



2023 Candidate for 2024 Vice President
**ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS
OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL**

WANDA ERB, MEd, PCSBA, SFO

Business Administrator
Williamsport Area School District
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

BIOGRAPHY

Wanda Erb has 35 years in public education, with 29 years in school business leadership. She currently serves as the business administrator for the Williamsport Area School District, home of Little League Baseball. She previously served for 24 years as the business manager of the Northern Tioga School District in Elkland, Pennsylvania.

In addition to her work in public education, Erb is an adjunct professor in the Wilkes University School Business Leadership Program, where she has been teaching for the past 14 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Mansfield University and a master's degree in school business leadership from Wilkes University.

Erb is active in school business at the local, state, and national levels. A member of ASBO International since 1995, she currently serves on the board as a director. She has also been an active member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) for more than 25 years, serving as president (2015–2016) and member of the board of directors (2010–2017). She has chaired and served on numerous committees, including the PASBO Leadership Development Committee.

VISION STATEMENT

As the premier association for school business leaders, ASBO International aims to foster a community of ethical and accountable school business officials who perform at the highest level of professionalism with integrity. Through professional development, networking, collaboration, and mentoring, ASBO International provides members with the tools necessary to adapt and respond to an ever-changing educational environment to ensure that every student has the opportunity to receive a quality education.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

What inspired you to pursue a position on the board, and what unique skills or experiences do you bring to the table that make you a strong candidate for the role?

My inspiration to run for ASBO International's vice-president is based on my desire to contribute to my profession by supporting and mentoring my fellow school business officials. When I first found myself in the role of a school business manager, the support and professional development that I received from my involvement in ASBO International and in Pennsylvania ASBO were my lifeline. I credit the resources and networks these organizations provide to my continued success in school business.

With 35 years in public education, my experience and leadership in all aspects of school business provides me with a solid foundation to understand the day-to-day needs of our members. I have always considered myself to have high moral and ethical values and I strive to demonstrate this in everything that I do. When I commit to something, I will dedicate the time and energy necessary to be a productive member of the team. This includes taking the initiative to become more knowledgeable, volunteering to assist others, and seeing the project through to completion.

Another strength that I bring to a team is the ability to share my opinion, to listen and ask questions to better understand the position of others, and to guide the team to a decision that is in the best interest of the organization.

Currently, schools serve a more diverse student body than ever before and face heightened expectations for educational reform, improved student test scores, safe learning environments, and preparing students for a future that is yet to be envisioned. In the face of dwindling resources, what is the most effective way for school business officials to assist their school systems in meeting these expectations?

The school business official can play a critical role in supporting the success of the school system by:

- Collaborating with educational leaders to prioritize resources for data-driven initiatives and programs that lead to improved student outcomes and prepare students for the future.
- Advocating for resources that support educational reform and increased investment in public education.
- Promoting technology use in the classroom by seeking grants and other resources for technology programs and initiatives and related professional development for teachers to effectively implement the technology.
- Seeking resources and supporting safety measures, such as security cameras and mental health services, which help to ensure a safe learning environment for all students.
- Partnering with community stakeholders to promote involvement in the school system and to create apprenticeships and other opportunities that provide real world situations to prepare students for the future.

In your opinion, what is the most important issue school business officials will face during the next five years, and how should ASBO International begin to address that issue now?

School business officials will face many challenges over the next five years. Financial resources will continue to be an issue and impact most every issue or challenge that we face.

Other than dwindling resources for public education, an important issue school business officials will face during the next five years is the continued exodus of employees spanning all categories of school staff and the inability to fill these vacancies with well-prepared candidates. Low pay, lack of professional respect, and working conditions are often cited as the drivers of this shortage of employees. Vacancies created by retirements have increased the number of openings. The pandemic exacerbated the exiting of employees and the lack of qualified applicants.

ASBO can provide opportunities for school business officials to collaborate with other educators and organizations to develop long-term strategies to address recruitment and retention. ASBO must also remain vigilant when advocating for policies and funding to support the needs of the districts, including increased investment in education and workforce development programs.

School business officials are among those who are retiring and/or leaving the profession. ASBO can create programs to ensure that new employees are prepared to succeed in their new roles, expand mentoring programs, and continue to provide professional development opportunities to enhance and improve the skills of existing employees.

ASBO International must continue to provide the tools to support all business officials in their efforts to keep their districts financially stable and sustainable over the long term to ensure that every student has the opportunity to receive a quality education. I want to continue my dialogue with ASBO members to gather their ideas and suggestions in addressing this problem.