ASBA welcomes all new and returning board members to a brand new year
This is the start of Arizona School Boards Association’s 65th year, and we would like to welcome all new and returning members to board service and thank them on behalf of Arizona’s public school children for taking on this important role. We are here to assist in board member and governance team education and training, policy services, and communication in all matters concerning education: local, national, legislative and legal.

First step: Sign up for AZEdNews
Education is everyone’s business and ASBA’s Arizona Education News Service delivers the latest and greatest on all issues which impact K-12 education today. Subscribe to the AZEdNews e-weekly and receive timely and accurate coverage on educational progress of students, innovative teaching and leadership practices, news on legislative, legal and policy issues and actions. Registration is complimentary, but you must subscribe. Join us on Facebook and Twitter, too!

Second step: Register for 2015 B.O.L.T.S.
ASBA starts every year with its Board Operations Leadership Training Seminars (B.O.L.T.S.), an intensive one-day governance and leadership seminar designed to clarify the different roles and responsibilities of governing board members. We'll cover great basics for newly-elected board members and a useful refresher for returning board members. Topics include:

- Open Meeting Law from a Practical Perspective: Can/Must/Should
- Role of the Board Secretary
- Fiscal Accountability: Questions You Should Be Asking
- Role of the Board President
- Board Ethics: 10 All Too Common Scenarios
- Board Evaluations
- Superintendent Evaluations
- Advocacy: Defending Education Beyond Your Board Role

Member registration fee is $115/person and includes all online conference materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Deadline to register without an additional fee is Friday, Jan. 16. There are three convenient locations and you may sign up today for the one closest to you:

Jan. 22 B.O.L.T.S. Workshop – Tucson: Registration/Agenda
Third step: Mark your calendars to save the dates for ASBA’s upcoming Spring Legal Seminar series

In addition to a member’s responsibilities on his or her governing board, there are ongoing legal and legislative issues which impact public education. This year, this high-quality legal information will be delivered to you online. Registration will be available on the ASBA website later in January, but mark your calendars now to be sure you do not miss the following session dates:

Spring Legal Webinar Session 1: Feb. 25
Spring Legal Webinar Session 2: March 6
Spring Legal Webinar Session 3: March 27

A single registration fee will cover all three sessions and provide access to archived recordings of each.

Fourth step: Schedule additional and customized training onsite at your school district

With new board members beginning their service, now is an excellent time to schedule customized on-site training or facilitation for your board. ASBA is available to provide these opportunities throughout the year, when and where it’s convenient to your board, to enhance the work of governing boards and encourage continued learning and improvement.

Our team of leadership and governance trainers and facilitators includes Karen Loftus, ASBA’s director of leadership development, and consultants Julia Smock, Nic Clement, Ed.D. and Doug Watson, Ed.D. Chris Thomas, ASBA’s general counsel and director of legal and policy services, is also available to provide training on legal topics.

Among the topics to choose from are:

- Leadership Team Transition Workshop – Boards are ever-changing, superintendents come and go, expectations and processes are a work in progress. This session will assist the new team in working together and improving communications.
- Strategic Planning Facilitation – An ASBA facilitator will assist the superintendent and board in the planning process from developing vision, mission and belief statements to writing high level goals for the governing board.
- Self Assessment: What’s My Team Member Style? – Individuals may evaluate how they behave on a team with this 18-item assessment. This process will allow them to appreciate other team members’ contributions and ways to address differences proactively.
- Board Retreat Facilitation – Your team develops the agenda, and ASBA assists in executing a productive board retreat which will allow the board president and superintendent to participate as team members.
- Board Self-Evaluation Facilitation – ASBA will assist the board through an open meeting and positive process that celebrates the progress the board is making as a team while developing focused goals and action plans for continuous improvement.
- Board Roles and Responsibilities – Effective teams rely on understanding the role each team member plays. This workshop focuses on the different roles and superintendent and board play to ensure a well-run district.
• Open Meeting Law – ASBA will provide general or specific review of Arizona’s Open Meeting Law in this session tailored to meet your district’s individual needs (presented by Chris Thomas, general counsel/director of legal and policy services).
• Legal Authority/Liability of Board Members – An overview of board policies (presented by Chris Thomas, general counsel/director of legal and policy services).

For more information and to schedule a training, please contact Karen Loftus, director of leadership development, at kloftus@azsba.org or 602.254.1100.

Final step: Read the twice-monthly Report Card to learn about upcoming events
ASBA fills the year with conferences, meetings, webinars, seminars, workshops, education and governing board learning opportunities of all kinds. You will not want to miss our Summer Leadership Institute in July, the popular Law Conference in September, or the Annual Conference in December. ASBA’s NEW Equity Event, presented in partnership with Helios and WestEd, will be held April 8-10, and focuses on leadership strategies and promising practices for closing the opportunity and achievement gap. There is the Delegate Assembly in September when members decide on ASBA’s political agenda, and September and October bring county meetings where board members are recognized for their achievements with boardmanship awards. Be the first to know what events are coming up and when you can register by reading the Report Card.

ASBA Directory information requests emailed to superintendents and board secretaries this month
It’s time to update the ASBA directory and database. Requests will be emailed within the next two weeks to all superintendents and board secretaries. Please be sure to respond by the Jan. 30 deadline. Accurate information is important to ensure we get the latest information and events to our membership.

ASBA Executive Searches

• SUPERINTENDENT, Continental ESD. Opens Jan. 7 and closes March 2 at 5 p.m.
  For more information: recruiting@azsba.org
  To apply: Superintendent, Continental ESD

Looking for an interim superintendent? ASBA can help. We maintain a database of people interested in serving as interim superintendents. We will post your requirements and send to this list, then provide you with applications from those individuals interested in your position. There is no charge for this service. For assistance in this area, contact Steve Highlen, ASBA Executive Search Consultant, at shighlen@azsba.org.

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■ Questions about the ASBA Report Card e-newsletter?
  Contact Shirley Simpson, ASBA Membership Services Coordinator, at ssimpson@azsba.org.
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