



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

AUBREY KIRKPATRICK

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BIOGRAPHY

Aubrey Kirkpatrick, director of finance and administration at Anglophone East School District in New Brunswick, Canada, has more than 24 years in school finance. He has a proven track record of success in directing and coordinating all corporate business affairs, helping AESD remain a leader in New Brunswick for innovation and excellence in education. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of New Brunswick, where he was class valedictorian.

Kirkpatrick is a strong proponent of volunteering for professional associations. He has been an active member of ASBO International and New Brunswick ASBO for 22 years. He served on the executive committee of NBASBO for 10 years—four as president. He is in his sixth year serving the ASBO International Board of Directors. An ASBO International Distinguished Professional Eagle Award recipient, he also has been honored with the NBASBO Vision Award and the Premier of New Brunswick Award for Excellence in Education.

VISION STATEMENT

My vision is a world where every school district has equitable access to highly skilled and ethical school business leaders dedicated to supporting the success of all students. ASBO International is deeply committed to empowering school business professionals worldwide to lead with unwavering integrity, foster innovation, and strive for excellence. Together, we will optimize resources and create inclusive learning environments that prepare students for success in college, career, and life.

There is no greater calling than providing quality education, serving our children, communities, and ASBOI members with the utmost integrity, accountability, innovation, and kindness. ASBOI has been at the forefront of serving membership by offering the best professional leadership learning opportunities available to school business leaders today. We are dedicated to further enhancing, elevating this strong tradition, ensuring our members are equipped with the knowledge and skills to excel in their roles and make a lasting positive impact in 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?

I am inspired to pursue the VP position on the board of ASBO International to make a positive impact on the students we serve. I am very passionate about education, I believe that our association contributes to strong financial and operational management, essential for schools to provide high-quality education to all students.

I am inspired by school business leaders around the globe who want the best for the children they serve. I want to contribute to the association that has given so much to me and our members. Over my 24 years as a school business official, I have seen firsthand the positive impact of a strong superintendent and finance director relationship. This leadership synergy creates well-managed resources, increased student success and overall well-being of a school community.

My unique skills and experiences that make me a strong candidate for the role of Vice President include:

Leadership: As a school business professional, I have successfully led teams and managed complex projects that required collaboration, problem-solving, and strategic thinking. I am confident in my ability to bring these leadership skills to the ASBO board and contribute to the organization's strategic direction. I have served 5.5 years on the ASBOI board and know what it takes to help lead the organization.

Financial expertise: With my years of experience in managing budgets, analyzing financial data, and developing financial plans for schools, associations, and districts, I possess the financial acumen needed to help guide ASBO's financial future.

Technological savvy: As a proponent of integrating technology into school operations, I have overseen the implementation of various technology initiatives aimed at streamlining processes, improving efficiency, and enhancing communication. ASBOI has been the catalyst for these improvements.

Advocacy experience: I have actively engaged in advocating for the needs and interests of school business officials. I understand the importance of having a strong voice in policy making, and I am eager to contribute to ASBO's advocacy efforts on behalf of our profession and the students we serve.

Commitment to professional development: Throughout my career, I have prioritized continuous learning and development, both for myself and for my colleagues. As a board member, I would be dedicated to ensuring that ASBO continues to offer high-quality professional development opportunities for its members.

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?

In the face of dwindling resources and increasing expectations, school business officials are the exact people you want to employ the following strategies to effectively assist school systems in meeting these challenges:

Strategic financial planning: Develop long-term financial plans that align with the school district's educational goals and priorities. By identifying cost-saving measures, optimizing resource allocation, and ensuring that funds are directed to the most impactful programs and initiatives, school business officials can help support educational reform and improve student outcomes.

Collaborative partnerships: Build strong relationships with stakeholders, such as teachers, administrators, parents, and community members, to develop a shared vision and collaboratively address challenges. Engaging these stakeholders in the decision-making process can lead to innovative solutions and a stronger sense of ownership and support for the school system's initiatives.

Embrace technology: Implement cost-effective technologies that can streamline operations, improve efficiency, and enhance communication. By leveraging technology, school business officials can help their school systems save money, better allocate resources, and support a modern learning environment that prepares students for a rapidly evolving future.

Professional development: Invest in continuous learning and development opportunities for staff, including teachers, administrators, and support personnel. By fostering a culture of ongoing professional growth, school business officials can help ensure that educators are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively address the diverse needs of their students and adapt to changing expectations.

Advocacy: Advocate for adequate and equitable funding at the local, state/provincial, and national levels. By making the case for the importance of sufficient resources in achieving educational goals, school business officials can help influence policy and funding decisions that directly impact their school systems.

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?

There are several significant issues and challenges for our members. The first is an ongoing evolving landscape of education funding amidst economic uncertainty and shifting priorities. The second is the current and future issue of staff shortages across the education system. The third looming challenge is the proliferation of artificial intelligence and its impact on all things related to education.

To tackle the staff shortages issue, ASBO International can take the following steps:

Advocacy: Advocate for competitive salaries and benefits for educators and support staff at local, provincial, state, and national levels. Emphasize the importance of attracting and retaining quality personnel to maintain high educational standards.

Professional development: Offer professional development opportunities focused on human resource management, including strategies for recruitment, retention, and staff development. This can help school business officials to build a pipeline of qualified candidates and create a supportive work environment that encourages employee retention.

Collaboration: Encourage collaboration between school business officials, school administrators, and human resources departments. By working together, they can develop effective strategies for addressing staff shortages, including proactive recruitment efforts, targeted marketing campaigns, and innovative approaches to hiring and retaining staff.

Research and resources: Conduct research on the factors contributing to staff shortages in education and provide resources to help school business officials address this issue. This may include case studies, white papers, and toolkits covering topics such as alternative staffing models, flexible scheduling, and strategies for recruiting and retaining staff from diverse backgrounds.

Partnerships: Develop partnerships with colleges, universities, and alternative certification programs to create a pipeline of qualified educators and support staff. Work with these institutions to ensure that their programs align with the needs of school districts and that graduates are well-prepared for the challenges they will face in the field.

Promote the profession: Work to raise awareness about the rewards and benefits of careers in education, particularly among young people and career-changers. Highlight the positive impact that educators and support staff can have on students' lives and the broader community.

By addressing the issue of staff shortages proactively, ASBO International can help its members navigate this challenge.