



TERA VANDYKE

NORTHWEST REGIONAL EDUCATION
SERVICE DISTRICT

HILLSBORO, OREGON



2026 Candidate for 2027 Board of Directors
**ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS
OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL**

ABOUT TERA

Tera VanDyke, SFO serves as Director of Fiscal Operations for Northwest Regional Education Service District in Oregon. With more than 14 years of experience in school finance and operations, she has held roles including Accountant, Accounting Manager, Controller, Assistant Finance Director, and Director of Fiscal Operations. In addition to her leadership at NWRESA, she has spent nearly a decade supporting component school districts as a business manager, providing fiscal and operational leadership across diverse educational environments.

Tera holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Linfield College and has earned ASBO International's School Finance & Operations (SFO) certification. She is an active presenter, co-hosts the SBO Perspectives podcast, and is involved in initiatives exploring innovative approaches to school business operations, including the responsible use of artificial intelligence. She is passionate about professional development, collaboration, and cultivating future leaders in school business.

VISION

My vision is to strengthen and sustain the school business profession by recruiting, mentoring, and empowering the next generation of leaders, ensuring every district has the expertise, resources, and support needed to create the conditions for student success. By fostering professional growth, expanding access to meaningful learning opportunities, and encouraging collaboration across our profession, we can build a strong and resilient community of school business officials prepared to meet the evolving needs of students, staff, and communities.

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?

ASBO International's greatest strength is its people. The association brings together dedicated school business professionals who are committed to continuous learning, collaboration, and service to students and communities. Through its certification programs, professional

development opportunities, advocacy efforts, and extensive network of members, ASBO International has established itself as the premier organization supporting excellence in school business leadership. The association's ability to connect professionals across diverse roles, districts, and regions creates a powerful community where members can learn from one another and share solutions to common challenges.

As we look ahead, one of our greatest opportunities for growth is strengthening the leadership pipeline. Across the profession, many experienced leaders are approaching retirement while school systems face increasing complexity in finance, operations, technology, risk management, and compliance. ASBO International is uniquely positioned to help recruit, mentor, and develop the next generation of school business leaders.

Throughout my career, I have benefited from outstanding mentors who invested their time, knowledge, and encouragement in my professional growth. Their guidance helped shape the leader I am today and reinforced the value of professional relationships within our field. In my current role, I have the unique opportunity to mentor other school business officials, and I understand firsthand how impactful that support can be. Continued investment in leadership development, mentorship, and outreach will be critical to ensuring the profession remains strong and sustainable.

The association also has an opportunity to

further enhance member engagement by creating more accessible pathways for participation and expanding opportunities for connection throughout the year. By continuing to leverage technology, foster collaboration, and support emerging leaders, ASBO International can remain an indispensable resource for school business professionals worldwide.

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?

I would encourage professionals to view ASBO International as more than a membership organization—it is a professional community. The challenges facing school business officials are too complex to navigate alone. ASBO International provides access to trusted colleagues, proven resources, professional learning, and leadership opportunities that help members grow throughout their careers.

I still vividly remember attending my first ASBO conference. As a relatively new school business professional, I was inspired by the willingness of others to share their knowledge, experiences, and support. The connections I made through ASBO International have helped shape me into the leader I am today. Those relationships provided guidance, encouragement, and practical insights that I continue to rely on throughout my career. One of the greatest benefits of membership is the opportunity to learn from professionals

who have faced similar challenges and are willing to share their expertise. Whether you are new to the profession or a seasoned leader, ASBO International offers opportunities to build meaningful connections, gain new perspectives, and strengthen your ability to serve students and communities.

I would especially encourage members to move beyond participation and become actively engaged. The relationships I built through ASBO International encouraged me to become involved in committees, contribute to the profession, and ultimately pursue leadership opportunities such as serving on the Board of Directors. Whether through attending events, pursuing certification, serving on committees, presenting at conferences, mentoring emerging leaders, or sharing best practices, every member has valuable experiences and perspectives to contribute. The more we invest in one another, the stronger our profession becomes. Active engagement not only benefits individual members but also strengthens the collective voice and impact of school business professionals around the world.

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 centered on leadership development, member engagement, legislative advocacy, and preparing members for a rapidly evolving educational environment.

First, we must continue building a strong pipeline of school business professionals through mentorship, leadership development, and intentional succession planning. As experienced leaders retire and school systems become increasingly complex, ASBO International has an important role in recruiting, developing, and empowering the next generation of leaders.

Second, I would support expanding opportunities for meaningful member engagement by creating accessible pathways for involvement at every career stage. Members should see ASBO International not only as a source of information, but as a professional home where they can connect, contribute, and grow.

Third, legislative advocacy must remain a critical priority. School business officials understand firsthand how policy decisions affect district operations, resource allocation, compliance, and ultimately student success. ASBO International can help elevate member voices, provide timely information on emerging legislative issues, and advocate for policies that support strong, stable, and equitable school systems.

As school business officials, we are increasingly expected to navigate complex policy requirements, workforce shortages, cybersecurity concerns, and emerging technologies while maintaining a focus on student outcomes. ASBO International can play a critical role in helping members anticipate

change, share solutions, and advocate effectively on behalf of their schools and communities.

Finally, I would encourage continued focus on innovation, including workforce development, operational resilience, and the responsible use of technology and artificial intelligence. By focusing on people, advocacy, connection, and innovation, ASBO International can continue to be a trusted resource and influential voice for school business professionals.