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2021 Candidate for 2022 Vice President
**ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS
OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL**

BIOGRAPHY

John Hutchison is deputy superintendent of business and operations for Olathe Public Schools in Olathe, Kansas, just southwest of Kansas City, where he has worked for the past 14 years. Previously he served as a school business official in Missouri for 17 years. Hutchison is a CPA and SFO, earning his MBA and BSBA in accounting from Saint Louis University. He has been an active member in ASBO International since 2007. He was the recipient of the International Eagle and Pinnacle of Excellence awards in 2018 and 2016, respectively. He has served as SFO Commission chair, ASBO International's representative on the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council (GASAC), a content area leader on the Annual Meeting Program Committee, a board committee member, past president of Kansas ASBO (2016-2017), and has been a frequent presenter and SBA author.

VISION STATEMENT

ASBO International is the premier association for school business officials (SBOs) around the globe. We have an active membership serving on committees and in governance. As the association of choice, ASBO International continually adapts to the needs of its members, keeping the association relevant. As a diverse, member-driven organization, we diligently pursue innovations to our offerings by collaborating with our members and affiliate leaders. ASBO International fosters opportunities to expand our membership and partnerships, so that our members capitalize on the successes of our peers around the world. We are the financial voice of public education at a national level and assist SBOs with advocating at a state, provincial and local level. Our conferences are sought after networking events that showcase best practices and business partner expertise and quality solutions. ASBO International's awards and certification programs are recognized as the hallmark credentials for SBOs across the globe.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

The vast inequities in education were highlighted during the pandemic, as many students in underserved areas did not have the resources to learn remotely. How can ASBO International help close the learning gap and support accelerated learning recovery?

ASBO International can help by focusing on what I call the "Four Cs." The first C stands for caring. We care through our relentless lobbying efforts for the funding to provide the additional staffing, equipment and services that are required to close the gap, while preserving local control over how funding is utilized. We care when we collaborate with other organizations such as The School Superintendent's Association (AASA) in order to strategically develop complementary solutions- together, not in isolation of each other. The second C stands for connecting. We connect our members with our vendor partners' best-in-class products and services, such as up to date technology devices and services often missing in underserved areas. We leverage the power of our association connecting our vendors with these underserved areas and illustrate the value of investment in these districts. The third C stands for calculating. To be calculating is to act in a ruthlessly determined way. ASBO International must be ruthless in providing professional development around the regulations, funding, accounting and procurement required in implementing the programs and services needed. We must be ruthless about providing networking opportunities for school business officials so that they may strategize and learn from each other, creating the synergy necessary to ensure the success of all students around the world. Finally, the fourth C stands for cultivate. We must be purposeful about cultivating an awareness of the value ASBO International can bring to school business officials who are serving in underserved districts and the value these SBOs bring to ASBO International. In order to better understand what is needed to close the learning gap and support accelerated learning recovery in underserved areas, we need their voices to be heard through the work of our committees, board, and vendor partnerships.

What needs do school business officials have now and what skills will they need in the next 5-10 years that ASBO International should focus on?

The needs of the school business official are ever evolving and growing. Gone are the days of being just the “bean counter.” School business officials (“SBOs”) are strategic leaders with an ever-growing depth of responsibility and influence over the districts we serve. ASBO International can assist by providing a wide breadth of professional development activities and timely updates on the latest trends in leadership, technology, analytics, strategic planning, performance and efficiency measures, wellbeing, etc., so that SBOs may develop the skills needed to be successful. In addition, in an ever tightening resources environment, we must better understand instructional methodologies and interventions in order to better allocate resource to strategies that yield the greatest results. ASBO International can provide needed networking opportunities in order to connect SBOs around the world for support, growth, and camaraderie as each SBO strives to hone their skills, their craft, and become the best they can be. To make all of this work, ASBO International truly needs to be the association of choice for all school business officials around the world. Membership drives finances. Membership attracts vendor partners exposing members to more viable solutions. Membership creates more best-in-practice learning and skill development opportunities. Most importantly, membership drives down the cost of all of our offerings, making them more affordable to more SBOs. However, while it is our role as ASBO International Board members and staff to provide school business officials the opportunities and support for SBOs to develop their skills, we should not do so in isolation. The best way to determine what skills are needed and the related services ASBO International should provide is to ask our members- over and over and over again.

With a goal of continuing to meet the needs of all our members, what can ASBO International do to encourage racial diversity on the board, on committees, in our membership, and in our cadre of professional development presenters?

ASBO International’s approach must be strategic and purposeful. Through our state, provincial and international affiliates we must identify rising stars among their racially diverse members and partners. We must illustrate the value of ASBO International to these rising stars personally and the value they bring to ASBO International. People of all walks of life often do not see the value in themselves and how they can help serve others on the national and international level. It is incumbent on ASBO International to encourage and motivate these individuals to serve, to cast a spotlight on their past contributions. We must work with our affiliates to highlight their accomplishments at their state or provincial level and show them how they can benefit others at the national and international level. We must break down any barriers that stands in the way such as the need for financial assistance or the need for mentoring. We must seek to better understand the needs of our diverse partners in order to make the association better, and of greater value, to future, diverse members, and partners. We must learn about different cultures, backgrounds and experiences and use this knowledge to design and develop effective strategies to create meaningful professional development and services that are valuable to our diverse members. Through this alignment, we will become the association of choice for *all* school business officials, increasing the diversity of our membership. As with so many of our endeavors, we need to ask our existing and potential members what we should do. ASBO International should develop a racially diverse cohort group to develop strategies for becoming a more diverse organization. As a result of the development and implementation of these strategies, we can better align our offerings to be more attractive to a more diverse membership.