A Thai Tale - School Business Management beyond the classroom
By: Ann Robinson, Australia ASBO

I’m fairly familiar with the work dimensions of a Business Manager and have pretty much attended most of the professional development ‘How to’ sessions on everything from Assets Management to School Budgets and beyond but when I think about what is it we do in schools as Business Managers and how much of what we do actually adds value that I realise whilst School Business Management is a worthy career we all can, in the right context extend ourselves much more by stepping out of our comfort zone to wander confidently into territory new; in other words I believe our skills are easily transferable. We are after all a demographically stable group, mostly female with a vast wealth of life experience amongst us which bodes well for travel in foreign lands beyond the classroom.

Now hold onto that thought of extending ones experience just as I did and some twelve months later I found myself sitting with the school Chaplain going through the financial requirements of taking twenty two year nines and five adults including myself to one the poorest parts of Thailand for over twelve days. I did wonder whether it was the gracious and worthy nature of our Chaplain program that had convinced me to go rather than my desire to tread in new waters, and so I comforted myself with the thought “how hard could it really be?” and off I went. Group travel financial logistics are normally straight forward I thought confidently whilst checking in at the airport but add into the mix a third world predominantly Buddhist country and things can get a little funky as I was soon to find out. Beyond the classroom Business Management was to start as soon as the plane left the tarmac in Melbourne...

Ann Robinson is a ABMVSS Committee of Management member and Business Manager of a large metropolitan multi-campus school in Australia who was invited to travel with Year 9 students on a school tour in Thailand in September, 2011. The School Chaplain invited Ann to participate on the school tour as the ‘banker’, with responsibility for a small group of students with mild learning disabilities, first aid etc.

Continued on Page 5.
## CASBO Mission Statement

“The Colorado Association of School Business Officials’ mission is to provide programs and services to promote the highest standards of school business management practices, professional growth and the effective use of educational resources”

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CASBO Quarterly is the official publication of the Colorado Association of School Business Officials. This publication is intended to inform and educate its readers about policy and technical matters related to school business management. Submit articles for publication to CASBO c/o Bert Huszcza, Executive Director. Articles will not be returned and are subject to review, approval and editing prior to publication. Unless otherwise stated in the article, the views and opinions of the authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the positions of CASBO. Articles appearing in CASBO Quarterly may be reprinted with permission of CASBO.
From the Desk of CASBO President, Stephanie Watson

As my year of proudly serving as your CASBO President comes to a close, I can’t help but reflect upon my incredible CASBO journey. Oh how time flies across the decades! In the spirit of late night television, here is my “top ten” CASBO list:

10. Coming to my first conference in 1993 as the “newbie” and being overwhelmed at how much there was to learn. In looking back, times were so much simpler then.
9. Hearing Colorado business officials sing karaoke during a conference event. What “talented” members we have!
8. Meeting Vody Herrmann and attending more of her sessions over the years than one can imagine. What a smart and wonderful person!
7. Meeting other state affiliate leaders through ASBO and learning that their issues are so similar to ours.
6. Meeting “president” Clinton with Don Ciancio and Kevin Smelker as his security guards. Priceless!
5. Hosting the national ASBO conference in Denver in 2008 – what an incredible and successful event!
4. Saying “yes” to running for the CASBO board in 2005 and wondering “what am I thinking?” Best decision I’ve made in a long time!
3. Serving as Treasurer, Vice-President, and now President of CASBO. This incredible organization has absolutely made me a better school business leader.

2. Successfully campaigning for Ron McCulley as Director of ASBO and now President-Elect of ASBO. Way to go, Ron!
1. The top of the CASBO list over the years is no doubt the amazing people! The many board members, peers, vendors, and so many others that I have been blessed to cross paths. Thanks to all of you for your time and dedication to this organization. It has been an amazing experience!

All of these memories get me excited for the upcoming spring conference, April 4th – 6th at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield. We have some great speakers lined up, including Leanne Emm with CDE; Jane Urschel with CASB; Bruce Caughey with CASE; Robert Hammond, Commissioner of Education; Kathy Gebhardt attorney for the Lobato Lawsuit; Dave Gamache with Rachel’s Challenge; and many other informative breakout sessions. It is going to be an amazing conference with time for professional development and networking. We hope to see you all there!

In closing, I would like to take one more opportunity to thank all of you! Together we can continue to make CASBO better and stronger.

Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work. ~Vince Lombardi

Sincerely,

Stephanie Watson
CASBO President, 2011-2012

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW!
CASBO 59th Annual Spring Conference
April 4-6, 2012
Omni Interlocken Hotel, Broomfield

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Call 1-(800) 258-0437 and Refer to the CASBO Conference Group rate of $112
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The itinerary seemed straightforward enough but then a list of what you will be doing on which day always does as generally lists are by their very nature one dimensional and give no real hint of what is to come. We would initially head to Khon Kaen for six days via Bangkok a city located on the Khorat Plateau in the central north-western area of Issan currently under the Thailand National Economic and Social plan. Each day our Australian and Thai guides would take us into local schools where conditions would be very poor we were warned. The routine in each school would go something like this. Our students would play games with the children, teach English, give gifts and our group would donate some money to the school as we left.

From Khon Kaen we would head for two days to Khorat an 11th century city that had provided a base in the 1970’s for US troops fighting the Vietnam War where we would get to visit a wealthy school of 7000 students and probably the poorest village we had seen yet, what a contrast that would be I thought. From Korat a 12 hour bus ride awaited with free karaoke thrown in just in case we got bored heading south to Chiang Mai a city with over a million inhabitants mostly famous for its night markets where we would spend some time shopping and relaxing before heading back to Australia.

In terms of my role I was broadly responsible for the cash logistics ensuring that drivers and guides were paid, food bills, breakfast supplies, first aid etc, you name it and I paid for it and I also was one of the trained first aider and was named “floater” in the group aka the extra pair of hands. I’d travelled in a group before but never in a school group. The logistics of looking after 22 students is a mountainous task of which prior I had had no idea what was involved, within the first hour of leaving Melbourne I had a new found empathy for teachers on camp.

Now here’s the catch of Business Management beyond the school yard. However much homework you do on a country and we all know that we as Business Managers cover all the bases as it’s part of what we do every day in schools nothing quite prepares you for the conditions that some citizens of this world have to live in, and no amount of School Business experience can protect you from facing your own emotions when contrasted in stark reality against the backdrop someone else’s deprived life. You are in their world if only fleetingly and whilst it’s happening there was for me an inner feeling of detachment, it’s as if you were to let yourself truly experience how these poor people live everyday you might somehow not be able to cope and so you move through each school in a bit of a daze. I was though amazed at how our students embraced children in each school without any preconceived notions as I was able to sit quietly and observe this firsthand.

Most of the schools we visited had no resources save a few old battered toys, the food was minimal and the conditions under which these children learnt was dire compared to Australian
59th Annual Spring Conference
Schedule at a Glance

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012**

12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. ................................................................. Registration
12:30 P.M. – 1:45 P.M. ......................................................... 2012 Colorado Legislative Update
2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. ..................................................... Colorado Department of Education Updates
3:45 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. ............................................................... Hot topics in School Law
5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. ................................................................. Welcome Reception
6:30 P.M. – 11:00 P.M. ................................................................. Vendor Hospitality Functions

**Thursday, April 5, 2012**

7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. .................................................. Registration & Continental Breakfast
7:45 A.M. - 9:45 A.M. .................................................. CSPMA General Membership Meeting
8:30 A.M. - 9:45 A.M. .........................................................4 Breakout Sessions

If you have written an article that you feel would be of interest to your peers, please submit it to CASBO Quarterly for consideration:

Send it to the attention of:

Rick Ring, CASBO Editor
Ring_Rick@stvrain.k12.co.us

or

Andy Moore, CASBO Newsletter Chairperson
CMoore@Adams50.org
59th Annual Spring Conference
Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, April 5, 2012

9:45 A.M. – 11:15 A.M. ................................................................. Vendor Exhibits

11:15 A.M. – 12:30 A.M. .............................................................. First General Session

Two Keynote Presentations by:
Kathy Gebhardt, “Labato Case Update”
&
Robert Hammond, “Colorado Department of Education Happenings

12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. ............................................................... Member/Vendor Luncheon
Annual Business Meeting and Election of CASBO Board

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm. ................................................................. 5 Breakout Sessions

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm ................................................................. Vendor Clinic Tables

4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. ............................................................... Vendor Exhibits

6:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M. ..................................................... CASINO NIGHT and ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Wells Fargo Insurance Services, Gaming and Conversation

Friday, April 6, 2012

8:00 am – 8:45 am .......................................................... Registration and Buffet Breakfast

8:45 am – 10:30 am .......................................................... Second General Session

Keynote Presentation by Dave Gamache

“Rachel's Challenge”

10:30 am – 10:45 am ......................................................... Break

10:45 am – 12:00 am ......................................................... 5 Breakout Sessions

12:00 noon –12:30 pm................................. Town Meeting with the CASBO Board
Light Refreshments and Snacks

12:30 pm ......................................................... CASBO Conference Adjourned
Continued from Page 8

schools and yet our year nine students were animated, compassionate and kind throughout each visit. That was the first thing I learnt about the year nines, I’d always heard what a challenging year this could be and yet here they were school after school showing empathy and compassion for those less fortunate. What I didn’t realise though sitting at the back of the school halls watching the students was just how much I would learn over the next eleven days and just how much richer and textured my work in schools would become as a result.

Schools here in Australia are wonderful places to learn and work, some of the buildings may be a little old and most Business Managers would welcome some more funding for renovation and resourcing of learning areas in their schools however the fundamentals are that we are lucky to work in Victorian Schools and have access to the resourcing that we do - twelve days in Thai schools confirmed just that for me.

The school visits rolled out intensely over the next seven days and I walked away from each school quite reflective as I mulled over just what I had experienced each night in my room. The Orphanage for children infected with HIV was particularly hard on our students and many cried late into the night after the visit. The lowest point for me was the families in Korat who lived alongside a railway track. Their homes were shacks and their only income if any was sourced through recycling local rubbish. A feeling of sadness and despair surrounded our group as we made our way to the school which was a small wooden hut at the end of a dirt track along the rail lines. Inside sat half a dozen children from the village, a few threadbare toys and an old wooden desk. The villagers came thick and fast to see our group as we were laden with gifts and money as our students sang and played with the children and told tales of Australian life.

From Korat we started on a twelve hour bus ride to Chiang Mai by which point I had developed a serious cough from the challenging conditions and humidity the symptoms of which were now quite rampant amongst the whole group as I seemed to be buying cough syrup and lollies daily to cope with the demand. Thankfully we had the whole of the top-deck and were very tired and so slept most of the way.

The last five days were dedicated to shopping and relaxation which was desperately needed by all and well thought out on the Chaplain’s part. The students visited a local village and rode through the mountains on elephants. They also visited local craft fairs where they had gifts hand painted by artists for loved ones. Each night we made our way to the famous night markets which provided a perfect fake for anything you can think of where the students shopped with enthusiasm as we adults walked kilometre after kilometre down the dusty dark sidewalks. By day we split into small groups to visit several key sights around the city, we filled our days with massage, fish spas and more shopping. By now the group had found its own rhythm and we were like one big family as though what we had seen during our schools visits had somehow united us, we were proud to be Australian and thankful to live in such wonderful country.

As the school Business Manager my role in the group was clear. The relationship wasn’t one of a teacher/student instead I provided days of first aid care and attention, I had also been the “go to” person from sick bags to the school mobile. I had provided the same

Continued on Page 9.
service we as Business Managers give in schools every day which made me smile inwardly. I had been the support network for teaching and learning. I made sure everything went smoothly, did we have enough first aid supplies, coffee, milk etc. I advised students on shopping and budgeting so that they didn’t spend all their money on the first shopping expedition. I was an independent ear and I hope that I showcased a new dimension in Business Management to the four staff I travelled with.

Since I’ve gotten back the year nines have been regular visitors to the office and know all of the support staff by name. We have since helped them organise raffles and been shown their photos and heard about their life since they got back. By far this has made life around the office much more enriching and has changed my job from being one dimensional to multi dimensional. I’ve always believed the work we do in schools is very rewarding and our key role is to support the teaching and learning but now my role has changed from within. When I see the groups of students waiting by the bus for a school trip I smile to myself, when I wander through the staffroom and see teachers taking a lunch break I know how necessary that break is in a day and when I work on the school budget I have lived within the teaching and learning.

I would love to see more Business Managers go off to camp and hope that after reading this you will seek out opportunities new in your schools to take Business Management to a new level. For me it was a chance conversation with a school chaplain for you it could be extra support at the breakfast club, if I were to send you all a card with advice on how to make this happen in your school it would go something like this:

‘Dear Business Manager there is so much more you can experience in schools, envisage your own future and how you would like to see your role evolve and that’s half the work started. See you soon in foreign pastures new.’

By: Ann Robinson, Australia ASBO

A Thai Tale...

ASBO International
2012 Annual Meeting and Exhibits
October 12-15, 2012
Phoenix, Arizona
The 2011-12 CASBO Board of Directors

The 2011-12 CASBO Board of Directors were installed at the 58th Annual Spring Conference by Ron McCulley, CASBO Liaison & Board Member. Pictured from Left to Right: Stephanie Watson, Kristen Colonell, Bill Sutter, Mark Wilsey, Cyndi Wright, Shelley Becker, Cristal Swain, Ryan Elarton, Terry Schueler, Andy Moore, and standing behind Andy is Sandy McClure. Ron McCulley is at the podium.

GENERAL INFORMATION:
• Two $1,000 Scholarships Awarded Annually
• Awarded at the Annual Conference, April 2012
• Deadline for Applications March 5, 2012

ELIGIBILITY:
• Dependent of an Active CASBO Member
• A High School Senior
• Active in School and Community Leadership

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
CASBO Scholarship Chair:
Stephanie Watson, Windsor School District,
(970) 686.8015 or e-mail to:
stephanie.watson@weldre4.k12.co.us
How Do I Check My Professional Development Activities?

Thinking of applying for Professional Registration with ASBO or getting ready to renew? Need to report your yearly activity to keep your CPA Certification current? You can check the number of CEUs you have earned through Colorado ASBO Activities by pulling up your “Continuing Education Report” on the CASBO website; www.ColoradoASBO.org. It will list CEUs completed through CASBO conferences, workshops, committee involvement and publications. You can print out your CASBO Certificate of Attendance from your office or home.

Simply login to the website, www.ColoradoASBO.org with your username and password and go to “Member Profile” and then to the “Activities” page. If you click on the “Continuing Education Report” it will list all your activities and associated CEUs.

Membership News

Promoted to a new position? Moved on to another school district? Received an award? Just got married or have a new child?

Whatever the news your CASBO friends want to know. Just give us a few details and we’ll publish it in the CASBO Quarterly.

Send an email with the information to: ColoradoASBO@msn.com

Name ______________________
School District_______________
What’s New _______________
CASBO is seeking applications for the Service to the Profession Award. This award sponsored by American Fidelity Assurance Company recognizes outstanding school business officials for their work and dedication to the profession. The Year 2012 recipient will receive a beautiful lead crystal achievement award as well as a cash gift of $200. Winner of the award will be announced at the 58th Annual Conference on April 6, 2012.

The application process has been greatly simplified and currently only requires a short narrative outlining the nominee's “contribution to the profession.” Nominate your Outstanding School Business Official today and submit in care of Bert Huszcza, 4627 W 105th Way, Westminster, Co 80031 or to ColoradoASBO@msn.com. Deadline for submitting applications is March 5, 2012.

Nominate Yourself or Someone You Know Today!

Employment Opportunities

Ads for school business official positions are provided at no charge as a service to our members. Send your LEA’s non-curriculum positions to ColoradoASBO@aol.com for placement in the CASBO Quarterly. All LEA position ads will not be returned and are subject to review, approval and editing prior to publication.
Per the CASBO bylaws Article VI. Nominations and Elections, “The election of Secretary and Board of Directors, of the Association shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting in each calendar year. A majority of the votes of active members present shall be necessary to elect the Vice Secretary and Directors. The Secretary, upon completing the term of office, shall automatically ascend to the office of President.

The election of Vice –President and Treasurer is necessitated this year to transition to the By-Laws changes adopted last Year

The right to vote and to hold office is limited to active members. Currently, there are two Director positions open, the two candidates receiving the most votes will each will serve a three year term.

2012 Ballot

Vice President:
Mark Wilsey, Harrison School District

Treasurer:
Bill Sutter, Boulder Valley Schools

Secretary:
Shelley Becker, Adams 12 Five Star School District

Board of Directors: (Vote for no more than Two (2)
Sandy McClure, Adams 50 School District
Brennan Mendus, Douglas County Schools
Sandy Mutchler, Adams 14 School District
**Vice President:**

Mark Wilsey, Director of Support Services, Harrison School District

Mark has been the Director of Support Services in Harrison School District 2 for the past 10 years, managing the daily operations, maintenance, and custodial services for the district, as well as capital construction projects. Prior to working for Harrison, he worked three years for Colorado Springs Utilities, 4 years teaching high school math and science, 2 years teaching at the University of Utah, and 16 years as a nuclear engineer in the Navy. He has his Colorado Principal’s license, an MBA, an MS in Astronautical Engineering and his CEM certification. Mark has been a member of CASBO, CSPMA, and CASDEM for 10 years and a member of ASBO for 4 years. He is excited about the opportunity to serve as the CASBO Vice President and continue his associations with k-12 professionals throughout the state.

**Treasurer:**

Bill Sutter, Executive Director of Budget & Supply Chain Management, Boulder Valley Schools

My name is Bill Sutter. I have been a member of CASBO since 2008. Although relatively new to the CASBO group, I find this professional organization to offer a high degree of value for its members. From professional development, to networking, to contacts with quality vendors, as well as the support of ASBO International, this group covers it all for the school business official. I currently work for the Boulder Valley School District as the Executive Director of Budget and Supply Chain Management. I have been with BVSD since 1994, supporting the district in a variety of accounting and budget functions. I have an MBA from the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado. I hope to serve the CASBO membership as a member of the CASBO Board, to help leverage the organization in supporting its members as we face the challenges of K-12 education in Colorado.

**Secretary:**

Shelley Becker, CFO, Adams 12 Five Star School District

Shelley is currently the Chief Financial Officer for Adams 12 Five Star School District. Prior to her current position, she was the Director of Accounting, Budget and Student Data and Information Systems with Douglas County School District and the Finance Director for Bennett School District 29-J. Shelley has held several leadership positions with Colorado school district professional organizations, including serving as the current large district representative to CDE's Special Education Fiscal Advisory Committee. Shelley is currently on the Board of Directors for CASBO. She attended Drake University graduating with a BSBA in Accounting and Management and earned her Masters in Business Administration from the University of Colorado-Denver.
Board of Directors:

Sandy McClure, Director of Financial Services, Adams 50 School District

I currently work for Adams County School District #50. I was appointed the position in 2006. I have worked with Adams County School District for 16 years, in the capacity of a Human Resources Manager with responsibilities ranging from hiring new employees, managing benefits, CDE reporting. I then served as a Payroll Manager and now am the Director of Finance. Responsible for budget development, monthly payroll processes, October count. My educational background is a Bachelors Degree in Technology and I AM currently continuing my education to get a Masters Degree in Accounting. I have served on the CASBO board since 2008 and hope to continue serving you at that capacity. I feel my knowledge and experience of all the school districts disciplines, make me valuable contender for continuing for another term on the board. It has been great learning experience for me. Thank you again.

Brennan Mendus, Asst. Director Risk Management, Douglas County Schools

Brennan is the Assistant Director of Risk Management for the Douglas County School District. His duties include liability reduction throughout all levels of the organization and promoting employee and student wellness. My biggest success story, however, is that I have a lovely wife of 14 years and 4 beautiful daughters. Working with Service Organizations is important to my family and I. Professionally I have been involved with the Colorado Chapter of the Public Risk Managers Association (PRIMA) for many years holding the office of chapter president in 2002. Currently I am co-chairing their sponsorship committee for the annual Fall Conference. I hope you consider me for the CASBO board. I have high expectations for myself and I can guarantee you that I will extend that same expectation to furthering the mission of the CASBO board.

Sandy Mutchler, Chief Operations Officer, Adams 14 School District

Sandy graduated from Mesa State College with a Bachelor’s in 1994. As a CPA auditing school districts she realized her passion for education and desire to enter that industry. She served as the Business Officer at La Junta Public Schools in Colorado for three years before moving to the metro area. She currently is in her third year as the Chief Operations Officer of Adams 14 preceding that appointment she served as their Chief Financial Officer for five years. Sandy started her career with a membership in CASBO then served on the DBO board for Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) for six years. She also served as a committee member on behalf of the Children’s Land Alliance Supporting Schools (CLASS) for three years.

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Colorado ASBO Appoints Jean Houston to the Board!

On December 2, the CASBO Board appointed Jean Houston to complete the term of Ryan Elarton who resigned due to School District responsibilities. The appointment was made to diversify the current board so that it is more representative of the membership school district and job responsibilities.

Jean graduated from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire with a Bachelors in 1985. She moved to Colorado Springs; worked for the United Stated Olympic Committee, several medical groups, and the city owned hospital. She started her School career as a worker’s compensation adjuster/manager in Colorado Springs School District 11. In 2000, she joined Academy School District 20 as the Risk Manager.

Jean said “I enjoy the daily challenges of my job in a large school district and hope to finish my career at Academy School District 20, but not for a while yet!”

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW!
CASBO 59th Annual Spring Conference
April 4-6, 2012
Omni Interlocken Hotel, Broomfield

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1-800-365-9247 • 303-790-8886
2012 Official Application

Please type or print:

Name of Applicant/Nominee ____________________________ Title ____________________________

School District/Employer ____________________________

Phone Number ____________________________ Fax Number ____________________________ Email ____________________________

Address ____________________________ City ____________________________ Zip ____________________________

Name of /Nominator (if applicable) ____________________________ Phone Number ____________________________

Demographic and Professional Information

Please describe why you or the applicant should receive this award. Please limit the response to no more than two hundred words.
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