *Bridges Out of Poverty* reaches out to the millions of service providers — including board members — whose work connects them with the lives of people in poverty. *Bridges* training contains case studies, detailed analysis, helpful charts and exercises, and specific solutions your district can implement right now to:

- Redesign programs to better serve people in poverty;
- Aligning policies and practices concerning fiscal and business practices with state law.
- Build skill sets for management to help guide employees;
- Upgrade training for front-line staff like receptionists, counselors, and managers; and
- Increase the likelihood of moving from welfare to work.

Teambuilding and the Board of Education

Real ideas for the real world. Board members and superintendents want to be part of successful, hard-working teams. What are the characteristics of an effective governance team? How can board members work cooperatively to assure effective district leadership? Co-presenter Yona Lunken is a past member of the Henry-Senachwine CUSD 5 Board of Education who makes his living helping organizations be more effective. We’ll combine his experience and perspectives with yours to address key topics like:

- Communications;
- Goal setting;
- Leadership;
- Trust; and
- Conflict.

Half-Day Workshop

Financial Oversight Essentials for School Boards

School boards are responsible for the financial governance of the school district. But how much does the average board member know about internal controls, auditing procedures or financial statement analysis? Come learn more about the board’s role in understanding the key components of financial oversight. Specifically, we’ll explore:

- The board’s legal, ethical and governance responsibilities for sound financial policy and practices;
- Aligning budget to desired outcomes and priorities;
- Establishing clear expectations for the maintenance of “financial health”;
- Establishing checks and balances to protect district assets; and
- Building skill sets for management to help guide employees;
- Upgrading training for front-line staff like receptionists, counselors, and managers; and
- Increasing the likelihood of moving from welfare to work.

Half-Day Workshop

Science, Mathematics & Technology Education: Why Do We Care?

Government and business leaders, academics and futurists have collectively called for more rigorous science, mathematics and technology standards and instruction in America’s schools. What’s behind all this buzz and why, as members of local boards, should we care? Learn more about:

- The sense of urgency behind these demands, and
- How your board can become a leader in creating solutions for quality science, math and technology (SMT) education.
FRIDAY, November 21
11 a.m. – Noon

WELCOME TO CONFERENCE ORIENTATION — Is this your first time at the Joint Annual Conference? This session will review the conference program, explain how and where to find assistance, offer directions and maps, and highlight key sessions and activities you won’t want to miss. Special hand-out materials will also be available.

FRIDAY, November 21
1:30 – 3 p.m.

School Consolidation — Does Anyone have an Aspirin? — The challenges of consolidation are many: different boards, attitudes, policies, technologies, approaches to education pedagogy, economics, community influence, and the list goes on. This headache-easing session is for districts anywhere along the consolidation continuum.

Policy Solutions — Easy as 1, 2, 3 — Your board is seeking a solution to develop a legally compliant manual, keep it current and use it to communicate with the community. Lake Villa District 41 school leaders will share their solutions. It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3!

Discussion of New Superintendent Issues with the IASA Leadership Team — This question and answer session will allow administrators new to the Illinois superintendentency to spend time with their colleagues, the IASA president, executive director and administrative team, in discussing the first four months on the job. You will benefit not only from the answers to your own questions but by listening to your colleagues’ questions.

Adopting and Implementing a Sound Debt Policy for Your District — School debt policy practices presented from short- and long-term borrowing perspectives. Sample policies and a checklist of considerations for your district will be shared.

Laying Groundwork for a Successful Referendum — Learn how to strategically plan and market a referendum campaign that will foster important discussion and unite your community in support of public education.

Data Analysis: A Critical Path to Improved Achievement — This presentation will demonstrate how to create a model that predicts future performance on standardized tests for individuals and grade-level cohorts using historical data.

Implementation of the Illinois High School Feedback Report — A new Illinois high school feedback report will provide information from post-secondary institutions to high schools about their graduates. This session is an opportunity to learn about this pilot project.

The Illinois Education Roundtable — A Unified Voice for Our Children — This session will introduce you to the Roundtable and its leaders and also give you key insights into the emerging legislative, policy and curricular issues that face Illinois schools. IASB helped to found the Roundtable in 2007, along with IASA and Illinois ASBO, and 16 other school leadership associations and organizations. Find out how and why a unified voice benefits everyone and discuss Illinois education policy.

What Is All This Talk About Geothermal? Are My Buildings And Systems “Green”? — In the advent of “green” many people do not have a great understanding of what actually is “green.” The goal of this presentation is to point out that some districts already have “green like” buildings and systems without the benefit of a LEED or other rating system. Even buildings and systems that were installed years ago are actually pretty “green.”

What New Board Members Need to Know about Technology — Join your colleagues and learn about financing the skyrocketing cost of major technology rollouts.

The Leadership Crisis Ahead — Advanced Learners Left Behind — Come join a lively presentation on data collected on advanced learners in Illinois. Recommendations will be made regarding how to begin this process and then how to monitor and evaluate the academic achievement of these students.

A Growth District’s Story of Passing a Badly Needed Referendum — Panel members will discuss how and why they were successful in the passage of major referendums, and explain the ramifications of that financial success.


Incoming Freshman Academy — Implementing a Summer Program to Prepare Struggling Students for High School — The transition from junior high to high school for academically struggling eighth-graders can be very difficult. Learn how a rigorous six-week summer program can enable these students to be successful in high school.

Special Ed Funding — An Update — Special Education funding isn’t keeping up with costs. Discuss the types of special education funds (state, local and federal), claims and current legislative issues.

Blog Now, Pay Later — Legal Issues Concerning Social Networking Sites — Social networking sites and other user interactive websites are popular with both students and staff members, but some individuals using these sites don’t seem to use good judgment. When a student or staff member is the author or subject on such sites, can school officials do anything? Learn the do’s and don’ts during this informative panel.
The New Democracy — School Districts Online — Transparency. Access. Accountability. Hit these targets and more through your school district website. When you open the information flow, you open the democratic process.

SUNDAY, November 22
10:30 a.m. – noon
Superintendent Evaluation — The board employs and evaluates one person — the superintendent — and holds that person accountable for the performance of the school district. In this session, you will hear how a board of education developed a performance evaluation instrument to fit its needs.

Board Member Recognition Program: LeaderShop Academy & Master Board Member — Listen to board members as they discuss the advantages of becoming a Master Board Member or a member of IASB’s LeaderShop Academy. Learn the benefits and qualification requirements to join these elite programs.

21st Century Technology Skills for Board Members and Administrators — See how superintendents, district level administrators, principals and board members can use technology to communicate with students, staff and their communities. Podcasting, Blogging, Wiki’s, Twitter, Social Networking sites and Google Documents will all be explained, and examples will be demonstrated for participants to use in their districts.

Sexual Misconduct by School Employees — Identifying, Investigating and Stopping It — Sexual misconduct by school personnel has gained increasing attention and school officials are asked to “do something about it.” This imperative requires us to know what it is, when to investigate it and how to stop it. A panel of experienced school lawyers will share their thoughts on preventing this significant problem from hurting students and disrupting your school community.

Monitoring Policy — What’s on your Dashboard? — Your board has established its mission, vision and goals and has good, written operational policies. But are you monitoring district performance through your policy? Come learn how Keeneyville SD 20 developed a monitoring process and “dashboard.”

Coalition for Illinois High Schools — Leading the Way — What can YOU do? Join representatives of leading educational organizations in the CIHS as they discuss initiatives for improving high school leadership, teaching and learning in Illinois.

Supportive Leadership: Getting Behind your Teachers to Lead — Letting teachers take the lead in school improvement can be hard for administrators and board members. We did it and our students are more successful.

Legislation Impacting School Districts — This experienced panel from the legislature and ISBE will discuss veto session issues that impact school districts. Panelists will also discuss the 2008 legislative agenda.

Recent Developments and Current Trends in Special Education Law — This session will provide school board members and administrators with an overview of recent developments and current trends in special education law in critical areas such as RtI implementation, research-based special education programs and interventions, discipline of students with disabilities, development of work load plans for special educators and changes in special education class-size rules.

Involving your Community in Major Decisions — School boards often address big decisions — from building a new school, to raising taxes or consolidating districts. Experience shows such decisions need to be viewed as community decisions. This panel will examine ways to develop a process that will involve the community and help the board to make the right decisions on major issues.

District Goal Setting and Planning — Making your Work Visible — Learn how two districts successfully took goal setting and district planning to the next level by creating public documents from their goal-setting work — documents that “ratchet up” accountability. The result is clear public perception of the district’s mission.

The School Board’s Role in Approving School Improvement Plans — The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires school boards to approve school and district improvement plans. Approving these plans should be a comprehensive process, rather than an isolated event, that includes an understanding of the required plan components as well as timelines for review, approval and monitoring. Join us as we share a process to help boards approve sound plans without micromanaging or rubberstamping.

The Chicago Schools Tour has been opening conference visitors’ eyes for the past 37 years. Five tours are planned this year, offering a cross-section of opportunities that encompass cultural connections, new locations and diverse learning opportunities.
New Internal Control Standards — What to Expect in Your Next Audit Report — New standards require auditors to evaluate a district’s internal controls in a different light. The panel will highlight the changes in the standards, preview the types of comments that boards can expect in future audit reports and identify steps that both smaller and larger districts can take to strengthen their controls.

Ready to Read in Our School and Across Our Community — Is it impossible to raise literacy awareness in your community? Join us as we explain a student-led idea that developed into a school/community initiative.

Linking Career Education to Business Clusters: The Vermilion County Experience — Business partners provide a myriad of math and science educational programs, internships and scholarships to promote future career interests and needs of local employers.

Real Challenges, Real Solutions, Real Results! — Education in Illinois faces real challenges in educating our youth. Learn about the solutions the North Central Association can offer to help you address these challenges.

The Decision-Making Process in Building a Wind Generator — This PORTA CUSD-202 led session will be a step-by-step presentation of the process used to build a wind generator.

Bullying Prevention — Assistance from the State, Regional Offices and Outside Groups — The School Code requires each district to make suitable provisions for the instruction of bullying prevention and to maintain a policy on bullying which must be filed with the Illinois State Board of Education. This panel session will offer specific strategies toward that end.

What to Expect of your Facilities Manager — So . . . I have facilities. Do I know what my facilities manager does for us? Understand the expectations of your facilities department.

School Finance Revenue for the Novice — Learn about local revenue, the property tax cycle, and the ins and outs of the tax levy.

The 10 Most Common Mistakes in Collective Bargaining — Because collective bargaining is more of an art than a science, there are many ways to negotiate teachers’ contracts. Given this lack of precision, there are many opportunities to make an error that could prove costly — either on monetary or language items. Learn 10 of the most common mistakes made by management negotiators at the bargaining table, and get suggestions for avoiding them.

Transformational Learning?!?! What’s in it for ME? — Imagine a board room where all are willing and able to search for common ground on a synthesis of different points of view. Explore the concepts of Transformational Learning, and learn how it can help you become a better board member.

Protecting your Tax Base — We will discuss proven methods of pushing back against aggressive efforts to undermine the most important source of district revenue — the real estate tax base. We will also discuss how districts may be better off financially, through General State Aid, by supporting certain kinds of economic development projects.

Practical Parliamentary Procedure — When used appropriately, parliamentary procedure can turn your meetings into the efficient, civil decision-making events you have always dreamed about. Review the rules that apply to boards, the importance of good board processes, and the power of the agenda.

Superintendent Employment Contract — It is generally agreed that the single most important function of a school board is the employment of the superintendent. At its base is the superintendent’s employment contract. Hear a survey discussion of the various elements of the contract and have the opportunity to ask questions of specific interest to you.

Renewable Energy: Sustaining Your Budget into the Future — Join us for an educational panel on renewable energy’s impact on your community, the environment, the educational experience and your budget.

Fieldcrest Effectively Organized to Pass an Education Fund after Two Previous Failures — By identifying several key factors, Fieldcrest effectively organized the district and community to pass an education fund referendum after two failures.

The Public School Foundation Approach: Innovation, Collaboration and the Strategic Plan — This session will focus on partnerships a public school foundation can develop and cultivate with alumni, businesses and wealthy individuals that will further district goals.

Interest-Based Bargaining with Unique Use of Technology — Weary of the traditional negotiations? Interest-Based Bargaining seems well-suited for working condition issues, but what about disputes over wages and benefits? Come see how Mokena Elementary, using technology, developed a unique approach to reach a five-year contractual agreement, even on the tough economic interests.

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**SATURDAY, November 22**

**1:30 – 3 p.m.**

Creating a Freshman Transition Program — Geneseo Transition Program created a small-scale freshman transition program with the goal of making the freshman year an enjoyable and productive experience.

IHSA — Update on Current Issues and Happenings — The executive director from the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) will report on important issues and events in Illinois interscholastic activities and answer your questions.

“What Would Lincoln Do?” — In honor of the Lincoln bicentennial celebration that begins in 2009, this panel will look at the basis for many of the vital decisions Lincoln made in his life and contemplate what decisions he would make in today’s world, especially regarding crisis management planning, components of good government and civic engagement in Illinois.

Barriers to Work-Life Balance in School Leadership — Demands of school leadership are enormous. A balanced lifestyle can be the difference between success and failure. Learn to manage the demands inherent in leadership.

School Boards and Student Learning — Can the board really impact student learning? The research says, “Yes!” Join us to learn more about what the groundbreaking Iowa Lighthouse Research has uncovered about the critical role of the board for improving student learning and how you can begin this process in your district.

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Creating Profit: The Real Business of School Boards — How can a school board gain and sustain support from its community year after year? What are the proven corporate concepts that education must adopt to be successful in the 21st Century? The panel will explore these ideas and provide an opportunity for conversation about the role and function of school boards, based on the work of Lawrence Baskin and Cesare Caldarelli.

Enhancing Student Achievement through Monitoring Student Engagement — One process for effectively impacting student achievement is the monitoring of student engagement. The Instructional Practices Inventory (designed by Painter and Valentine) is a tool used to assess student engagement K-12 by conducting walk-through observations. Hear a brief description of the methodology of classroom observations, its application to school improvement processes and sample data collected from all school levels.

The Powers That Be: A Primer on School Board Powers and Duties — In order to serve as a board member, you agree to comply with a web of state and federal laws outlining the authority of school boards and individual board members. As recent court cases involving bidding, access to public documents and final board action have shown, at stake in the use of your powers is not only the smooth operation of your district, but personal and criminal liability for misfeasance. Thus, you may benefit from this primer on essential board governance — from the parameters of the oath of office, to bidding requirements/exceptions and the basics of dismissal of personnel — all presented from the school board member’s perspective.

Grow Your Foundation: Publicize and Build a Public Image — Move your foundation from the kitchen table to the boardroom with the support of a solid communications plan. Learn strategies to start a foundation, grow a foundation or re-energize an existing foundation.

The Lost Opportunity of Senior Year: Finding a Better Way. How to Provide a College Opportunity for all Students — Maybe for Free — Is your district providing a college opportunity for ALL students? If not, learn how to provide at least 24 college credit hours for your senior-level students PRIOR to graduation — maybe even for free.

Electronic Misconduct: A Legal Update — Teachers and students are found on YouTube behaving badly. Students are using Instant Messenger to cheat on tests. Pictorial evidence of students committing athletic violations is displayed on MySpace. Student misuse of cell phones, cell cameras and audio/video recordings are regularly in the news. Profit from some real-world examples and advice for addressing the issues created by new technologies.

Superintendent Search Process — Selecting a superintendent may be the most important responsibility a board undertakes. Learn the steps all boards should take and review the critical aspects of the process.

The Status of the School Construction Funding Proposal — A major capital development plan has been under consideration all year in the State House. The public infrastructure plan, including the building of roads, bridges and schools, is long overdue. What is the status of the proposal and what does it mean for school construction? Hear legislative insiders discuss the merits and politics of this important issue.

Legal Updates for Schools, 2008 — Legal experts discuss recent law requirements and case law changes and share their perspective on law and schools, emphasizing school board issues in 2008.

School Construction Projects — On Time & Under Budget (Yeah, Right!) — Through a mock construction project meeting, the attorneys from Robbins, Schwartz will demonstrate all the wrong ways to go about running your school construction projects. Along the way, there will be several presentations geared to help avoid all the pitfalls and blunders demonstrated.

AYP, Student Learning & the Targeting Achievement through Governance (TAG) Program — How can your board provide leadership for improved student learning? IASB’s Targeting Achievement through Governance (TAG) program provides free board training focused on the board’s role in improving student learning. Attend this session to learn more from board members who have learned from the TAG program and its consulting staff.

Educating for the 21st Century World

IASB/CPS CHICAGO SCHOOLS TOUR

Friday morning, November 21st

Buffet breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m.
Regency Ballroom A & B

Begin your conference activities with the popular Chicago Schools Tour offered during the 76th IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference.

See page 15 for more details.
Making Principals Effective Using Time Data — The Wallace Foundation SAMs project created a process to help school administrators change their focus from management to instructional leadership. The tools developed by the project will be discussed as well as the results of the pilot project that show tremendous increases in student achievement in districts that included Springfield, Normal and Chicago.

Jr/Sr High School Music Education — A Cooperative Venture between EIU, Samuel Music, Effingham County Foundations and Beecher City CUSD 20 — Learn how small schools can begin and fund a music education program with cooperative efforts between board, community, staff, university personnel and other outside resources.

A School District and University Partnership to Examine the Policies and Practices for the Advanced Learner — Using the current research, learn how school boards can address the needs of one of the most overlooked of groups in our quest for AYP — the advanced learner.

Seniors Work for You to Pay Off Their Taxes — Learn how to set up and implement a program whereby senior citizens work in your schools to pay off their school district taxes. This program provides a public relations twist that pays dividends to everyone.

General State Aid Entitlement Calculations and the Impact of Tax Increment Financing and Enterprise Zone Abatements — Information will be presented on the General State Aid formula and the key variables that impact the district calculations. Discussion regarding the effects of Tax Increment Financing and Enterprise Zone Property Tax Abatement Incentive programs on General State Aid will be explored.

Alliance Sponsored Programs: p-Card, IEC, ISDLAF+ — Representatives from the Procurement Card (p-Card), the Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC) and ISDLAF+ discuss Alliance-sponsored programs developed with the needs of schools in mind.

School Finance Expenses for the Novice — Basic business office operations and the business administrator’s role in managing cash, meeting budgeting responsibilities, purchasing, state financial reporting and overseeing the expenditure process.

Facing a Facility Crisis? How to Use Sales Tax Revenue to Address Your District’s Facility Needs — This presentation will outline the process Maroa-Forsyth CUSD 2 used to change state legislation, draft an intergovernmental agreement, and build and equip a new 83,000-square-foot, $16 million dollar elementary school using sales tax revenue.

Expand & Excel: Two Referendums — Success at the polls! Campaign leadership will share experiences in the quest for a $96,700,000 building expansion AND a 10-cent tax rate increase to promote excellence.

Dealing with Contentious Parents — Good school leaders know how to listen to parents and how to speak to them. But what do these leaders do when the parent-school relationship becomes contentious, culminating in a lawsuit against the district, its board members and staff members? This panel of school officials and their lawyer will share their lessons learned from just this experience!

1% County Sales Tax — A panel of superintendents will provide an overview of the County Sales Tax option. In an era of stressed educational budgets, uncertain state revenues and an over-reliance on property taxes to fund K-12 education, the School Facility Occupation Tax may provide solutions.

Protecting Student Activity Funds and Other School District Cash — Board policies direct such matters as internal controls for protecting cash, the treasurer’s bond, audits of financial condition, financial reporting and requirements for fiscal accountability on the part of the administration and staff. Come find out more about how to fulfill this important responsibility.

Diversity and Inclusion in Education — Join in an interactive experience facilitated by IASB staff and the Kaleidoscope Group that addresses the demographic shifts (ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, language, religion and more) facing Illinois school districts. Listen as a panel of educators shares their diversity journeys with you.
Cartography 101: The Agony & Ecstasy of Redefining School Attendance Boundaries — Learn how Summit Hill SD 161 successfully navigated the treacherous waters of redefining school attendance boundaries via a community-driven process.

Response to Intervention and Raising Student Achievement — Follow one small rural school through problem-solving and RtI. As an Illinois ASPIRE school, see what we are doing to make the Illinois Honor Roll.

SATURDAY, November 22
3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The Road from Financial Watch to Financial Recognition — the Journey — the Partnership — the Lessons Learned — Factors creating District 116’s financial decline and state oversight are identified. The journey to financial recognition and success with sustained growth strategies are shared.

One Vision-One Voice: The Urgency for Clarity and Unity in the Board-Superintendent Relationship — Discover the tools for creating a productive and unique relationship between school board members and superintendents. Presenters Sandra Watkins and Jeffery D. Cohn will help you rediscover your true purpose in creating exemplary public schools.

Capital Projects and Co-Op Districts: Navigating the Maze — Capital projects to be undertaken by co-op districts, including Special Education and Vocational Districts, are important to do, but sometimes difficult to complete. This session is designed to help co-op districts and their governing board members better plan and prepare for capital projects. Timelines and suggestions regarding ways to structure necessary agreements will be shared.

Navigating the Referendum Process with Data — A well-designed, inclusive community engagement survey creates broad public awareness of your district’s needs, identifies where support exists for proposed solutions and improves communication strategies.

Board Self-Evaluations: A Process for School Board Accountability — We evaluate the performance of our superintendent. We monitor finances, programs and policies. But when and how do we look at our strengths and weaknesses and evaluate our own governing performance as a school board? Learn about the tools and assistance available from IASB for this important function.

Board President — This panel is an opportunity for board presidents to gather and share experiences, questions, ideas and frustrations. It is offered on both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning; join us on either day, or both days.

Managing Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) — Districts throughout Illinois are struggling with environmental issues. This panel will discuss how their districts have met and solved these issues financially, legally and in a proactive manner.

Interviews of Students at School by Law Enforcement Authorities — Learn how to initiate a cooperative environment between your school district and the various law enforcement authorities in your jurisdiction and better ensure that both students’ rights and law enforcement’s need for effective investigation are protected within the confines of the law.

Learning Readiness and the PE Link — See how a new research-based PE program at Naperville Central HS helps students “not only wake up their brains but build new brain cells” leading to noticeable gains in reading and math comprehension.

The Power of Voice — Learn how partnering with your community advocates can make a big difference for your school and your community, and at all levels of government. Learn about past successes, current projects and how you can do it, too!

The St. Rose Secret to Success — St. Rose School is in the top 5 percent in Illinois. School climate and commitment to being at the top make the difference in this small rural school. This presentation will discuss the St. Rose Secret to Success.

District Consolidation: Can We Improve Educational Opportunities for Students? — School districts typically consolidate to pool their resources and make those resources go further by becoming more efficient. Can two or more districts also ensure that consolidation will provide students with more and better educational opportunities? Discuss the challenges and ways to address them.

School Funding and Reforms: Hand in Hand or At Odds? — Political leaders will discuss current provisions, agreements and controversies regarding the ever-changing proposals for school funding and accountability. Learn how your state’s leaders envision the delivery of public education and how they intend to fund new ideas.

Property Tax Cycle — Assessment thru Collection — For business managers, new superintendents and board members who would like to know more about the property tax system in Illinois, this presentation will review the property tax system from local assessor through county assessment, Board of Review, County Clerk and tax cap process, collection process and tax objections.

Developing & Implementing an RtI Delivery System in Lansing SD 158 — Lansing SD 158 has designed and implemented a Response to Intervention program that benefits students through the use of a scientifically-based curriculum and interventions, and progress monitoring.

Co-Op: It’s not just for Sports Anymore — Small, rural schools looking to provide the best curriculum possible for their students might find the answer in cooperative agreements with neighboring schools.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall — Across the Curriculum — This presentation demonstrates how student achievement is improved across the curriculum through the integration of academic and vocational programs by teaching and reinforcing academic concepts.

District RtI Plan — This session will report on the history of the RtI initiative; provide a status update on the work of the State RtI Stakeholder group; and provide next steps for districts as they complete their first District RtI Plan due January 1, 2009. The session will focus on the required components of the plan and provide resources for districts in fully implementing RtI.

Diversity, Recruiting and Retaining — Does the diversity of your student population match your staff? Learn successful strategies to recruit and retain diverse staff.
The Fundamentals of Collective Bargaining and Contract Management — This session will cover fundamentals of collective bargaining, contract management and developing trends in the area of labor relations. It provides a great opportunity for the novice and refresher information for the more experienced board members and school administrators.

IESA Bylaws & Rules — A panel discussion on rules and regulations of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA).

Student Speech in a MySpace World — Participants will obtain an understanding of the student Internet speech issues and how to best protect them from inappropriate speech and deal with offenders, if necessary.

IMSA for All — The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy is well known for its excellent residential program, but now has a bold initiative to support students, staff and schools across Illinois. IMSA’s interactive presentation will highlight how it can enrich and support your district’s efforts to inspire and develop top math and science students.

Lessons from one District’s Traumatic Year — Crisis Management in the 21st Century — Discover how one high school district handled several tragedies, including a teacher arrest resulting in nationwide attention, learning new crisis management strategies throughout the process.

Board Member/Parent: Which Hat to Wear When — Board members with no children attending the district schools can be clear about the role they have to play. However, the majority of individuals who serve on local boards do so because their children attend the schools. Explore the ways that a board member/parent can separate those roles and decide which hat to wear when.

Issues in Rural Districts — It isn’t getting any easier to provide quality education in rural districts. Declining enrollments, providing a comprehensive curriculum, increasing transportation costs and the problems associated with aging buildings are only a few of the issues you face. Share your challenges and solutions by joining in the discussion of these and other issues.

The Role of Regional Offices of Education — What role do Regional Offices of Education play in supporting the success of your school district? Come talk with regional superintendents to learn about the legal responsibilities and services the 45 ROE’s across the state perform, including the increasing demands of NCLB, certification and health/life safety, and new district plans for Response to Intervention (RtI) due January 1, 2009.

Aspiring Superintendents — Do you have aspirations of being a superintendent someday? Come join other aspiring leaders along with staff from IMSA for All — The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy is well known for its excellent residential program, but now has a bold initiative to support students, staff and schools across Illinois. IMSA’s interactive presentation will highlight how it can enrich and support your district’s efforts to inspire and develop top math and science students.

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SUNDAY, November 23
8 – 9:30 a.m.
SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE & CONVERSATION SESSIONS
Are you serving in a rapidly growing school district or are you considering consolidation? Would you like to talk with other board members about complex issues such as student learning, multiculturalism or consolidation? Or maybe you would just like to share ideas with board members from districts similar to yours and those facing the same challenges that you face.

Complimentary coffee will be provided before each session listed below — thanks to our sponsor Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn — to help wake you up and get the conversation going!

Board Member/Parent: Which Hat to Wear When — Board members with no children attending the district schools can be clear about the role they have to play. However, the majority of individuals who serve on local boards do so because their children attend the schools. Explore the ways that a board member/parent can separate those roles and decide which hat to wear when.

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CPDUs offered teacher/board members attending Joint Annual Conference

Certified Illinois teachers who also serve as board members can now receive Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) for their participation in the Joint Annual Conference. The State Teacher Certification Board has approved the Illinois Association of School Boards as a professional development provider. Any certified Illinois teacher who serves on a local board of education and is registered for the conference may receive 12 CPDU credits for attendance at the full conference.

Evidence of Completion (ISBE form 77-21 B) and Evaluation (ISBE form 77-21 A) will be available at the conference registration desk in the Hyatt during regular registration hours. Evaluation forms must be dropped off at the designated area of the registration desk prior to the conclusion of the conference.
Training for All Board Support Professionals

Friday & Saturday November 21 & 22 • Swissotel, Chicago

Board support professionals wear many hats and many individuals depend on them: the board of education, the superintendent, the staff, the students, the parents and the community.

We hope your school district will join other districts from around the state of Illinois at the 2008 Joint Annual Conference in Chicago to take advantage of the training offered for those individuals in your district who do the work of the school board secretary.

Registration for the 2008 Joint Annual Conference will entitle your Board Support Professional (Board/District Secretary) to attend any of the General Sessions, other panel sessions, the Bookstore and the Exhibit Hall during the conference. Benefits will also include networking with other board secretaries from across the state, and enhancing the knowledge necessary to effectively perform the duties of this important position. Attendance at the pre-conference paid workshops on Friday, November 21, 2008, will require an additional charge. Registration for the Board Secretaries Sessions is free but is open only to those registered for the Joint Annual Conference.

Topics Include:

- Meeting protocol
- Electronic board packets
- Boot camp for new secretaries
- Preparing for state audits
- Crisis management
- School board elections
- Q & A
- FOIA/e-mail

Tentative Schedule:

Friday, November 21, 2008
10 – 10:30 a.m. — Registration, meet and greet
10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. — All-day general session on managing your leaders’ time

Saturday, November 22, 2008
10:30 a.m. – Noon — Choose from four separate sessions
1:30 – 3 p.m. — Choose from four separate sessions

If you haven’t registered your Board Support Professional, do so now.
Tour Chicago Schools

Join representatives of IASB and the Chicago Board of Education on a tour of a Chicago school. Tours will explore five separate selected schools on Friday, November 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Your district’s leaders can be assigned to different tours or opt to take one tour together. A separate fee for this event includes breakfast (8-9 a.m., Regency Ballroom A&B, Hyatt Regency Chicago). Spouses are invited to attend at the same additional fee. All tour participants must be paid conference registrants or guests of paid conference registrants.

Exhibition of Educational Environments

Thinking of building or remodeling your facilities? Whether you have a physical plant problem to solve or you just like to dream about what your school facilities could be … visit the 2008 Educational Environments Exhibit, this year displayed in the Grand Foyer next to conference registration. IASB Service Associates have invited business firms engaged in any aspect of designing, constructing or equipping public school facilities to show off their best work at the 2008 Joint Annual Conference. Winning entries will be chosen in various categories. Whether you’re building, remodeling or just daydreaming, you’ll find a wealth of ideas.

Carousel of Panels

Join your colleagues to benefit from a wide assortment of exciting panels. In one large room, 27 different presentations will be offered at one time. Over a one-hour-and-45-minute time block, you can pick and choose to participate in three different panels of 30 minutes each. Hop aboard the Carousel on Saturday, November 22, 1:30-3:15 p.m., Sheraton 5, Ballroom Level IV. It’s exhilarating, but it won’t make your head spin. The presentations and the presenters will include:

- Effective Advocacy and Communication with Your U.S. Senators and Members of Congress, FED ED
- A Dashboard That Drives Your District to Higher Student Achievement, Brookfield-LaGrange Park SD 95
- 10 Board Practices You Need in Writing, Winnetka SD 36
- Embracing “Response to Intervention”: How One District is Closing the Gap, O’Fallon THSD 90
- Instructional Coaches: Embedded Professional Development That Supports Teacher Growth, Wood Dale SD 7
- Effective and Economical Technology, Troy CCSD 30-C
- Creating a Bridge From the Board Room to the Classroom by Utilizing Student Performance Data, River Trails SD 26
- A School District’s Success with Interest-Based Contract Bargaining, Salt Creek SD 48
- RtI Our Way, Waukegan CUSD 60
- Charting a Course for Ethical Decision-Making, Chicago State University
- Principal Evaluation for School Improvement, Peoria SD 150/Western Illinois University
- A Model Induction and Mentoring Program, Belvidere CUSD 100
- Implementing Response to Intervention in a Small Rural School, Gardner CCSD 72C
- From Hannah Montana to Sweeney Todd: Hiring, Evaluating & Possibly Firing Your Principal, Macomb CUSD 185/Southern IL University-Edwardsville/Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn
- A 360-Degree Turnaround, Calumet Public SD 132
- Attracting and Retaining Quality Staff, Benjamin SD 25
- Miss School … Miss Out, Decatur SD 61
- Strengthening the Ties Between Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, Plainfield CCSD 202
- Strategic Planning: The Future is Now, Hononegah CHSD 207
- How to Develop, Implement & Monitor a Successful District Strategic Plan, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
- Collective Bargaining: Getting Started — Staying Started, University of Illinois-Springfield
- Project Lead the Way: Engineering Success, Warren THSD 121
- Declining Enrollments & Dwindling EAV: A Potential Recourse, Iroquois West CUSD 10
- A Success District/Charter Public School Partnership: Springfield SD 186 and Springfield Ball Charter School, IL Network of Charter Schools
- Property Taxes 101: Taking the Mystery Out of the Process, Aurora University
- Designing & Building a School: You Have the Need, You Have the Funding, You Have the Ideas …What’s Next?, Wm. B. Ittner, Inc.
- Quality Tools for Beginners, Jacksonville SD 117
Conference speakers will inform and inspire you

1st General Session: Alan Blankstein

Blankstein is creator and president of the HOPE Foundation, a not-for-profit organization whose honorary chair is Nobel Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu. HOPE Foundation (Harnessing Optimism and Potential through Education) supports educational leaders over time in creating school culture as an option for any student. HOPE has a decade-long track record of sustaining success in districts throughout North America. The HOPE Foundation launched the professional learning communities movement in educational circles, future forums and PBS video conferences from 1988-1992. Now, the HOPE Foundation provides some 20 conferences annually as well as long-term support for thousands of educational leaders throughout North America and other parts of the world through leadership academies and intensive on-site school change efforts. Come and learn how HOPE is making a brighter day through enhanced educational leadership.

2nd General Session: David Zach

Zach is one of the few professionally trained futurists in the United States, with a Master’s degree in studies of the future from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Through his company, Innovative Futures, Zach works with nearly 80 businesses, schools and associations each year to help them understand how to think about the future, change and continuity — and how to make choices about them. He will take us on a tour of key trends and current issues in technology, business, education and society as he weaves together the issues and concerns of the knowledge economy. His specialty is looking at the human side of the future from a practical point of view — how do we get the work done and still find ourselves in the kind of future that we want? Combining a professional-level wit with some small-town, Midwestern charm, Zach takes an important subject and gets people laughing, talking and reflecting.

3rd General Session: Dr. Joe Martin

Martin is the founder and president of RealWorld University (RWU). He is also a national award-winning speaker, university professor, published author and educational consultant. He has both a Master’s and Bachelor’s degree in communication and a Doctorate degree in curriculum development. RealWorld University’s mission is to help students succeed in college and in life by helping them identify and pursue their purpose, strengthen their character, overcome life’s obstacles and maximize their potential. He will share proven strategies, solutions and advice gleaned by RWU from some of the country’s leading educators, authors and speakers. He will also share some of his own ideas, gleaned from his work as both a sales trainer and public relations specialist, and as communications director for the Florida governor’s office. In spite of being reared in one of the toughest inner-city ghettos in Miami, Martin launched his first business at the age of 22 and his second at the age of 26. He also became the youngest tenureearning faculty member ever hired to teach at a state university in Florida, at the age of 24. Currently he is a visiting professor and educational consultant who lectures on more than 60 college campuses a year. Come see why schools are clamoring for his hard-earned wisdom.