

WEDNESDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS

9 a.m. – Noon • December 6, 2017



Boards in the Crosshairs

Dr. David E. Lee, Associate Professor, Educational Administration, University of Southern Mississippi

Salon A, Marriott Ballroom

This highly motivational session is based on the most comprehensive research in the country on school board behaviors. Board member behavior often determines school system success and contributes greatly to superintendent turnover. Boards in the future are in the crosshairs of accountability, and if they are not productive, they will cease to exist. Participants will learn:

- How effective behavior can turn a district around.
- The behaviors associated with systems not getting the results they are seeking.
- How to use proper behavior techniques when dealing with conflict.
- How to deal with the 3 P's that can destroy a meeting: Power, Politics, and Personalities.
- How to attract and keep good superintendents.

Boards determine the success, or failure, of the school systems they represent. Find out what the great boards do to maintain high quality school systems.

New School Board Member Boot Camp (Part I): Ethics, Board Meetings, and the Role of a School Board Member

Kristen Garner, Staff Attorney, Arkansas School Boards Association

Manning, Marriott Hotel (located beside Ballroom)

As a Board of Education member, you have a number of responsibilities to meet and roles to fill. You are expected to ensure that your individual and whole Board actions and decisions are made within statutory requirements. This pre-conference choice is designed for newly elected board members, especially those who might not have been able to attend the New Board Member Institute, but veteran members who feel they need a refresher may attend as well. The presenter, ASBA Staff Attorney Kristen Garner will focus on communicating the urgent legal information new board members need to understand their role as a board member, and to avoid violating statutory law. Board members will gain an understanding of how the role of the school board has changed over time as well as learn about the laws prohibiting "insider deals" and nepotism, as well as the basics of the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act and executive session.

The Power of Good Relationships: Teamwork and Leadership Strategies for Board-Superintendent Teams

Jamie Stacks, Superintendent, Wonderview School District

Hoffman, Marriott Hotel (located beside Ballroom)

School board governance is complex and differs from district to district. This raises the question: Why are some boards more effective at governing than others? A critical key to successful governance is the development and maintenance of a healthy working relationship between the superintendent and board. This session is designed to help board members and superintendents understand how to govern more effectively by providing them with the knowledge and skills to establish the ideal team relationship. The success of the school board is contingent upon the success of the superintendent and vice-versa. Research shows too that the academic success of your district is greatly influenced by the quality of the relationship between the board and superintendent. This session will give attendees the skills and tools they need to be successful and includes a review of the following:

- School board legal status and authority
- School board/superintendent roles and duties
- How to build and sustain a high-quality relationship
- The power of the governance team
- The role of superintendent and board in student learning
- The role of strategic planning and superintendent evaluation in forming a positive relationship
- The importance of professional development
- The governance team and community relations

What Can We Say? An Examination of Freedom of Speech and Expression in Our Schools

Jay Bequette, ASBA General Counsel, Bequette & Billingsley P.A.

Cody Kees, Staff Attorney, Bequette & Billingsley P.A.

Salon C, Marriott Ballroom

Courts have established legal precedents and standards that help boards and school administrators create and enact policies that provide a safe learning environment, but also allow students, staff and others to retain significant freedom. But it's gotten ever more complicated! Constantly changing technology and social values affect what students, staff, and the community think and say, as well as the methods available for them to express themselves, so the question of what can be expressed both in and out of school continues to evolve in the American justice system. During this session we will discuss cases and real life examples that will further your understanding of these issues and help you engage in well-informed public discourse and make and enforce policy that is sound and defensible.