



MELISSA FETTKETHER

POSTVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
POSTVILLE, IOWA



2026 Candidate for 2027 Vice President
**ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS
OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL**

ABOUT MELISSA

Melissa Fettkether serves as School Business Official for the Postville Community School District in Postville, Iowa. Since beginning her career in school business in 2006, she has served four school districts, including in shared district roles.

An active ASBO International member since 2008, Melissa currently serves on the Board of Directors and has contributed in numerous leadership and volunteer roles. She has served as a Focus Area Liaison for the Education Committee and Vice Chair of the Bylaws Committee, presented at multiple ASBO International conferences, participated in roundtable and panel discussions, and contributed to SBA publications and professional learning opportunities. At the state level, Melissa is a past president of Iowa ASBO, has served on its Board of Directors, and has mentored several new school business officials. She received the Iowa ASBO Professional Leadership Award in 2014 in recognition of her service and leadership within the profession.

Outside of education, Melissa is a nationally registered EMT and serves as Service Director for her community's volunteer EMS department, continuing her commitment to service, leadership, and supporting rural communities.

VISION

To build a stronger, more connected ASBO International that empowers professionals of all district sizes through collaboration, advocacy, leadership development, and meaningful member engagement.

If you were asked to deliver a “state of the association” address, what would you highlight as ASBO International’s greatest strengths and areas for growth in the coming years?

If asked to deliver a “State of the Association” address for ASBO International, I would highlight the organization’s greatest strength as its people and the professional community it creates. ASBO International continues to bring together dedicated school business and operations professionals who are passionate

about supporting students, strengthening school systems, and helping one another navigate an increasingly complex educational environment. The collaboration between members, affiliates, volunteers, and staff has built a strong foundation of trust, expertise, and professional support that remains one of the association's greatest assets.

I would also emphasize the value ASBO International provides through professional development, leadership opportunities, advocacy efforts, certification programs, and networking connections. Programs such as the SFO Certification and Certificate of Excellence continue to elevate the profession and reinforce the importance of transparency, accountability, and lifelong learning. In addition, the organization's willingness to adapt to changing industry needs demonstrates a commitment to remaining relevant and forward-thinking in a rapidly evolving profession.

Looking ahead, I believe one of the greatest opportunities for growth is expanding engagement and representation across all district sizes and demographics, particularly among smaller and rural school districts, emerging leaders, and underrepresented populations. Many professionals still may not fully recognize the value or accessibility of ASBO International involvement, and we must continue creating intentional pathways for participation, mentorship, and leadership development.

Another area for growth is strengthening advocacy and legislative engagement by

equipping members and affiliates with tools and resources to become more effective voices at the local, state, and federal levels. By continuing to build inclusive leadership pipelines, strengthen affiliate partnerships, and enhance member engagement opportunities, ASBO International is well-positioned to remain the leading authority and professional home for school business officials well into the future.

As a board member, you may be asked to encourage professionals to join and actively participate in ASBO International. What would you say to inspire engagement and increase membership involvement?

One of the best ways to inspire both new and non-members to join and actively participate in ASBO International is by ensuring they clearly see the value of connection, support, and professional growth that membership provides. School business officials often work behind the scenes in demanding roles that can feel isolating. ASBO International has the opportunity to demonstrate that membership is more than access to resources, it is access to a professional community that understands the challenges of the work and is committed to helping one another succeed.

I believe engagement starts with relationships and inclusion. Creating intentional opportunities for first-time attendees, emerging leaders, and smaller district professionals to become involved through mentorship programs, volunteer opportunities, committee participation, and

networking connections can help members feel welcomed and valued early in their involvement. When individuals feel connected personally and professionally, they are much more likely to remain engaged.

It is also important to continue highlighting practical benefits that directly support members in their daily work, including professional development, certification pathways, advocacy resources, leadership training, and peer collaboration. Sharing real stories of how ASBO International has helped members solve challenges, grow as leaders, and advance their careers can be one of the most effective recruitment tools.

Finally, I believe we should continue strengthening partnerships with state affiliates to build awareness and create leadership pipelines that encourage participation at both the state and international levels. By fostering a culture that is welcoming, collaborative, and supportive of professionals from all district sizes and experience levels, ASBO International can continue to grow a strong and engaged membership community for the future. leadership and the profession.

If elected, you will have an opportunity to shape ASBO International's strategic priorities. What key initiatives or themes would you advocate for to ensure the association remains a valuable resource for its members?

I would advocate for strategic priorities that strengthen member engagement, professional recognition, and advocacy opportunities for

school business officials of all district sizes.

One key initiative would be increasing membership, involvement and support for smaller school districts. Many smaller districts face limited staffing, stretched resources, and fewer opportunities for professional collaboration, yet they represent a significant portion of ASBO membership. I would encourage the development of targeted networking opportunities, mentorship connections, practical resource-sharing, and leadership pathways specifically designed to help small school business offices feel represented and supported within the organization.

Another priority would be the continued enhancement and promotion of the Certificate of Excellence program. This program highlights transparency, accountability, and best practices in financial reporting, while also recognizing the outstanding work of school business professionals. Expanding training resources, mentoring support, and awareness surrounding the program would encourage broader participation and help districts use the Certificate of Excellence as both a professional development tool and a community trust-building opportunity.

I would also strongly advocate for increased legislative engagement and advocacy support at both the national and state levels. School business officials are often deeply impacted by legislation but may not always feel prepared or empowered to engage in advocacy efforts. ASBO International could play an important

role by developing a legislative involvement toolkit that state affiliates and members can adapt and use locally. This could include advocacy templates, communication strategies, legislative relationship-building guidance, and conference participation resources that help members confidently engage with policymakers and stakeholders.

By focusing on inclusion for smaller districts, strengthening professional excellence programs, and expanding advocacy support, ASBO International can continue to evolve as a highly valuable, forward-thinking resource that empowers members and strengthens the profession as a whole.