Illinois school leaders will gather in November to participate in and prepare to advance public education in their communities, state, and nation. This year’s Joint Annual Conference attendees will arrive ready to build relationships, set to seek out expertise, and willing to work together to grow and develop the ability to lead. As education leaders, they know they cannot do this work alone, so they gather at Conference to share, learn, and connect.

Thus, “Ready, Set … Lead!” is the appropriate theme of the 2015 Conference, a theme that describes your chosen mission – whether as a school board member, district superintendent, or business manager.

So get ready to attend the 101st Annual Conference of IASB, the 83rd Joint Annual Conference with IASA and Illinois ASBO. The event, November 20–22, 2015, will be headquartered at the Hyatt Regency Chicago and Sheraton Chicago hotels.

Conference planners have arranged panels and sessions related to leadership training, legislation, and program development. To highlight a few of the offerings, participants will be:

- **Ready** to tackle in-depth issues such as superintendent evaluations and data monitoring by attending a Pre-Conference Workshop
- **Set** to experience and observe successful programs in the Chicago Public Schools by touring one of several exemplary schools
- **Ready** to make wise decisions after viewing the largest statewide collection of school exhibits, covering virtually every school need
- **Set** to help their districts, schools, staff, and students by experiencing presentations from successful programs, offered by knowledgeable panelists
- **Ready** to have success by “knowing what you were born to do and doing it,” with speaker DeDe Murcer Moffett
- **Set** to develop as a leader after hearing speaker Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, and one of *Time* magazine’s most influential people
- **Ready** to “make a positive difference at work and in life” with wisdom from Kevin Brown, assistant vice president of SERVPRO

As a result, Conference participants will be better prepared to lead public education into 2016 and beyond.

This preview aims to give you a glimpse into what to expect at this year’s Conference. Additional information and updates will be announced as the events draw closer. To stay current, please visit the online Conference website: [www.iasb.com/jac15](http://www.iasb.com/jac15).
Registration

Pre-Conference registration is $420 per registrant and is complimentary for family members of paid registrants. Registration forms and fees must be received by the IASB Springfield office by 4 p.m., October 21 to qualify for this rate.

Conference registration packets for registrations received prior to the October deadline will be mailed on October 30 to registered school districts. Beginning October 22, the registrations cost is $445 per person and packets will be available at the Conference registration booth.

Onsite registrations can also be made during the Conference and payment must be made by check, cash, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

October 21 is also the last day for receiving registration changes by mail or fax (at 217/241-2144). After this date all changes must be made at the Conference registration desk. Replacement badges will be issued there, but only upon exchange of the original registration badge.

Refund requests, minus a $95 service fee per registrant, can be honored only if made by email to Camille Gillette, at cgillette@iasb.com. Refunds will be processed after the conference. There will be no refunds after October 21.

Note: Name-badge holders for all registrants will not be mailed; they must be picked up onsite at the Conference registration desk at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, East Tower. Badge holders will also be available Friday at the Hyatt Regency West Tower, Sheraton Chicago, and Swissôtel, for those attending IASB workshops, Illinois ASBO seminars, IASB secretaries programs, or the Illinois Council of School Attorneys’ seminar.

PLEASE NOTE: Information is continuing to come in about the Conference. As a result, changes could create cancellations, relocations or additions to the list of conference events contained in this preview. Please refer to the official Conference program you will receive at the Conference registration desk for the most accurate, updated listing of events and activities.
Conference Hotels

All events will take place at these downtown hotels: Hyatt Regency Chicago (151 East Wacker Drive), Sheraton Chicago (301 East North Water Street), and Swissôtel (323 East Wacker Drive). There is easy walking access among the three hotels.

More information about locations of specific events and how to find them will also be available at a special Conference orientation session, to be held at 11 a.m., Friday, November 20, and again at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, November 21, for later arrivals.

The following hotels have rooms blocked for housing:

1. Hyatt Regency Chicago (co-headquarters)
2. Sheraton Chicago (co-headquarters)
3. Embassy Suites Downtown
4. Fairmont Chicago Millenium Park
5. Intercontinental Chicago
6. Chicago Marriott Downtown
7. Swissôtel Chicago

Conference room rates range from $179 to $199 per night. The number of rooms available at these prices is limited. Housing will be assigned as completed housing forms accompanied by completed registration forms/fees and room deposits are received. Please refer to the housing instructions and forms available at [www.iasb.com/jac15/registration.cfm](http://www.iasb.com/jac15/registration.cfm)
### Conference Schedule At-A-Glance

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Illinois ASBO committee meeting
- 2 - 5 p.m. – IASA Board of Directors’ meeting
- 3 - 5 p.m. – Illinois Council of School Attorneys’ Executive Committee meeting

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
- 7 a.m. – Illinois ASBO seminar registration, Swissôtel
- 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. – IASB information desk, Sheraton; IASB Pre-Conference Workshops registration, Sheraton
- 7:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. – Illinois ASBO seminars, Swissôtel
- 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Conference registration; IASB Delegate Assembly registration; Educational Environment Exhibits
- 8 a.m. - noon – IASA workshop for superintendents
- 8:45 a.m. – Chicago Schools Tour buses load
- 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Illinois Council of School Attorneys’ school law seminar
- 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. – IASB Information Room
- 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Exhibits
- 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. – IASB Pre-Conference Workshops, Sheraton
- 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Board/District Secretaries Program, Swissôtel
- 10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. – IASB Resolutions Committee meeting
- 11 a.m. - noon – Welcome to Conference orientation
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Combined IASB Pre-Conference Workshops luncheon, Sheraton
- 12:15 - 1 p.m. – Illinois ASBO seminar luncheon, Swissôtel
- 12:30 – 1 p.m. – Illinois Council of School Attorneys’ school law seminar buffet luncheon
- 1:30 - 3 p.m. – Discussion panels, Hyatt and Sheraton
- 2 - 5 p.m. – ICPEA meeting
- 3:30 - 5 p.m. – First general session — Speaker: DeDe Murcer Moffett

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
- 7:30 - 8:10 a.m. – Orientation for 1st Timers
- 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. – IASB Service Associates annual breakfast meeting
- 7:30 - 11 a.m. – Delegate Assembly registration
- 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Conference Registration; Educational Environment Exhibits; Legislative information counter; IASB Bookstore
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. – IASB Information Desk, Sheraton
- 8:30 - 10 a.m. – Second general session — Speaker: Freeman Hrabowski
- 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. – Exhibits
- 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. – IASB Information Room
- 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Board/District Secretaries’ Program, Swissôtel
- 10:30 a.m. - noon – IASB Delegate Assembly
- 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Discussion panels, Hyatt, Sheraton
- 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Discussion panels, Sheraton
- 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Carousel of Panels, Sheraton
- 3:30 - 5 p.m. – Discussion panels, Hyatt and Sheraton
- 3:30 - 5 p.m. – Discussion panels, Hyatt and Sheraton
- 3:30 - 5 p.m. – First general session — Speaker: DeDe Murcer Moffett

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
- 7:30 - 10 a.m. – IASB Bookstore
- 8 - 9:15 a.m. – IASB Board of Directors’ breakfast meeting
- 8 - 11 a.m. – Legislative information counter
- 8 - 9:30 a.m. – Discussion panels — Coffee and Conversation
- 8 - 10 a.m. – Educational Environment Exhibits
- 9:45 - 11:30 a.m. – Third general session — Speaker: Kevin Brown

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PLEASE NOTE: Some events will be held at the Sheraton Chicago, just across from the Hyatt Regency, and others at the adjacent Swissôtel. UNLESS NOTED, all locations are in the Hyatt Regency.
Friday, First General Session: DeDe Murcer Moffett

DeDe Murcer Moffett is a motivational speaker, author, trainer, comedian, and niece of New York Yankees legend Bobby Murcer. Living life with passion, knowing what you were born to do then doing it full out is her definition and experience of success. Moffett says that today, more than ever, people want authentic leaders who will help them unlock their potential and reduce internal obstacles so their talent can take center stage. She routinely manages to grab the hearts and minds of audiences through powerful content and high-energy, Broadway-style entertainment.

Saturday, Second General Session: Freeman Hrabowski

Freeman Hrabowski is the president of the University of Maryland. In 2008, he was named one of America's Best Leaders by U.S. News & World Report. Time named him one of America's 10 Best College Presidents in 2009 and one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2012. His research and publications focus on science and math education, with special emphasis on minority participation and performance. A sought-after speaker, he is also the author of two books focusing on parenting and high-achieving students in science.

Sunday, Third General Session: Kevin Brown

Kevin Brown is assistant vice president of SERVPRO, an international franchise system with nearly 1,700 locations specializing in fire and water cleanup and restoration. Brown frequently addresses large corporate audiences, including Siemens, State Farm, Bristol-Myers, and Delta Airlines. He is on a mission to help organizations create a culture of heroes at every level. Thus he is passionate about helping people expand their vision, develop their potential, and grow their results. He challenges people to show up every day and make a positive difference at work and in life.
Panel Sessions

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

11 a.m. – noon

Welcome to Conference Orientation — Does your district have a board member, administrator, or secretary attending the Joint Annual Conference for the first time? This session will explain which programs are best suited for first-timers. It will also review the Conference program, directions, maps, and other Conference activities.

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Tips: Passing a Referendum in a Small Town — Meridian CUSD 223 had a referendum fail and working cash bond sale halted by public petition months before an Education Fund referendum passed. Learn the steps they took to change perception and how that led to success at the polls.

Student Growth Update for School Board Members — Panelists will provide helpful information to school board members and administrators concerning use of student growth for teacher evaluation. Discover the important components of the rules and regulations relating to PERA teacher evaluation and examples of such teacher evaluation.

Negotiation Strategies: The Value of Benchmarking — How does benchmarking enhance bargaining strategies? What should you benchmark? How often? Hear a panel discussion regarding the use of benchmarking and its value as a negotiating tool.

Connecting School Facility Condition and Student Outcomes — Research demonstrates the tie between facility condition and student outcomes. Anecdotal evidence suggests this connection may be powerful, but are opportunities being missed? This presentation proposes an evidence-based design process, and calls for participation.

The New MA Rule — the SEC’s Thinking — New regulations by the SEC have dramatically altered the rules for firms providing advice to districts issuing bonds. Learn from an attorney who wrote the rules, hear what they were thinking, and get guidelines for districts for future bond issues.

Wanted: A Highly Qualified Principal For Every School — In 2015 an Illinois School Leader Advisory Council was formed to define a vision and five-year strategic plan to further advance leadership development. This session will provide an overview of ISLAC. Time will be allotted for refreshments and dialogue.

The Administration’s Vision for Education — With a new governor sworn into office in January, a new team of leaders and advisors followed, including the governor’s selections to lead K-12 education. Meet the new State Superintendent and the new Secretary of Education of Illinois.

Success by Design: Rebounding From Building Referendum Failure — New Trier HS District 203 needed a new approach to fix a campus desperately needing new classrooms and labs. Learn how a year-long community engagement campaign led to election victory.

FLSA - How It Applies to Districts — Review labor and employment issues districts are facing on employment of non-certified staff. The Fair Labor Standards Act covers: overtime vs. compensatory time; minimum wage; child labor; hourly vs. salary (exempt vs. non-exempt status); meals and break periods; and recordkeeping.

PTA: 115 Years of Family Engagement — Come experience a fun and interactive journey of the Parent Teacher Association’s family engagement history and best practices.
Community Engagement: Tell Your Story Through Social Media — Great things are happening in our schools. But we often miss opportunities to tell our own story. Leaders in West Frankfort CUSD 168 will discuss successful digital leadership strategies that will enhance community engagement and much more.

Middle School Athletics — What Should You Expect? This session is intended to give realistic expectations of a middle school athletic and activity program. Training of coaches, hiring of officials, and communication with parents will all be discussed.

Realizing the Promise of Educational Assessments — This presentation will discuss uses of educational assessments, highlight key characteristics of high-quality assessments, and broadly discuss how the compilation of data resulting from a coherent, comprehensive assessment system can serve to inform instruction, enable student learning, and support a broader understanding of student progress toward college and career readiness.

The Art of School Boarding – Top Ten — Veteran or rookie, every school board member needs to know the top ten actions and attitudes for success. Learn from board members and educators what works and what should be avoided. See where you excel or need a boost!

Pensions: New Day, New Solutions? The legislature acted, the court responded, yet Illinois struggles to find a solution to the high cost of finding state employee pensions. Join lawmakers and budget and pension experts to explore next steps.

Navigating Through Compliance and Unfunded Mandates — How do we implement SB 7 and comply with unfunded mandates? All districts are asking this. Expert guidance and resources are available through your local ROEs/ISCs to help you maintain all components of the compliance process and provide essential professional development.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

10:30 a.m. – noon

The Purpose of Public Education — What is public education’s purpose? Who decides … nationally, statewide, locally? How can school boards and board members provide leadership in this conversation, both locally and beyond? Get the answers to spark your own thinking on this important topic.

Leadership and Learning — Join this conversation about how a digital learning environment can help you facilitate new approaches to teaching and learning. We’ll explore strategies for visionary leadership, and innovative teaching and learning, and hear from visionary leaders who have transformed their districts.

Good School Maintenance — Panelists will help board members and administrators plan maintenance for their facilities. Panelists will discuss facility audits as a starting point for identifying maintenance needs, provide benchmarks to evaluate district maintenance budgets, and identify funding options for major maintenance.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

7:30 – 8:10 a.m.

Orientation for 1st Timers — Does your district have a board member, administrator, or secretary attending the Joint Annual Conference for the first time? This session will review the Conference program, how and where to find assistance, directions, maps, sessions, and activities you won’t want to miss.

CONFERENCE BOOKSTORE:
BOOKS, GIFTS & AUTHORS

Another browsing opportunity that opens Friday morning is the Conference bookstore. There will be more than 3,000 titles on hand, from school governance and leadership, to general titles in management, biographies, reference, self-help, and other publication categories. There will also be a children’s book section and a wide variety of holiday gifts and merchandise available.

Located in the East Tower of the Grand Ballroom level of the Hyatt Regency Chicago, the bookstore will also be the place to meet with authors of many of the books on display. A schedule of book signings will be posted on site and in the Conference program.
How Superintendents Can Support Board Development — What is the role of the superintendent in promoting professional development (e.g., board member orientation)? Concerned about role confusion between the superintendent and the board? This session will aid in the superintendent’s work in that area.

Family Engagement — Family engagement is a cornerstone of effective schools and a key strategy for achieving educational excellence and equity for all children. ISBE has developed a Family Engagement Framework to support schools. The panel will survey key principles for family engagement.

Engaging Community with Your District’s Story — There are more ways than ever to tell stories that influence stakeholders. Learn from seasoned PR practitioners and an Emmy-winning storyteller how to define key points of your story, and ways to spread that story through traditional and new media.

Bonds 101 — Financing Alternatives for School Districts — Have you ever wondered what your district’s financing alternatives are? Learn how you can fund new or expanding facilities, building renovations, technology, and even increase your district’s reserves or fund operating expenses. Discover debt possibilities and limitations.

New Board Member Orientation – It Matters! — Team dynamics change when even one new member joins a board. How do you ensure a smooth transition and keep your board highly effective? Join us for an interactive discussion on what works.

TED Talks — Style Presentations: Engaging Students Using Technology — Technology can personalize learning in many different ways, from using it to determine the individual needs of every student, to providing opportunities for differentiation by providing learning pathways. Learn how educators are using technology to engage students in their own learning.

How Separate? Religion and Public Education — The U.S. Constitution calls for the separation of Church and State, but just how separate? Join us for a discussion of the interaction between religion and public education.

Setting District Goals and Direction — Whether you call it setting district goals, strategic planning or mission/vision work, school boards are responsible for clarifying the district’s purpose. Hear how two school boards used IASB facilitation to help do this work the right way.

Giving Students a Running Start — Ensuring a high-quality early childhood education is of critical importance. Using a recently released guide for school boards, experts will present approaches districts can use to make sure children are entering kindergarten ready to achieve to their full potential!

Executive Search Process — Selecting a superintendent may be the most important responsibility a board undertakes. Learn the steps and review the critical aspects of it. This panel is designed to assist anyone anticipating a superintendent, assistant superintendent, business manager, director or principal change.

Bullied Boards and Board Bullies — A common problem in today’s diverse school board settings is adult bullying through an individual or a mob. Learn about bullies, their victims, prevention/elimination strategies, and potential legal ramifications.

Collaborating for Student Success — All district stakeholders must have a laser-like focus on continuous improvement. Intentional partner collaboration can support these efforts. Join IASB TAG consultants and the Illinois Center for School Improvement staff to hear their efforts to increase student achievement.

IASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
The Association’s Delegate Assembly, comprised of one voting delegate from each member district, is the policy-making body of IASB. Through a vetted resolutions process, proposals presented by member school boards will be introduced, discussed and voted upon. Final results will guide the Association’s position statements and staff in ongoing legislative efforts.

Delegates will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, November 21, in Regency A/B of the Hyatt Regency West Tower. In addition to voting on resolutions, delegates will also hear from the IASB president, executive director and treasurer, and vote on officers.

A complete list of proposed resolutions has been mailed to member districts and will be posted on IASB’s website.
Sharing Resources to Thrive — Many districts have turned a blind eye to the benefits of sharing services with neighboring districts for a myriad of reasons. Attend this session and learn how sharing services in technology saved two rural districts money and increased productivity.

Work Plan Model Leveraging Leadership for Student Achievement — Instead of just theory, learn how to implement best practices of leadership accountability to increase student achievement. Learn about the impact a practical work plan model has had on a large, diverse district, as well as how to implement the model in your own system.

Legislative Issues Impacting School Districts — This panel of experienced legislators will discuss hot topics of the 2015 legislative session (the budget, income tax, pensions, cost shift, mandates, SB 1, etc.) and how these issues or legislation will impact Illinois school districts.

Board Member and Staff Use of Technology — Come explore how dialogue with residents in elections and referenda or when its related to district business, teacher-student communications, and ill-advised posts on personal social media raise questions of confidentiality, defamation, ethics, sunshine law, and freedom of speech.

Accommodating RIFs via Effective School District Leadership — Using best practices in curriculum and human resources leadership, school districts will collectively assess the impact of reductions-in-force (RIFs) and discuss strategies to preserve, improve, and expand educational opportunities for students during tough financial times.

Social Media for School Leaders — Social media is an important tool for school leaders to use to connect with their community and colleagues. This session will discuss how to use Twitter and other social media tools to effectively communicate and build your personal network.

Funding Reform Driven by Student Opportunity: “Evidence-Based Model” — Participants will be introduced to the evidence-based school funding model of Vision 20/20. Hear how it can help districts prepare children to compete in the global economy, ensuring that resources are allocated logically to provide all students with adequate opportunities based on district priorities.

A County School Facility Sales Tax Success Story — Thanks to the comprehensive community engagement process, Morgan County voters approved a 1 percent School Facility Sales Tax. Examine this process and how community support led to a successful alternate revenue bond issue funding capital improvements at Jacksonville CUSD 117.

Community Engagement, Now What? You’ve completed a successful community engagement program and have feedback and recommendations. Now what do you do with it? Hear one district’s story of how it turned feedback from a large-scale community engagement program into a strategic vision for the future.

The 21st Century is Now! As schools search for new ways to save money, energy is a large piece of the economics of the district. Come and explore the financial considerations as schools move towards sustainability and renewable energy.

Five Years in the Making: Lessons from STEM Pioneers — School leaders and educational designers reveal lessons learned from two high schools that converted old classrooms into STEM labs five years ago, then went on to achieve international recognition as an incubator for tomorrow’s researchers.

Emergency Response and Recovery After an EF-4 Tornado — On November 17, 2013, an EF-4 tornado ripped through Washington, leaving a corridor of destruction that would take years to restore this amazing town. Hear a brief, powerful reflection on building a community “Washington Strong!”

Eight Education Innovations to Incorporate Today! Join us to learn more about approaches that will enhance your schools! From coding to a 1:1 roadmap, developing your adaptive learning ecosystem to personalized professional development, this fast-paced presentation will inspire your team with ideas you can use.

National School Board Association — Ideas and Initiatives — NSBA represents state school board associations and their more than 90,000 local school board members. We believe education is a civil right! Join this discussion regarding the impact of local school boards from the national perspective.
1:30 – 3 p.m.

**Community Engagement: What, Why and How** — An effective community engagement process is PROACTIVE and, once in place, can reduce or perhaps even eliminate the need for REACTIVE public relations. This session will explore why this work is important and how your board can engage your community.

**Policy 101: Policy Issues and Best Practices** — Join in a discussion concerning commonly encountered policy issues, the best practices to avoid or resolve those issues, and share your board’s policy success stories.

**HB 2683 – The Illinois Balanced Accountability Model** — Discover the new Illinois Balanced Accountability Model that will be enacted as a result of the State Board’s waiver from NCLB legislation. Explore major components of the model and learn how it will be administered in school districts throughout Illinois.

**Safety Alert! Navigating Through the Student Data Fog** — A silent safety issue is rising. Can your district assure parents that their children’s personal information is safe? Learn tips from our panel to ensure that your student body’s personal information and data stay secure in the “cloud” and beyond.

**Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!** — Join an interactive, enjoyable session (using “clickers”) to better understand whether decisions are superintendent decisions, board decisions, or a combination of both. You will also hear different strategies to help boards work together to reach a consensus.

**Benchmarking Improves the Efficiencies of School Districts** — Learn how “big data” is assisting district administration and boards in making data-driven decisions. The discussion will center on finding opportunities for efficiency, optimizing resources, and benchmarking against peers across the state, all while communicating effectively throughout the decision-making process.

**Civil Decision Making** — Larry Dirks, Director, Field Services, IASB, will introduce four concepts that, when applied together, may lead boards to more civil discourse. Examine the public values involved in board decisions, embracing psychological types, disciplined decision making, and the board’s trustee role.

**Leadership and Learning** — Join this conversation about how a digital learning environment can help you facilitate new approaches to teaching and learning. We’ll explore strategies for visionary leadership and innovative teaching and learning, and hear from visionary leaders who have transformed their districts.

**Legal Hot Topics for 2015** — School law is an aspect of education that is constantly changing — and new personnel laws have added even more to the mix. Come hear two experienced attorneys discuss current trends and the legal issues facing your district.

**Effective Meetings … Productive Boards** — The term “school board” is virtually synonymous with “meetings.” A board needs to be very good at conducting meetings. Come evaluate your meetings and learn and share best practices necessary to conduct an effective board meeting, making good use of available time.

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLOCK HOURS AVAILABLE FOR TEACHERS**

Licensed Illinois educators who are either registered Conference attendees (board members) or registered guests of attendees are able to receive Professional Development Clock Hours for their participation in the 2015 Joint Annual Conference.

The Joint Annual Conference is an ISBE-approved activity and licensed Illinois educators who are registered as a Conference attendee or a guest may receive 9 PD Clock Hours for attending the full Conference.

There is no cost to board members; however, there is a $50 handling charge for non-board members who qualify for PD Clock Hours and attend the Conference as guests.

Participants must pick up an Evaluation Form (ISBE 77-21A) at the Conference registration desk in the Hyatt during regular registration hours and return the form in exchange for the Evidence of Completion (ISBE 77-21B). In addition, participants will need to sign an attendance roster that includes the educators’ IEIN number. Please bring your IEIN number for this purpose. Note: those forms are not available now; they must be picked up in person at the Conference.
Practical Parliamentary Procedure — Parliamentary procedure promotes fair, efficient meetings, and helps you to get home before midnight! Learn ten basics of parliamentary procedure and how they apply to small boards. You’ll depart with helpful handouts and sensible suggestions on how to become parli-pro-ficient.

IHSA Update on Current Issues and Happenings — The executive director from the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) will report on important issues and events in Illinois interscholastic activities and answer your questions.

PERA: Lesson Learned From First Year Implementation — A local formative and summative assessment system increases student growth data accuracy regarding teachers’ effectiveness. Learn why and how to shift from reliance on standardized tests to a teacher-designed system. Board involvement is foundational! Handouts include a PERA plan.

Property Taxes – What’s Fair and Reliable for Schools? The Spring 2015 legislative session saw much action regarding a property tax freeze. Legislative leaders will discuss the mix of taxes that fund our schools and share insights on the impact on school funding by limiting this important funding source.

Taming the Social Media Beast — Join us in identifying and taming the latest social media risks in an increasingly complicated technological world. This interactive workshop will also identify state cyber safety requirements. Bring your tablets, smartphones, laptops, and other electronic devices!

Mock Student Expulsion Hearing — Experienced school attorneys will conduct a mock student expulsion hearing, featuring a guilty student, an unreasonable parent, and an over-zealous attorney. This presentation will identify procedural and substantive issues that can arise in student disciplinary hearings.

Blended Learning the Raider Way — Blended Learning is the future. Huntley Consolidated SD 158 developed an innovative approach to teaching and learning, one not based on seat time. Over a third of its high school students take at least one blended learning class, either in-person or online.

Leading a Successful Referendum for Reorganization — In March 2013, the Catlin and Jamaica districts recognized the need for reorganization. A Committee of Ten was chosen to plan a unit district and lead the campaign. Voters approved. See how the new Salt Fork District began in July.

Superintendent Employment Contracts — The school board’s most important function is employment of the superintendent. At its base is the superintendent’s employment contract. Enjoy a survey discussion of the elements of the contract, and take the opportunity to ask questions of interest to you.

Budgeting During Difficult Times — Illinois’ financial situation remains precarious. ISBE staff will review statewide finances and what they mean for schools during FY16 and beyond.

One Board’s Turnaround: Moving Toward High-Functioning Governance — Serious financial issues, poor morale, lack of board cohesiveness, and rapid turnover in leadership can plague a district. Hear how one board transformed itself by making difficult, but effective, decisions, significantly improving the district’s financial condition and stabilizing administrative staffing.

School Finance for the Novice — Gain a better understanding of local revenue, the property tax cycle, and the ins and outs of the tax levy. Learn the ropes of general state aid, categorical, and federal revenue in this essential session.

English Learners and Common Core State Standards — The Common Core State Standards present both challenges and opportunities for English Language Learners. This clinic outlines the benefits and challenges of the standards with respect to English Language Learners and offers policy and practice considerations for educator-leaders.

Developing Internal Capacity to Serve Students with Autism — Community HSD 117 has been able to improve its instructional best practices for autistic students. Through this approach, the district has been able to serve its autistic population within the public high school setting, reducing the number of out-of-district placements.

The 2016 Life-Safety Survey: Why it’s Required — Is your 10-Year Life-Safety Survey required in 2016? Come discuss the process to maximize scarce dollars to keep children warm, safe, and dry. Understand what’s required for the survey and how to expand it into a long-range capital loan.

Anniversaries and Special Events: Engaging a Community — Members of THSD 214’s Centennial Committee will discuss their year of events that drew 4,000 attendees, launched an alumni presence, generated a Twitter trending topic and more. Hear lessons learned from the tactics that united a district. Includes panel Q-and-A.
Designing Schools to Influence Student Achievement — Learn how Deerfield PSD 109 used data from a year-long survey of Illinois principals to realign its science labs for Next Generation Science Standards. See how four normal labs became 16 transformational spaces that change how students experience 21st Century Learning.

Board of Higher Education: Partners in Helping Students — Learn about the resources available through IBHE to assist students in making good choices for their post-secondary education. Help your students be good consumers of dual-credit and transfer programs, online degree programs, student enrollment agreements, lending options, etc.

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Energize Students and Community Through Entrepreneurship — Come hear how an entrepreneurship program has built new community bonds between school and business leaders. Share a journey from the inspiration to an innovative entrepreneurship program that invigorates business education through real-world learning.

Board Presidents’ Roundtable — This presentation is an opportunity for board presidents to gather and share experiences, questions, ideas, and frustrations. It is offered on both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning; join us on either day, or both days.

Current Trends in Collective Bargaining and Contract Management — This session will cover current issues in collective bargaining, contract management, and labor relations. Two experienced labor relations attorneys (labor and management) will present current information and host a Q-and-A session regarding collective bargaining.

Effective Negotiation Strategies for Salary/Benefits Issues — Experienced labor negotiators will review strategies to address salary and benefit issues, including salary schedule changes or elimination, longevity pay options, health insurance cost sharing methods, health insurance and pension cost openers, and methods to reduce retirement benefit costs.

The Benefits of a Board Self-Evaluation — The purpose of board self-evaluations will be presented, along with IASB options available to governance teams. Representatives from the governance teams of Lincoln ESD 156 and Robinson CUSD 2 will share their experiences using board self-evaluations in goal attainment.

The Turnaround Agenda: Labor/Management — Governor Rauner began pushing for his “Turnaround Agenda” upon taking office in January. With strong philosophical beliefs on both sides of the issue, panelists will examine accomplishments this session, and the issues on the table in the future.

Make Student Growth Efficient and Cost Effective — Attendees will hear successful implementation stories from three districts, detailing their decision to use value-added models, plus how they were able to fit this into their budgets, and the benefits their districts have seen as a result of this implementation.

Community Engagement: What’s Working — Hear from a variety of districts from around the state about how they have used different processes for community engagement in their communities.

Preparing for 1:1 Learning Initiatives — Come hear from three districts that have successfully implemented a 1:1 initiative. See how they started and developed their programs and depart with a checklist you can use with your own team to develop and plan a successful 1:1 program.

Recruiting School Board Candidates — Ever wonder who’s responsible for preserving your board? Answer this and get practical recruiting tools. Board elections are cyclical; therefore recruiting needs to be ongoing and systemic. Discover how and where to find qualified candidates, and how to approach them.

High School 1:1 Successes and Strategies — Learn how a mid-sized high school went from a traditional instructional environment to a 1:1 student computing environment using Google Chromebooks. Implementation strategies, professional development for teachers, and instructional tools will be highlighted and explored.

Collaboration with Laser-Like Focus on Data-Driven Decisions — Frustrated with staff making excuses for why students can’t meet college-readiness standards? It’s time to stop waiting for someone else to magically improve your schools. True school improvement starts with facing the brutal facts if data reveals student achievement shortcomings.
Vision 20/20: Successes and Challenges — After a successful launch in the winter of 2015, Vision 20/20 was one of the hottest topics during the legislative session. Find out the successes and the challenges that face this important education reform plan.

Moody’s Bond Methodology and Rating Drivers for Schools — This session will discuss the methodology and scorecard used in Moody’s bond-rating analysis, rating drivers and recent trends for Illinois school district credits.

Student-Led Conferences: Accountability and Empowerment for All — Join panelists in a discussion of how student-led conferences have been implemented in a K-8 district. Students, parents, and teachers will unite to discuss academics, habits of work, and learning. Begin here to build open relationships with families using SLCs.

Passage of a Referendum via Powerful Community Engagement — Hoover-Schrum Memorial SD 157 will share how the district won referendum adoption, with 73 percent of residents voting yes. Panelists will highlight effective strategies that helped foster positive relationships and dynamic partnerships that led to powerful support from the community.

Building Leadership Capacity to Improve Student Achievement — Many districts that internalize the importance of professional development fail to invest in the growth of their administrators. This presentation will demonstrate how to build a coherent system focused on improving student achievement by building the capacity of leadership.

PBIS: Improvement through Creativity and Celebration — The PBIS System has helped create a 21st Century Data-Driven School. Discover the highs and lows of implementation, creative celebrations, and interventions, along with evidence of how this program has assisted in reducing student discipline and increasing student achievement.

Procurement Fraud and Internal Controls — Equip yourself to guard your district against procurement fraud and other high-risk concerns facing school districts. Learn how to prevent and detect various schemes in the school district environment.

Success in Teaching a Culturally Diverse Student Population — School district leaders face mounting pressure to produce results in student learning. This is at a time when American society has never been more culturally and linguistically diverse. Get an understanding of board and leadership strategies for improving learning environments.

Building Collaborative Relationships with Your Union — We’ll share strategies for improving relationships between board members and union members. The facilitators will walk participants through a two-year journey undertaken to rebuild relationships based on trust, support, and collaboration, all ultimately leading to a successful negotiations process.

Expenses, Cost Control, and the AFR — Come and learn the basics of business office operations and the business administrator’s role in managing cash, purchasing, meeting budgeting responsibilities, state financial reporting, and overseeing the expenditure process.

Framework for Success in Ed-Tech Initiatives — Reimagine your school district processes and initiatives with a framework developed by Rockford SD 205 that will help board members and district administrators leverage ed-tech decisions to support student and district success.

Tackling the Issue of Educator Ethics Violations — Educator ethics violations continue to capture the attention of state and national news. This session will use current ethics violations cases to describe the challenge facing boards of education, and provide a framework for reviewing and implementing effective policy.

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS EXHIBITION
If you are thinking of building or remodeling your facilities, whether solving a physical plant problem just dreaming about what your school facilities could be, visit the 2015 Educational Environments Exhibit. It is located in the foyer outside the Grand Ballrooms at the Hyatt Regency East Tower. IASB Service Associates have invited business firms engaged in any aspect of designing, constructing, or equipping public school facilities to show off their best work at the 2015 Joint Annual Conference. Winning entries will be chosen in various categories. Whether you’re building, remodeling or just daydreaming, you’ll find a wealth of ideas.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 • COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Concerned about separating your board role from your parental role? Need to know more about solving issues facing your rural district, or preparing the leaders of tomorrow? Or do you want to discuss legal issues, share board presidency tips, become a school advocate, or ascend to a superintendency? Come share ideas with school leaders who have faced the same challenges.

Complimentary coffee will be provided in each session listed below – thanks to our sponsor Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn, LLP – to help wake you up and get the conversation going.

8 – 9:30 a.m.

**Board Member/Parent Hat** — Many individuals who serve on local boards do so because their children attend the schools. Explore the ways that a board member/parent can separate those roles and decide which hat to wear, and when.

**Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders Today: How to Help** — Naperville SD 203 shares a successful collaborative model proven to provide a firm foundation that prepares young people for life-long learning, development, and achievement. The Leadership Institute teaches basic leadership skills and encourages attitude development that prepares high school students.

**Rural Issues** — Less money, the changing student census, non-funded mandates, rising costs, outdated buildings — sound familiar? These are some issues rural district leaders are facing. Share your concerns and solutions in this interactive discussion of key issues while networking with your peers.

**Legally Stumped?** Is your board confronting difficult personnel decisions in light of decreasing funding? Is your district facing issues accommodating a growing special education population? Discuss legal issues with school attorneys and other school leaders who face the same challenges.

**Aspiring Superintendents** — Whether they have completed requirements or are currently enrolled in coursework to become a superintendent, aspiring administrators won’t want to miss this discussion with search staff experts from IASB and professional staff from IASA.

**Who’s Fighting for Us in Springfield and Washington?** Your Association carries an effective, locally-developed agenda to lawmakers on your behalf. Meet your advocacy team, join them for a discussion of emerging legislative issues and the power of working hand in hand to effect change in education policy.

**Board Presidents’ Roundtable** — This presentation is an opportunity for board presidents to gather and share experiences, questions, ideas, and frustrations. It is offered on both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning; join us on either day, or both days.

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING OFFERED**

Every school board member newly-elected or reelected in 2015 by law MUST complete this training within one year of taking the oath of office. It includes instruction in education and labor law, financial oversight and accountability and fiduciary responsibilities. Additionally, it will fulfill the requirement for Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) training.

The training will be provided at a Pre-Conference Workshop. Register for the workshop to be held on Friday, November 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Sheraton Chicago Hotel. Continental breakfast and lunch are included. Participants must remain to the conclusion to receive their certificate of completion. For more information contact Peggy Goone at 217/528-9688, ext. 1103.
Eight IASB Pre-Conference Workshops to Choose From

School leaders getting ready to do their jobs by gathering in November at the 83rd Joint Annual Conference can truly get set to lead their local schools by choosing from eight IASB Pre-Conference Workshops on Friday, Nov. 20. The fee for the three full-day workshops is $240, and it is just $155 for the three half-day workshops. Advance workshop registration is required. Fees include materials and a meal.

All IASB Pre-Conference Workshops qualify members to earn credits toward their LeaderShop Academy membership. Credit is earned through a combination of “core” and “elective” courses.

Workshop participants also will be awarded 10 Master Board Member points for a full-day workshop and five points for a half-day workshop, in addition to the 30 points earned for Conference attendance.

Note: to register for Pre-Conference Workshops, participants must be registered for Conference.
Full-Day Workshop Offerings:

Basics of Governance* — Basics of Governance workshop will focus participants on board and board member roles and responsibilities. This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to

• Identify the role and work of the school board
• Distinguish board work from that of the superintendent and staff
• Understand how each member relates to the full board
• Discuss effective board and board member best practices

Participants will also have an opportunity to network with other school board members and to sharpen their own decision-making skills, plus a great deal more.

*This workshop fulfills the governance overview requirement for admission into IASB’s LeaderShop Academy.

Professional Development Leadership Training (PDLT) and Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) Training for School Board Members — Professional Development Leadership Training (PDLT) for School Board Members satisfies the requirements for mandatory board member training per Public Act 097-0008 and includes four (4) hours of instruction in education and labor law, financial oversight and accountability, and fiduciary responsibilities. Additionally, it will fulfill the requirement for Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) Training for School Board Members. Every school board member elected in 2015 must complete this training in the first year of his/her term. A board member who has already complied with this requirement is not required to take this training again.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING THURSDAY NIGHT LODGING
Workshop attendees who do not already have a Thursday night reservation at their Conference hotel may find it convenient to stay in a suburban hotel and drive in on Friday morning.

Leading Leaders: The Job of the Board President — Leaders set the tone and expectations for the groups they serve. The board president, more than any other individual board member, has the power to impact the quality of the board’s work. The effective board president does far more than just “run the meeting.” He or she is expected to keep the board focused on setting district direction; provide the opportunity for board members with divergent views to have their say without acrimony and without showing favoritism; maintain open lines of communication with the superintendent, other board members, and the public; be knowledgeable of the legal requirements of the board of education; and much, much more.

Plan to attend this interactive workshop designed specifically for you — the board president. It will explore your difficult and challenging roles with their various responsibilities and duties. You will learn about:

• Relationships with the rest of the board and the superintendent
• Legal responsibilities
• Keys to effective meetings
• Parliamentary procedure
• Managing board conflict
• Communications
• Teamwork
HALF-DAY WORKSHOP OFFERINGS:

Superintendent Evaluation: The Essential Work of the Board* — The board employs and evaluates one person — the superintendent — and holds that person accountable for district performance and compliance with written board policy. In this age of accountability, good governance requires a superintendent evaluation process that promotes district improvement and provides professional development and growth opportunities. This workshop will teach board members the importance of establishing clear expectations, agreeing on performance measurement, and promoting a productive relationship throughout the process. Whether you are a new or veteran board member, IASB’s framework will provide participants with a best practices approach to the superintendent evaluation process.

Using Data to Make Decisions* — We all make decisions based on data — weather forecasts, grocery prices, investments, doctor visits, and even school reports all involve data. In this half-day workshop, you will learn how boards can use data to make better decisions and difficult choices in times of limited resources, and how to communicate data simply and effectively to your public. You will also explore how the Illinois Report Card, the source for information about public schools across Illinois, can help you make data driven decisions in your own district.

Closing the Gaps: Between What Sounds Good and What Gets Done — Closing the gaps between what sounds good (mission statements, core values, core beliefs), and what gets done (a district’s true culture) is a key role for district leaders. In this powerful yet entertaining presentation, veteran board leadership speaker Jim Bearden will

• Lay out four truths about the relationship between district leadership behavior and that district’s response to challenges and changes.
• Expose the myth that stands as a very real barrier to achieving and sustaining district success.
• Define two specific requirements for finding ways to win, regardless of the hands you’re dealt.
• Describe six specific things district leaders can do to consciously create cultures that support behavior essential to district success.

Social Media Primer: Everything You Need to Know About Today’s Social Channels — If you’re like most board members, social media is a daunting collection of tools that seem to be designed for the younger generation to use. However, the various social media tools available can significantly help you manage your time, information, and communications in your role as a school board member and beyond. This hands-on workshop will offer help in setting up accounts, if you don’t have them, as well as digging into the fundamentals of how to use these services and providing a deeper dive into some of the more sophisticated uses. After participating in this workshop, the learner will be able to

• Establish and use accounts in at least the six major social media tools.
• Manage the flow of information from the various services to better filter and curate content.
• Identify how social media services will continue to grow using the latest technological developments.

Please bring your wireless device to this session — a laptop is preferred but a tablet would also allow for effective participation.

School Finance for Board Members: Topics and Trends* — Experienced board members have been asking for more depth regarding school finance in Illinois and this year we have the workshop just for them. Join Howard Crouse and a group of experts and practitioners as they dive into the status of state revenue, property tax issues, and the condition of school finance across Illinois. Participants will learn more regarding new legislation, GSA calculations, negotiations, and other “hot topics.” Join us to learn more.

*Indicates a “core” LeaderShop Workshop.
**Illinois ASBO Pre-Conference Seminars**

**Friday, November 20, 7:30 a.m. Learning from Lincoln: Leadership Practices of School Success (AAC #1098)** — Participants will explore how Lincoln’s leadership practices and behaviors provide compelling guidance for today’s challenges of accountability, diversity, political conflict, team building, climate, and economic hardship. Participants will leave with a repertoire of strategies and insights they can apply immediately.

**Friday, November 20, 7:30 a.m. Seminar on School Finance (AAC #1062)** — This course is designed for school business managers and superintendents. Content will include property taxes, completion of the tax levy, and the general state aid form. The budget and annual financial reports will be taught.

**Friday, November 20, 7:30 a.m. Risk Management (AAC #1283)** — This course is designed for school business managers and superintendents. Come learn about property evaluation in insurance coverage and audits, architect (AIA) construction contracts, inspection of facilities for security, building use policies, workman’s comp, fraud preventions, and building security practices.

NOTE: These workshops are open only to Illinois ASBO members. Advance registration and fee is required.

To learn more about these events and to register, visit [www.iasb.com/jac15/pdfs/ILASBOpre-conferenceworkshop.pdf](http://www.iasb.com/jac15/pdfs/ILASBOpre-conferenceworkshop.pdf).

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**ICSA Seminar on School Law**

Friday, November 20, is also when the Illinois Council of School Attorneys (ICSA) will conduct its **29th Annual Seminar on School Law**. This program allows Illinois attorneys to discuss significant legal issues currently facing their school clients. The seminar will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. NOTE: This event is open only to school attorneys. Advance registration and fee is required. For more information, visit IASB at [www.iasb.com/jac15](http://www.iasb.com/jac15) or call IASB and ask for Bridget Trojan, 630/629-3776, ext. 1236.

**CHICAGO ATTRACTIONS**

There is plenty to do in Chicago — and it doesn’t have to cost you money. The Magnificent Mile Lights Festival takes place just across the Chicago River, with the parade route running down Michigan Avenue and past the Hyatt Regency Chicago. [Click here for details.](http://www.themagnificentmile.com/attractions/)

Want to know more about what to do, things to see and places to visit? Find a directory of the attractions, tours, live music, museums, sport teams and theaters of Chicago’s Magnificent Mile here: [www.themagnificentmile.com/attractions/](http://www.themagnificentmile.com/attractions/)
Friday and Saturday, November 20-21, 2015
Vevey Ballrooms, Swissôtel, Chicago

Join with other school districts from around the state to take advantage of the training offered to enhance the professional skills of the person who performs the duties of the school board secretary.

In addition to programming designed specifically for district secretaries/administrative assistants, benefits of attending also include networking with other board secretaries from across the state. What’s more, participants will get the opportunity to attend all of the general sessions, other panel sessions, the bookstore, and the exhibit hall during the Conference. Unlike the Friday, November 20, 2015, Pre-Conference Workshops that require an additional charge, the Secretaries’ Program requires only paid Conference registration. There is no additional charge.

HOLLY JACK AWARD
The Secretaries’ Program will begin with the presentation of the Holly Jack Award. This award was created in 2009 to honor the memory of Holly Jack, a long-time employee of the association who served as an IASB field services administrative assistant and was instrumental in promoting and developing the Secretaries’ Program that is offered at the annual Conference.

The purpose of the award is both to honor Holly’s contribution and memory and to recognize the extraordinary work and service provided by secretaries who serve and assist their local Boards of Education. The award is presented annually at the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

9 – 9:45 a.m.

Opening Session — Welcome to the 2015 Joint Annual Conference Secretaries’ Program! The program will begin with the presentation of the Holly Jack Award, followed by a special workshop.

9:45 a.m. – Noon

Diversity and Inclusion Awareness — Do you see “Diversity and Inclusion” as a goal or strategy that will enable the future success of your school district? Or are the words “Diversity and Inclusion” simply words du jour? Through a series of engaging, interactive exercises, this session will increase your diversity and inclusion awareness – the first step in the diversity education process. Objectives include:

- Creating a common understanding of diversity and inclusion
- Broadening the scope of diversity beyond typical race and gender issues to include education, religion, age, physical abilities, sexual orientation, class/income, language, and others
- Revealing and assessing the impact of subtle biases on school district success
- Discussing the behaviors required to create an inclusive environment

If you are committed to a school district where every man, woman and child is valued and everyone has the opportunity to reach his or her maximum potential, this session is for YOU!

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Illinois Sunshine Laws (FOIA and OMA) — How much do you know about Illinois Sunshine Laws (FOIA and OMA) and how they relate to your duties? Learn from a representative of the Office of the Public Access Counselor how to best comply with requirements of these Acts.

The Gravity of Google: Navigating the Pull on its Apps & More — Looking for ways to expand your productivity and efficiency in a district that has “Gone Google”? Come discover and discuss tips and ideas that can unleash the power of Google’s apps, add-ons, and extensions.

Lessons Learned by Veteran Secretaries — Join in a lively conversation with board secretaries with a combined 56 years of experience. Ask questions, provide scenarios/situations. Novices will want to hear what excitement may be coming their way as we explore the role of the Administrative Assistant.

The Local Records Act — Obtain a basic working knowledge of the Local Records Act and the requirements it places on your district, including compliance, legally disposing of records, and documentation required to respond to FOIA requests now and in the future. Bring your questions!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

10:30 – Noon

Policies, Manuals, Updates — Oh My! Have you been charged with keeping the board policy manual in order, but find keeping up with changes in law, regulations, and local conditions is a daunting task? This panel will demonstrate efficient processes that make the most of IASB’s PRESS and PRESS Plus services.

IMRF Planning for Your Future — The new 2015 workshop will explain your IMRF benefits, how they are calculated, what to do before you retire, and what to expect after. Understanding pension estimates, Health Insurance Continuation, Federal Tax Withholding and more.

Agendas and Minutes — While this would be a good refresher for anyone, “Newbies” will definitely want to attend this panel to learn the basics of agendas and minutes for school board meetings.

Building Strong Shoulders for Heavy Lifting — We’ll give you some easy-to-do “exercises” for your mind and body as you tackle the impossible tasks of day-to-day living and working. Build strength with laughter, learning, and lots of love (door prizes), which we hope to share with you.

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Web-Based Board Tools — See how BoardBook and School Board Policies Online can save you time and money in the preparation, hosting, and posting of your online board packet (BoardBook) and policy manual (School Board Policies Online).

Getting to Know You — Here’s your chance to make contact with other secretaries from districts just like yours, districts that are near your own, or maybe just someone you have a lot in common with, regardless of the type of district or location.

School Safety and Crisis Management — A secretary is often the first to know about a crisis in a school. You are the hub of information, the keeper of plans, and the one who dials 911. This session will provide valuable information about student safety, and address your legal rights and obligations before, during, and after a crisis.

Please register your District Secretary/Administrative Assistant for the Joint Annual Conference as soon as possible.
Join representatives of IASB and the Chicago Board of Education on a tour of city schools. Tours will explore four separate selected schools (two elementary schools and two high schools) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, November 20.

This year’s list of host schools includes:

- Skinner West Elementary School
- Chávez Multicultural Language Academy
- Alcott College Prep High School
- DeVry University Advantage Academy

This event requires a separate fee and registration; however, it includes a buffet breakfast and is open to spouses or adult guests. For more information about this event or to register, please visit [www.iasb.com/jac15](http://www.iasb.com/jac15).

Note: All tour participants must be paid Conference registrants or guests of paid Conference registrants.
Join your colleagues to benefit from an exciting assortment of panels at the 2015 Carousel of Panels. In one large room, 32 different presentations will be offered at one time. Over a one hour and 45-minute time block, visitors can pick and choose to participate in three different panels of 30 minutes each. The event will be held from 1:30 to 3:15 p.m., Saturday, November 21, at Sheraton 4 and 5, Ballroom Level IV, in the Sheraton Chicago. Chosen topics will include:

Visibility Matters! Contributing to a Positive Climate — Manteno CUSD 5  
Rethinking RtI: Sustaining Implementation for Success! — Manteno CUSD 5  
Open-Door Policy: The Impact of Homelessness and Residency — Aurora University  
The Power and Challenges of Using Students’ Pictures — Wheeling CCSD 21  
Making the Most of Partnerships for Principal Development — Illinois State University  
The Moral Imperative Realized: Hamilton Elementary School — Moline SD 40  
Health Care Reform: Preparing for 2016 and Beyond — American Fidelity Assurance Company, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Proactive Tips for Involving Law Enforcement in Your School — Miller, Tracy, Braun, Funk & Miller, Ltd.  
The R-E-S-P-E-C-T Project: Preventing Bullying and Suicide — Indian Creek CUSD 425  
Indoor Air Quality and Student Performance — Energy Systems Group  
Special Education: Key Legal Issues and Board Updates — Engler Callaway Baasten & Sraga, LLC  
N.O.W. Academy — Consolidated School District 158  
Districts Buying Their Own Bonds to Earn Investment Income — Kings Financial Consulting, Inc.  
A Partnership to Achieve the New Illinois Learning Standards — Eldorado CUSD 4  
Creative Partnerships — Librarians/Instructional Coaches — Leyden CHSD 212  
Superintendent/School Board Relations in Illinois — Bellwood SD 88  
Mission and Vision: Transforming a School District — Homer CCSD 33C  
From a Mess to a Miracle — Calumet Public SD 132  
Place to Call Home — New Teacher Mentoring — Calumet Public SD 132  
Turn the Tide of Public Opinion: Getting To Yes at the Polls — Jacksonville SD 117  
Superintendents and Successful Community Engagement for Student Success — Northern Illinois University  
STEM Outreach: Successfully Engaging the Greater Community — Northern Illinois University  
Top Ten List for Turning Around a Failing School — Western Illinois University  
Schools as Learning Organizations — Western Illinois University  
Curriculum Development and the Common Core State Standards — North Palos SD 117  
Restructuring Done Right: One District’s Journey of Success — Round Lake CUSD 116  
Rural Schools Initiative: College Ready and Career Preparedness — McKendree University  
Boosting School-Home Communication: Proven Tips and Tactics — Fremont SD 79  
STEM Pathway: Critical for Black and Latino Students — Elementary SD 159  
Strategies for Protecting the Property Tax Base — Hauser Izzo, LLC  
Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) and the Role of the Joint Committee — Eastern Illinois University
The exhibit of school services, products, and equipment has been part of the Joint Annual Conference for 66 years. Located in the Riverside Center of the Hyatt Chicago Regency, the exhibit hall is an integral part of the Conference experience for many participants. These are the vendors that do business with local school districts and they will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, November 20, and 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 21.

The exhibit hall is very large and at times very busy, so plan to give yourself ample time to see and learn about new school services, products, and equipment. Many of the exhibitors will have giveaways and door prizes and others will be participating in the IASB Service Associates’ Bingo Game. Also, be sure to stop by the IASB photo booth to have a free photo taken of you or your entire district group.

A complete list of exhibitors by name, description and booth number will be available in the official Conference Program.
IASB is excited to announce a new activity at the Joint Annual Conference. “Learning Labs” will feature in-depth presentations about Conference sponsor products and services designed to assist districts looking for solutions to: wholesale energy, print/copy services, property casualty and workers’ compensation, data analytics, consulting/research, and purchasing. Note: the Learning Labs are free; however, seating will be limited. The labs are scheduled for Friday, November 20, and Saturday, November 21, and will be located in aisle 100 of the Conference Exhibit Hall.

Each Learning Lab will:

- **Increase** awareness of products and services
- **Engage** attendees
- **Demonstrate** with hands-on demos/presentations

**MINI CLINICS IN THE IASB INFORMATION ROOM**
Each department of the Illinois Association of School Boards will be on hand Friday and Saturday, November 20-21, at the Comiskey Room in the West Tower of the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Come learn what services and benefits the Association offers; pick up materials and meet the folks who work at your Association. This is also where you can attend one of the “IASB Mini Clinics.” Each 20-minute session will be a live presentation on a variety of Association services and new or current activities. **NOTE:** due to the room reconfiguration, there will be no free beverages or snacks available.