ASBA Candidates for 2023 Executive Committee

The ASBA Officer Voting Guide contains comprehensive information provided by each candidate in their application. The following are the candidates for the 2023 ASBA Executive Committee of the ASBA Board of Directors as put forward by the ASBA Nominating Committee.

President-Elect
Juan Buendia, Baboquivari USD
Desiree Fowler, Page USD

Treasurer
Tadeo De La Hoya, Gadsden ESD

Secretary
William Justice, CAVIAT
Kathleen Pasierb, Patagonia ESD
Monica Timberlake, Quartzsite ESD

Five officers serve as the executive committee on the ASBA Board of Directors. They are the president, president-elect, treasurer, secretary and immediate past-president. Each position is held for a one-year term. The officers serve on the board alongside 17 county directors and ex officio voting members that include caucus and alliance presidents.

Election of the president-elect, treasurer and secretary are held each year at the ASBA Annual Membership Meeting.

The officer application consists of:
- Basic information about the applicant’s board service
- A snapshot of their recent involvement with ASBA
- Narrative questions designed to demonstrate the assets the individual will bring to the ASBA Board of Directors if elected

Process for Selecting Candidates

Applications were reviewed by the ASBA Nominating Committee, which is comprised of a diverse group of currently serving board members from throughout the state. No interviews were required; the nominating committee made its decisions based on candidate applications only. Per ASBA bylaws, the Nominating Committee is charged with putting forth a slate of one or more candidates for each position: president-elect, treasurer and secretary.
Election of Officers

Election of officers will take place on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. at the ASBA Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort in Scottsdale in conjunction with the ASBA-ASA Annual Conference. Every ASBA member district is eligible to send a delegate to cast its vote.

All eligible candidates put forth by the Nominating Committee must be present at the meeting to be elected and will have the opportunity to give a speech of up to two minutes.

Individuals may also choose to run from the floor for one of the three positions and will be given the opportunity to make a two-minute speech. No information about individuals who choose to run from the floor will be presented to members in this guide.
Candidates for President-Elect

(presented in alpha-order by last name)

Answers to narrative questions have not been edited and appear as submitted by the candidate.
Eligibility Criteria

- I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.
- I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2023.
- I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.

Candidate Statement

Through the years, I have found such an amazing, supportive, collaborative environment here with ASBA, its committees, alliances, and board, including the staff. I am truly thankful for having sat with and learned from our long-term members, and staff, who have built such a superb foundation and an exemplary path. It’s been my passion to engage, work with and see the success of not only my school district but all of our districts, whether small or large, rural or metro, it’s the drive I know we each hold dearly. The betterment of our students across the board can and will be championed for years to come as we work together, stronger and with guidance and insight. I have such the drive to bring the thoughts, ideas and open communication to the table. Whether the work is successful or not really relies on laying down our difference, understanding the needs and taking the charge for the board members, the school children and our families. I hope in my time and term so far I have set that perception with you my colleagues. I look to continuing the success, moving the issues and above all supporting the team effort.

Involvement with ASBA

Served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years

Please provide position(s) held and years
HNAIC, Native Chair
I have served on an ASBA committee within the past four years

Please provide committee name(s) and year(s) of service
1 Year, Legislative Committee
I have served as an officer for an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years

Please provide position(s) held and years
HNAIC Secretary 2020, HNAIC Vice President, 2021-2022
I have been a member of an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years.

Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus
Hispanic Native American Caucus
I have served as a delegate at the Delegate Assembly within the past four years.

Please provide year(s)
2020, 2021
Question 1: Why do you want to be an ASBA elected officer?
My hope is what I have learned thus far from my predecessors, and what I have taken in life and through the time I have spent as a board member and it's importance will bring a good addition to the directorship and leadership of the board. I have as many ideas and thoughts that we could look at in a positive forward progression as the foundation we have has been so well cared for. I want to expand on the goals and see much more success.

Question 2: What unique capabilities do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?
As a leader in my personal life, and in general, as in the capacity of working with a group, committee or board, I have a fond respect for every path, every journey. To hear the need, build a plan and meet it with success, in a group and team effort so much more can and would be accomplished. I feel it's important to be approachable, be open and let the work speak for itself.

Question 3: ASBA has a very diverse membership. What would you do to ensure we are meeting as many of our members needs as possible?
The ability to empathize and find general understanding for our diversity and champion when and where we need to the blessing of success that comes when all for one and one for all is the mission, I see and can make the effort in an equitable and just mindset. I have genuinely felt brought in, included and I want to continue to send that message to all our board members and stakeholders.

Question 4: What is your perspective with the term “Equity”? As a leader of ASBA how would you advocate this term in relationship to student academic/vocational success?
Free and fair, without prejudice and acknowledgment of our diversity and the ability to build bonds, friendships, and partnerships. When we all give as much thought and acknowledgment to the plight of others, the success of many and our schools in the state being a beacon of leadership and civilization with respect to each walk of life and the needs I know we can see such greatness and give this model and leadership to our students.
Question 5: If elected as an ASBA officer and member of the Executive Committee, you will be a recognized spokesperson for the Association, no longer representing just yourself. Please describe what this means to you and how you would handle this responsibility.

I feel that in essence of these questions, I have made many statements or thoughts and ideas of what I feel is a very real reflection of what I have learned here, what I have learned from you all and what I feel is the way we can achieve success in such a great association. I hope that I have given that impression and I am and would deeply be honored to carry forward this body, this mission, with this team. I have great respect for my upbringing, my journey has given me much to be proud of, I want that to be the example for generations, I can't end without giving our creator praise for teaching me my culture, my family, my school and my community for even being confident in myself to submit this. Thank you.
Candidate Statement

Yá’át’ééh ‘altah’áásjílgó, shik’éí, shidine’é, shidé’éyoní. Shí Desiree Fowler yinishyé. Tábahahá Dine’é Nishlí, Kinlichí’íiní Dine’é bashishchíin, Naakai Dine’é dashicheii, Tóóch’í’íiní Dine’é dashinalí. Hóyéé hoolyéédéé’ naashá. Ákót’éego ‘asdzání nishlj. Greetings, my relatives, my people, and those of no relation. My name is Desiree Fowler. I am born of the Edgewater clan, I am born for the Redhouse clan, my maternal grandfather’s are of the Mexican People clan, and my paternal grandfather’s are of the Bitterwater clan. I am originally from Steamboat, Az. That’s how I introduce myself as a Dine woman. Understanding the demographics of our state’s rural and urban school districts, representing border town in native communities is important in the work that I do for our students. I’m currently serving a second term to ensure I hold myself accountable to help build a strong foundation for our future leaders. Our youth need strong vocal board members to pave the educational roads that seems unbearable. Every student deserves a quality education to prepare them for the future.

Involvement with ASBA

Served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years

Please provide position(s) held and years
Hispanic Native American Indian Caucus President 2019-2020, Executive Secretary 2021, Executive Treasurer 2022
I have served on an ASBA committee within the past four years

Please provide committee name(s) and year(s) of service
Equity Committee 2019, Governance Committee 2020, Finance Committee 2022, ASBA ED Hiring Committee 2019
I have served as an officer for an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years

Please provide position(s) held and years
Hispanic Native American Indian Caucus President 2019-2020, Executive Secretary 2021, Executive Treasurer 2022
I have been a member of an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years

Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus
HNAIC Caucus, Black Alliance, and Rural Alliance
I have served as a delegate at the Delegate Assembly within the past four years

Please provide year(s)
2019, 2021, and 2022

Eligibility Criteria

✓ I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.
✓ I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2023.
✓ I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.
Question 1: Why do you want to be an ASBA elected officer?
I have served the ASBA Board of Directors for the past four years; 2 years as the Hispanic Native American Indian Caucus President, 1 year as the Executive Secretary and 1 year as the Executive Treasurer. My role has allowed me explore and navigate the Association's mission, vision, and strategic plan to carry out my role on the Board of Directors. I would like continue my journey with the Board of Directors and ASBA staff. This opportunity has given insight knowledge to understand the importance of representing rural schools in Northern Arizona. If elected, I would be the first Native American Executive President-Elect to serve in this capacity. I bring with me cultural representation for those who do don't have a voice. I'm passionate about creating opportunities for our current and future school board members. My four year on the ASBA Board of Directors has been one phenomenal journey, the best part of my journey is to collaborate with my colleagues. ASBA has been a champion of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. I strongly believe the ASBA Executive Board and Board of Directors needs to reflect its membership to continue the work of the strategic plan. My six years on the Page USD #8 governing board has prepared me for the unexpected challenges and barriers when I least expected them. I'm a voice for the underrepresented school district, representing students and families who do not have a voice to be heard.

Question 2: What unique capabilities do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?
My unique capabilities to bring people together, embrace them with positive vibes, my leadership skills to connect new members with others in the association and it's stakeholders. I enjoy networking with members of ASBA, I'm approachable and respected by everyone I meet. I'm willing to listen and help navigate people in the direction they need to be successful. ASBA has given me the tools I need to be strong advocate for public schools, equitable education, and knowledge to have a stronger voice. I've lived on the Navajo Nation in Coppermine, AZ for most of my life, I appreciate that I can serve and represent the rural and urban Native communities that are underrepresented. Once I commit and set my mind on a project, I'll be sure to complete the task on time. I'm willing to work hard and long hours to get the work done. I understand the demographics of our state in rural and urban school district, border towns in native communities. I'm currently serving a second term to ensure I hold myself accountable to help build a strong foundation for our future leaders. Our youth need strong role models to pave the way when their challenges and barriers seem unbearable. Every student deserves a quality education to prepare them for the future.
Question 3: ASBA has a very diverse membership. What would you do to ensure we are meeting as many of our members needs as possible?

It's important that we not only meet the requirement to represent the membership. We need to encourage and strength the membership of ASBA, HNAIC, Black and Rural Alliance. When HNAIC meetings were not published in the conference booklet I've made it my priority to invite members and superintendents to attend the meetings. If it meant I had to stand in the hall to direct traffic to the meeting rooms or stepping up to the podium to make the announcement I'm willing to make it happen. Communication is key in leadership, we all need to be on the same page to make the progress smoother. I've been a voice for improvement to address the changes that needed for a successful outcome. With the help of ASBA's staff I've been involved with many projects to ensure we're addressing the members through videos, emails, newsletters, text messages and phone calls.

Question 4: What is your perspective with the term “Equity”? As a leader of ASBA how would you advocate this term in relationship to student academic/vocational success?

Equity is the work of everyone working together to give students an opportunity to seek their full potential. Last year, I asked ASBA if I could bring the Page High School Navajo Language/Navajo Government and NL|Unity Club to attend the ASBA Advocacy Day at the State Capital. With the help of ASBA staff, our students were given a chance to speak on a Student Panel, visit their Legislators and Senator to express their academic and vocational needs and success. We need to celebrate our student's academic and vocational success by showcase their work at conferences. Provide a student advisory group to share their experiences with the Board of Directors and the membership. I've been a voice for equity since I started, I'm happy to continue my work on the Executive Board and Board of Director.
Question 5: If elected as an ASBA officer and member of the Executive Committee, you will be a recognized spokesperson for the Association, no longer representing just yourself. Please describe what this means to you and how you would handle this responsibility.

I've had the pleasure of representing ASBA, I will continue to be an advocate, a voice, and supporter for many years to come. I've learned in my young life to walk upon others with a humble mindset, if we allow a title to drive us we'll never allow our true potential to flourish. Just as Peter's uncle advised him, "With great power comes great responsibility." I hold myself accountable for my character and image in the public eye. Representing my people is meaningful in my cultural, I'm not only representing myself and the Association, I'm also representing my ancestors, my people, and my community. I find it hard to believe that the Association has never had a Native American Indian president-elect, that alone speaks volume for itself. I'm a champion of equity, diversity, and inclusion, I respect myself to explore my advocacy journey because my grandmother believed in my education when I need her the most.
Candidate Statement

I have had the pleasure of serving my community as a member of the Gadsden Elementary School Board #32 for the past 14 years. During my tenure, I have strived to renew the confidence and trust of our community in the board. As a board member, I have always made myself available to serve my district and my community. I have worked towards establishing effective communication among our staff and community members. I am running for ASBA Treasurer to continue working collaboratively with my fellow board members throughout Arizona. I have been attending county meetings to create connections between the ASBA Board and colleagues. I will continue to work diligently to keep putting ASBA’s mission and vision first. As a local school board member, I have worked hard to bring our schools to highly performing schools. Although our district does not carry an overflow of money, we promised and raised salaries for teachers and employees. We continue on the path to bringing them to a competitive salary. Additionally, we continue developing high-quality standards and accountability for administration and staff. We must keep raising student achievement, strive for collaboration and teacher retention, and excel in our standards. Our districts continue to face many challenges, but we will overcome them by working together with ASBA.

Involvement with ASBA

Served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years

Please provide position(s) held and years
Yuma County Director (2015-2021), ASBA Board Secretary (2021 - Present)
I have been a member of an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years

Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus
Hispanic Native American Caucus

Eligibility Criteria

✓ I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.

✓ I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2023.

✓ I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.
Question 1: Why do you want to be an ASBA elected officer?
Aside from having the honor of being ASBA's Executive Committee Secretary for the last year and being part of the ASBA Board of Directors for almost eight years. We have created a great team of Board of Director members and staff. This team will continue to carry the baton of being represented fairly and adequately regardless of our backgrounds or political affiliations. We represent our children, and we strive for what is best when it comes to their education. We have been vigorously working for our members and our communities. Being part of this team has been a pleasure, and I would like to continue doing it as your ASBA Treasurer.

Question 2: What unique capabilities do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team and how would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?
I would bring capabilities to the ASBA Executive Officer team that I will use to produce Association success, including analyzing performance with data and making appropriate decisions based on the staff's recommendation. I will continue to promote ASBA's training opportunities for fellow board members across the state. We are an association that represents more than 240 districts. We must ensure that we provide appropriate tools and accessibility to ASBA's trainings and webinars as much as possible. I was part of the board of directors for the National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials (NALEO) since 2015. Since 2017, I was reelected yearly to be their Executive Board Secretary (serving as Executive Board Secretary until 2021, when my terms were fully completed). My experience with NALEO is vast. NALEO is a non-profit organization, much like ASBA, but on a national level with more than 8,000 members, including all office levels. US Senators, Governors, Congressmen, Mayors, and Council Members, with a majority of school board members. I can bring my experience on the executive board of NALEO to ASBA's board of directors as an executive officer. I was ASBA's Yuma County Director for seven years, and a member of the Young Elected Officials Network (YEO) since 2006. Most recently, in 2021, I was appointed to the Board of Directors of Campesinos Sin Fronteras. This local nonprofit promotes health and community participation in the local political processes.
Question 3: ASBA has a very diverse membership. What would you do to ensure we are meeting as many of our members needs as possible?

With ASBA’s diverse membership, and to ensure that the association meets as many members’ needs as possible, I would encourage my fellow board members and colleagues to provide their input according to their counties’ needs. All counties are different, hence the diversity of ASBA and the need for equity and inclusion. Being from a rural border 98% Latino community, with a poverty and unemployment rate close to 70%, does not have the exact needs as our fellow city within the same county 25 miles up north. So, the association must reach all districts and communities. Big or small, regardless of their political power, but assist them with their needs to become better representatives of their communities and be a voice for equal education for all children. I will be a voice and advocate for underrepresented communities, which are almost half of ASBA’s membership. When I say a voice and advocate for underrepresented communities, it does not mean everyone else’s voice will not be heard. Still, I assure them that everyone is equally represented and heard. Regardless of our political views and preferences, our primary goal and focus should be good quality education for every child in the state, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Question 4: What is your perspective with the term “Equity”? As a leader of ASBA how would you advocate for equity in relationship to student academic/vocational success?

As a board member, our commitment to equity must ensure each student receives the support they need to overcome barriers and challenges to ensure all students are successful. Focusing on closing the opportunity and achievement gap must be addressed and ensuring systemic inequities are removed so every student achieves their fullest potential. Equity is an issue that every community faces. As a board, it’s imperative to have these discussions to understand the barriers and challenges students in our district face and then agree on how our board should pursue equity to ensure each student receives the best educational experience possible. Equity is not just a matter of income, race, or location. Still, it comes in various aspects that become our responsibility as elected officials in the education system in the State of Arizona. We need to diminish those barriers, assist, and provide as many tools and resources as possible for all children in our districts and throughout the state.
Question 5: If elected as an ASBA officer and member of the Executive Committee, you will be a recognized spokesperson for the Association, no longer representing just yourself. Please describe what this means to you and how you would handle this responsibility.

I am currently doing this as ASBA’s Secretary and visiting my colleagues across Arizona at the county meetings. I have connected with many board members to hear about their experience as board members in their districts, and I have been able to relay their message to ASBA. Last year, I helped, supported, and advocated for the HNAIC bylaw passage, which was a very self-rewarding accomplishment for all of us who advocated and voted for the bylaw change. I will ensure that I follow ASBA’s vision and mission when I speak on behalf of the association. This comes with great responsibility, joy, and pride in representing ASBA and its members. I assure you that my voice will no longer incorporate personal views or feelings but will have ASBA’s core values, decisions made by the board, and recommendations from staff and the whole team. As NALEO’s Executive Board Secretary, I have carried this function during their events, conferences, and trainings.
Candidates for Secretary

(presented in alpha-order by last name)

Answers to narrative questions have not been edited and appear as submitted by the candidate.
William Justice

**Candidate Statement**

My life affords me the ability to dedicate a significant amount of time to the schools in Arizona. For many years I’ve had the liberty to attend ASBA activities and I suppose like everyone, I've been impressed and been dismayed with the actions our organization has provided,. As with most folks, when dismayed I failed to do anything about it, just bottle it or complain to friends. I truly would like to become part of the solution during these tough times for governing boards and provide a work history background of 35 years of supervisory work ethic!

**General**

Position Running For Secretary

District Name CAVIAT

Student Enrollment 1,700

County Coconino

Years on Your Board 16

**Eligibility Criteria**

- ☑️ I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.
- ☑️ I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2023.
- ☑️ I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.

**Involvement with ASBA**

Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus

Native/Hispanic

I have served as a delegate at the Delegate Assembly within the past four years

Please provide year(s)

2019, 2020, and 2021
Question 1: Why do you want to be an ASBA elected officer?
To offer my background and experience to hopefully help our Arizona Governing Boards.

Question 2: What unique capabilities do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?
16+ years of governing board experience since the early 1990's, working in every aspect of boardsmanship. 35+ years working as a supervisor for a large mining company.

Question 3: ASBA has a very diverse membership. What would you do to ensure we are meeting as many of our members needs as possible?
Being married into a Native American family has given me a large insight into the disparities endured by people of color, I have an immense desire to be sure the playing field is level for all!

Question 4: What is your perspective with the term “Equity”? As a leader of ASBA how would you advocate for equity in relationship to student academic/vocational success?
To advocate for all children irregardless of ethnicity. To always ask the question, “does this meet the needs of all Arizona children?”

Question 5: If elected as an ASBA officer and member of the Executive Committee, you will be a recognized spokesperson for the Association, no longer representing just yourself. Please describe what this means to you and how you would handle this responsibility.
One's only public opinion is guided by the decision of the entire board.
Candidate Statement

I would like to serve as an Officer on the ASBA Board of Directors. More than ever, given the political climate regarding public schools, I want to do my part to ensure we continue to have a viable, productive public school system that serves all communities’ school aged children. I represent and advocate for rural communities however, every school district needs fair, equitable and objective recognition of their particular needs.

General

Position Running For
Secretary

District Name
Patagonia Elementary
School District #20

Student Enrollment
185

County
Santa Cruz

Years on Your Board
7

Eligibility Criteria

✓ I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.

✓ I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2023.

✓ I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.

Involvement with ASBA

I have served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years.

I have been a member of an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years.

Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus
Rural Alliance, Black Caucus, Native American and Hispanic Caucus

I have served as a delegate at the Delegate Assembly within the past four years

Please provide year(s)
7 years
Questions 1: Why do you want to be an ASBA elected officer?
I want to be an elected officer to be at the forefront of important issues and concerns presented to the board. I will bring objectivity to the board in discussion items and decision making.

Questions 2: What unique capabilities do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?
As a former science teacher of 32 years in public schools I have excellent listening skills, communicate directly and think wholistically (the big picture) and objectively.

Question 3: ASBA has a very diverse membership. What would you do to ensure we are meeting as many of our members needs as possible?
Diversity is the stuff of life. I have never endorsed nor will I ever promote special, exclusive interests. I work and live in a diverse community 10 miles from the Mexican borderer. I have taught in public schools in Santa Cruz County with a wide variety of concerns and needs. School aged children need advocates towards equity within our school systems. It is an on-going challenge and must be addressed consistently. I believe my voice representing ASBA goals can make a difference toward on-going change.

Question 4: What is your perspective with the term “Equity”? As a leader of ASBA how would you advocate for equity in relationship to student academic/vocational success?
Supporting ASBA goals toward equitable treatment of all member school districts and our school aged children in Arizona is my number one priority. Under the guidance of ASBA and my role as Secretary I would not hesitate to speak up in support of equity issues. I would also focus on correcting the misunderstanding of equal as opposed to equity through an educational approach.
Question 5: If elected as an ASBA officer and member of the Executive Committee, you will be a recognized spokesperson for the Association, no longer representing just yourself. Please describe what this means to you and how you would handle this responsibility.

My responsibility is to ASBA and their guidance. As a board member of a rural school district I understand that role as I understand and apply the role on the Executive committee. It is not about me, its about collaboration, shared ideas, and the collective voice.
Eligibility Criteria

- I have served on my school district governing board for at least two years.
- I will be serving on my school district governing board for 2023.
- I certify that these responses are true and understand that they will be validated/confirmed by ASBA.

Candidate Statement

I want to serve on the ASBA Executive Team because I think my experience, and drive will be a benefit. I see so many positive things that ASBA has to offer, yet I also see room for growth. I think we as an organization need to embrace those opportunities to make us stronger. Having served on the Board of Directors for 5 years, and having served on most of the committees at one time or the other, I have a good understanding of the organization and goals. I would like to be a part of the team that propels us forward. I feel like my perspective as a board member from a small, rural district will help the team gain an understanding that is sometimes unintentionally missing. I want to make sure all voices are heard, and will work hard to achieve this.

Involvement with ASBA

Served on the ASBA Board of Directors within the past four years

- Please provide position(s) held and years
  - La Paz County Director Jan. 2018-Present
  - I have served on an ASBA committee within the past four years

Please provide committee name(s) and year(s) of service

- I am currently serving on the Legislative and Equity Committee. I have also previously served on the Nominating and Governance Committees.
- I have served as an officer for an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years

- Please provide position(s) held and years
  - Rural Alliance Vise Chair 2022
  - I have been a member of an ASBA alliance or caucus within the past four years

Please provide name(s) of alliance and/or caucus

- Rural Alliance, Black Alliance, Hispanic Native American Indian Caucus
- I have served as a delegate at the Delegate Assembly within the past four years

Please provide year(s)

- I have attended the Delegates Assembly as either a Delegate or Alternate for the last 9 years
Questions 1: Why do you want to be an ASBA elected officer?
I want to be an ASBA Officer because I feel the work we do is some of the most important in the state. I want to work with an amazing team to further our mission of ensuring the best education for every student in Arizona. I want to ensure local control remains at the forefront of all we do. I want to advocate for all students, and all districts in Arizona.

Questions 2: What unique capabilities do you bring to the ASBA Executive Officer Team, and how would you use them for the benefit of ASBA and its members?
The biggest thing I bring to the table is my drive and passion for public education. I will work hard for you, and the organization to help us meet our goals. I have served on many different boards and committees and have a proven ability to work with others, even when their opinions are different from mine. I'm willing to listen to others and will work to try to understand their perspective to find common ground. I also have taken every opportunity available to me, to make me a better leader and public education advocate. I am a graduate of Project CENTRL, through the Arizona Center for Rural Leadership, and a Flinn Brown Fellow. Both of these programs have not only allowed me to develop my leadership skills, but have also given me access to a very diverse network that would open doors for the organization. I will continue to use the knowledge and resources I've gained from these and other experience to help us achieve our mission.

Question 3: ASBA has a very diverse membership. What would you do to ensure we are meeting as many of our members needs as possible?
I would listen. I think that is the single biggest thing we can do as an organization. We can't meet the needs of our many districts if we don't know what they are. In my role of Rural Alliance Vice Chair, I brought to the table the idea for a town hall meeting related to rural advocacy. I recognized that although I know how to advocate for my district and county, I'll be more effective in advocating for other districts if I know exactly what they need. We will be holding our first Rural Town Hall in February, and I hope to see this idea branch out to the other alliances and eventually the group as a whole. Once I know what it is that your district needs, I will work to amplify your message. Additionally, I think the county meetings are great, I would really like to see ASBA get out to all the counties at least one more time a year. I would like to see this happen with no set agenda, but rather as a chance to visit some districts and hear what board members have to say. I think this is another way to bring people to the table that wouldn't otherwise be there.
Questions 4: What is your perspective with the term “Equity”? As a leader of ASBA how would you advocate for equity in relationship to student academic/vocational success?

Equity is so very important but over the last few years the term has become so politicized. Living in rural Arizona I see this happening a lot. If you ask board members if they think all students should have the tools they need to be successful, they'll tell you yes. However, if you start talking about equity, some of them shut down. As an organization, we need to evaluate what is important. Is it the word, or is it the concept? ASBA is non-partisan, but unfortunately, although it should be, the word equity isn't today. So I would start talking about academic/vocational success as just that. "What do you need for all of your student's to be successful?" It's about meeting districts where they are. Many of our districts have embraced equity as a goal, but how do we reach the remaining districts? To start, we have to be able to at least facilitate the conversation. and if we lose them over a word we'll never get there, We want all Arizona students to have what they need. We need to continue to offer training, resources and data related to equity, but for those that don't quite understand the term let's get them to at least embrace the idea.

Questions 5: If elected as an ASBA officer and member of the Executive Committee, you will be a recognized spokesperson for the Association, no longer representing just yourself. Please describe what this means to you and how you would handle this responsibility.

The biggest thing I bring to the table is my drive and passion for public education. I will work hard for you, and the organization to help us meet our goals. I have served on many different boards and committees and have a proven ability to work with others, even when their opinions are different from mine. I'm willing to listen to others and will work to try to understand their perspective to find common ground. I also have taken every opportunity available to me, to make me a better leader and public education advocate. I am a graduate of Project CENTRL, through the Arizona Center for Rural Leadership, and a Flinn Brown Fellow. Both of these programs have not only allowed me to develop my leadership skills, but have also given me access to a very diverse network that would open doors for the organization. I will continue to use the knowledge and resources I've gained from these and other experience to help us achieve our mission.