



2022 Candidate for 2023 Board of Directors  
**ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS  
OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL**

## **SHARIE L. LEWIS, CPA, SFO**

Director of Business Services & Operations  
Parkrose School District  
Portland Oregon

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Sharie Lewis is the director of business services and operations for Parkrose School District in Portland Oregon, chair of the ASBO International Legislative Committee, and a member of the ASBO International Education Committee. She is a former US Army drill instructor and law enforcement officer from the City of Memphis. At Parkrose School District, she develops training classes to educate administrators and business officials on the fiscal aspects of managing a school, including federal compliance and budgeting. In her role as chair of the Legislative Committee she goes to Capitol Hill yearly to meet with members of Congress and advocate for education. Prior to going to Parkrose, Lewis worked at Portland Public Schools for 10+ years, was the finance director for the Multnomah County Sheriff, and worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers and BDO Seidman as a senior accountant. She is the recipient of the ASBO International 2021 Distinguished Eagle Award and the 2015 Coalition of Oregon School Administrator (COSA) Bev Gladder Mentorship Award.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

ASBO International creates networks and collaborative learning teams to support development of highly skilled school business officials. Through the development of professional communities and ongoing professional development opportunities, members learn, grow and share. Through advocacy, ASBO is the voice for adequate funding, inclusion and diversity, and equitable services for ALL students. ASBO is also the international voice for public education, providing support around the world. ASBO continues to be the guiding voice of school finance encouraging opportunities to provide an environment where all students thrive and succeed.

### **CANDIDATE QUESTIONS**

#### **Why do you want to be a board member /officer of ASBO International?**

ASBO International is the premier organization for school business officials across the country and the world. My goal in becoming a board member for ASBO is to bring awareness to all school business officials of the importance of being a member. I want to help develop future leaders by:

- Showing them how important they are to their communities and the success of our profession.
- Helping them believe in themselves and know that their voice is essential to the success of their District and to ASBO.
- Inspire them to become advocates of education at the State and National level.
- Help them to think outside the box when it comes to the business side of education and to remind them that change can be good.
- Provide a conduit where experienced school business officials mentor our future leaders so that the new leaders not only understand the process of what we do but the why of what we do.
- Showing them that they need to provide adequate training to their office staff in order for the entire staff to be successful today and in the future.

Two of my strengths are to stay true to my authentic self and bring joy and fun to the work environment and ensuring that my staff have the tools to be successful today and in the future. I would like to bring these strengths to my Board position with ASBO.

**Given the permanent economic changes around the world, including decreased funding for schools, what do you see as the most important areas on which school business officials should be focusing? How does ASBO International help SBOs in that endeavor?**

Education has changed significantly in the past few years as we have learned that brick and mortar school buildings are only part of the picture. Unfortunately, those buildings are aging and many districts around the country do not have the ability to remodel existing buildings or build new ones. Many buildings are so outdated that technology impedes the success of our student due to the lack of connectivity or adequate electrical service. Federal funding and support for schools is critical to construct, maintain and repair facilities so as to ensure students have a safe and healthy place to learn and grow in today's world.

Additionally as we have learned through the pandemic and distance learning not all students have access to the tools necessary to be successful in this ever-changing educational environment. Adequate support by the federal government is necessary so we can provide this access on an equitable basis for ALL students.

At the federal level, IDEA must be funded at 40% of the national average per-pupil expenditures (NAPPE) to address the extra costs incurred when educating students with special needs. These additional funds will be used to fulfill the original promise by Congress to support students with disabilities and help close the financial gap districts have in supporting students with special needs.

The federal government also needs to reduce, simplify and streamline regulations for child nutrition programs to reduce the administrative burdens and cost for managing these vital meal programs.

To ensure our success, ASBO must be in the forefront of advocating for school districts at the federal level. ASBO must continue to push legislation both at the local and federal level to ensure that districts have adequate funding to provide a quality and appropriate education for ALL students.

**If you are elected to the Board of Directors/officer position, you will have an opportunity to speak to many members and groups. What would you tell them about ASBO International that would encourage individuals to join and inspire those who are members to become more involved?**

ASBO International is the premier organization to provide tools and resources for School Business Officials throughout the country. Being a member of ASBO provides:

- The ability to collaborate with peers around the country. This collaboration will allow the member to grow their knowledge of the profession on a global basis.
- The ability to develop lifelong friendships. Being a member will allow you to become a member of a very strong family that can provide you support not only professionally but also personally.
- The ability to have access to resources that are almost limitless. You can find out how revenues are currently raised in your state as compared to how it is raised in Oregon!
- The ability to travel to other states to see how they operate and educate students. It is surprising how similar the problems are in different States.
- The ability to have a front row seat to learn from the best in the profession. The annual ASBO International conference provides superior professional development as well as the Global Network website.
- The ability to make a bigger change in education all over the country and world by joining one of the committees managed by ASBO.
- The ability to elevate your leadership skills and bring those skills to your own District.
- The ability to have access to business partners who will provide premier resources and services to ASBO members.

All of these items and more make it an essential organization for school business officials to succeed in their careers.