



## Newsletter for June 2024

*A special message from Colin Walsh, MeASBO President*

On behalf of the MeASBO Board of Directors, I want to take a few moments to acknowledge a long-standing member of both the ASBO Tri-State Planning Committee as well as of the Board of Directors of MeASBO, Diane Boucher.

Diane has been involved in both organizations for the past several decades and is a key member of each. She has dedicated her entire professional career to giving back to her fellow business managers and her community.

Diane has been involved in every aspect of the Tri-State Conference over the past 30 years, including serving most recently as the Tri-Chair for the 32nd Annual Conference held this past May in Portland. At the conference we recognized Diane for her countless hours and tireless efforts in leading the Tri-State team during the conference, as well as her passion and dedication to Tri-State in its entirety.

We also recognized Diane for her decades of service as a Board member of MeASBO and the value she has brought to the organization and its members. Diane has always been a strong voice and has never shied away from tough conversations and making tough decisions. She always provided sound advice from her years of experience in school business management. Through her work, Diane has helped make each Board member and the organization better and MeASBO would not be where it is today without her leadership.

On behalf of the Board of MeASBO, we want to give our heartfelt thanks to Diane for all that she has done. Words alone cannot convey our joint appreciation and we wish you daily relaxation and a happy retirement.

Our love and best wishes Diane!!

### *2023-2024 Recap and 2024-2025 Sneak Peek*

MeASBO experienced an operational growth spurt during this past year. The organization became a 501 (c) 3 corporation, on-boarded its first executive director, and increased professional development offerings through day long in person meetings and the addition of "Lunch N' Learns". MeASBO also improved communication with members via this monthly newsletter, activation of a list serve and more robust content on our web page.

Plans for the new year include a revised school business official certification program, implementation of regional groups, and opportunities for members to participate in focus

groups. We'll be hosting 4 in person meetings on September 28, November 8, February 28, and April 4, with locations to be announced. We will also continue with our Lunch N' Learns in months when we are not meeting in person and providing analysis of legislative bills, to include times/dates of public hearings and work sessions.

The annual Law Conference with Drummond Woodsum will be held on Friday, October 18 at the Augusta Civic Center. *Are there topics that you would like the legal team to address? If so, please send them to [Joanne](#) by Wednesday, July 3.*

## *2024-2025 Membership Reminder*

FY 2024-2025 membership renewal invoices will be emailed during the week of July 1. School personnel 2024-2025 membership dues will remain at current levels: \$250 for an individual membership and \$500 for a district membership. Remember that purchasing a district membership allows all members of your team to receive the membership benefits of:

- ✓ ability to attend quarterly meetings featuring professional development opportunities and networking opportunities
- ✓ receipt of a monthly newsletter
- ✓ participation in Lunch N' Learn
- ✓ participation in MeASBO's voluntary certification program
- ✓ access to the "Member Center" of the MeASBO website which provides legislative updates, links to school finance information, and professional development/training links
- ✓ participation in the MeASBO list serve

For additional information regarding benefits of membership, please see the "Join or Renew Your Membership" link on our website.

Vendor organization membership dues will remain at \$600 annually. Vendor organizations may find their full list of membership benefits at the "Join or Renew Your Membership" link on our website.

## **News and Upcoming Events from Our Partners**



### *ASBO International*

Join John Brucato every Tuesday for new episodes of "School Business Insider" podcasts. The podcase is full of timely information and interviews tailored directly to school business professionals. SBI can be listened to on Apple, Spotify, or your favorite podcast platforms.

This week's podcast is entitled "Overcoming the Funding Gap: Revitalizing America's School Facilities". Dr. Timothy Unruh, the Executive Director of the National Association of Energy Service Companies, discusses the challenges that school districts face in maintaining and upgrading their facilities. He highlights the importance of innovative

financial strategies and partnerships, such as energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs) and collaborations with energy service companies (ESCOs).

Go to this [link](#) to access all of the podcasts.

### *Maine Loves Public Schools*

Established in 2023, the Maine Loves Public Schools Initiative celebrates school communities by sharing stories to promote positive public engagement with Maine’s public schools. These great stories are shared across a variety of platforms; please give them a look and if you have a story you wish to share, go to the “Get Involved” link at <https://www.mainelovespublicschools.org/>

Other ways to view content (be sure to like and share!):

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mainelovespublicschools>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mainelovespublicschools>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@mainelovespublicschools>
- X (formerly Twitter): <https://x.com/MElovesPS>

### *Maine Department of Education*

#### Federal Fiscal Programs

The federal fiscal team looks forward to their monthly office hours on Thursday, June 27 at 10 am. The agenda includes:

- Required Written Policies (2 CFR)
  - Written Policies and Procedures regarding Time & Effort 200.430
  - Written Policies for Cash Management 200.302 (b)(6) & 200.305
  - Invoicing Reminders
- Team Updates

You can [register here](#) to attend. Previous office hours recordings and supporting documents are available on the MeASBO website, Member Center > Professional Development and Training Links>Federal Funds Compliance Policies and Procedures.

Mark your calendars for this event:



## School Construction Program Office Hours

Office hours on July 1 and August 1 at 1:00 pm are intended to provide support for those school units completing a major capital construction project. You may join the webinar here: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/calendar#calendar-6c6f22e1-033b-47cd-8ea3-0906acf8c9e4-event-ls4nb850>

## School Finance Office Hours

Beginning July 16, the School Finance Team will be hosting a monthly office hour, beginning at 10:00 am. Stay tuned for more information!

## *Maine Department of Health and Human Services*

The Office of Maine Care Services is excited to share new resources where you can learn more about how Maine Care Covered Services are delivered in Maine schools. All courses may be accessed using a desktop, tablet, or mobile device. For more information and specific course offerings, visit <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/providers/childrens-services/school-health-related-services>

## *Maine Department of Labor*

The Maine Department of Labor has published proposed [rules](#) for Maine's new Paid Family and Medical Leave Program, which is now available for comments from the public through July 8, 2024. The public can submit comments through a link on the Department's website or mail.

Comments can be submitted online [here](#). Comments can also be submitted to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program via mail sent to 50 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0050.

*The public comment period for PFML rulemaking will end on July 8, 2024.* Comments made by mail must have a postmark of July 8 or earlier.

The Department will continue to update its Paid Family and Medical Leave website whenever new information is available: <https://www.maine.gov/labor/pfml/>

## *US Department of Labor*

Recordings of US DOL webinars regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act rule regarding overtime exemptions that will become effective on July 1, 2024 may be found [here](#).

## *Maine Revenue Services*

Review recent copies of “Maine Tax Alert” [here](#) . May’s publication features MRS rulemaking activity, to include: Proposed Rule 104, "Filing of Maine Tax Returns" Adopted Rule 803, "Income Tax Withholding Reports and Payments" and Adopted New Rule 811, "Student Loan Repayment Tax Credit". There is also information on the 2024 State Tax Symposium, to be held virtually on September 18. The event will cover recent tax updates and provide information regarding the Maine Tax Portal.



[Bipartisan Senate bill would create federal guidance for AI in schools](#)

[Child Nutrition Programs Continue to Feed Children Beyond School Year](#)

[Employees Say They are Staying Put for Now](#)

[FCC approves \\$200M K-12 cybersecurity pilot](#)

[What to do when salaried employees fall below the new overtime threshold](#)

[3 questions job applicants say they want to be asked](#)



### *MeASBO Website*

Be sure to check out the “Shared Documents” section of our website, found under the Member Center as there are lots of new additions to this section. A big “thank you” to all of the contributors of documents!

### *MeASBO List Serve and Forums*

The MeASBO List Serve has been reactivated and a test message sent to all members last month. If you did not receive the message, please check your “spam” folder and if it’s not there and you wish to participate in the list serve, please reach out to [Joanne](#) as the list serve is being actively utilized to communicate information to members. The address to submit correspondence to the list serve is: [measbolistserv@measbo.memberclicks.net](mailto:measbolistserv@measbo.memberclicks.net)

If you are a vendor member, remember that there is a forum board specifically for you. This allows you to support our members through providing educational information, and continue to build positive, supportive relationships with our members. The forum is moderated by MeASBO leadership to maintain the goals and objectives of the forum board.