
President's View...Stephanie Eagen - Time of Change

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

By: Stephanie Eagen, CPA, CFO , Port Huron School District and President of MSBO

Tom White announced to the [MSBO](#) Board some time ago his decision to retire in 2009 to pursue other personal and professional interests. On behalf of your [MSBO](#) Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that David Martell has been selected to be the successor to Tom White as the Executive Director for [MSBO](#) .

Executive Director's View...Tom White – Passing the Torch

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By: Tom White, Executive Director, MSBO

This is the most difficult newsletter column I've had to write in my career. I'm announcing my retirement from [MSBO](#) . The [MSBO](#) Board has selected Dave Martell, our associate executive director, as my replacement. We will be working through the transition plan, including finalizing the timing, over the next few months.

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By: By Mitchell Bart, CFD, Director of Facilities/Purchasing, Kent ISD, MSBO Board Member

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By: Kari Blanchett, MILAF+/The PFM Group

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MSBO's First Renewable Energy Workshop

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On March 6, [MSBO](#) will hold its first ever renewable energy workshop. The subject of renewable energy has certainly been in the news, but what does it mean to schools?

Reviewing 403(b) Regulations

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By: Richard Turner, AIG Retirement

In the wake of the final 403(b) regulations, as well as subsequent IRS guidance in Revenue Procedure 2007-71, 403(b) plan sponsors, along with their legal counsel, are busily reviewing and making decisions regarding their plans in preparation for the January 1, 2009 general effective date of some important new requirement

MIEM Quality Data Sessions

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Without good data, it is hard to make good decisions. One good decision you can make today is to register for the February [MIEM](#) Quality Data Workshop Series.

Purchasing Card Program Saves Money

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[MSBO](#), in conjunction with [MASB](#) and [MASA](#), is proud to be able to offer school districts throughout Michigan the opportunity to save money through a special "purchasing card" program.

Board of Directors Candidates Announced

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The [MSBO](#) Nominations Committee has made its recommendations for the 2008 [MSBO](#) Board of Directors Election. The Committee, which included past [MSBO](#) presidents,

reviewed several nominees for the two open director positions. The following elections slate was presented for Board review and approval:

Annual Conference in April

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

Plan to attend the 2008 [MSBO](#) Annual Conference from April 29 - May 1, 2008, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. Watch for registration information to come your way soon!

President's View...Stephanie Eagen - Facing Tough Times Together

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Jan](#) • [2008](#)

By: Stephanie Eagen, CPA, CFO , Port Huron School District and President of MSBO

When times are difficult it is great to have friends, people who understand what you are facing and can help you get through. The ability to interact with, and get support from, other people is a basic human need recognized by social scientists.

Executive Director's View...Tom White - Hard Realities

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Jan](#) • [2008](#)

By: Tom White, Executive Director, MSBO

I recently reviewed the 2006-07 Fund Balance* information for Michigan schools. Like so many things in life, there is good news and there is bad news.

MSBO Board Member View - Managing Time

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Jan](#) • [2008](#)

By: Michael M. Adamczyk, RSBA, CFO, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Troy School District, MSBO Board of Directors

We are renovating the HVAC system of our central office beginning in January and this has caused me to go through my office to pack for the move. This has also given me the opportunity to throw out some old items. In the process, it has given me the chance to review some books I have not looked at in a while.

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President's View...Stephanie Eagen - Time of Change

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By: Stephanie Eagen, CPA, CFO , Port Huron School District and President of MSBO

Tom White announced to the [MSBO](#) Board some time ago his decision to retire in 2009 to pursue other personal and professional interests. On behalf of your [MSBO](#) Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that David Martell has been selected to be the successor to Tom White as the Executive Director for [MSBO](#) . This decision is the culmination of considerable time and effort by the [MSBO](#) Board over the last year.

A special succession committee was formed last summer with the current [MSBO](#) executive board along with three immediate [MSBO](#) past presidents. The succession committee collected information from the current board to determine critical Executive Director characteristics. The committee also interviewed [MSBO](#) staff members for their input. The targeted [MSBO](#) executive director characteristics were determined to be:

1. Knowledge of Michigan school business issues including the challenges faced by small and large districts, rural, suburban and urban districts, and K-12 and Intermediate School Districts.
2. Demonstrated understanding of how the educational "system" works in Michigan and Lansing. This would include state agencies, educational associations, the MEA and the media.
3. Communication skills that prepare the individual to communicate in writing and verbally on behalf of [MSBO](#) and its membership. The ability to communicate and serve as spokesperson on school finance and business issues as well as with membership from diverse backgrounds.
4. Experience working in an association recognizing that associations operate differently than school districts.
5. A visionary thinker capable of maintaining a long-term perspective in the face of complex short-term challenges. This includes demonstrated decision-making ability.

The [MSBO](#) board then spent much time throughout the fall of 2007 working through the succession committee recommendations. Considerable time was spent to determine the best course of action for the association for the future.

An independent consultant was utilized to analyze the skills and personality traits of the candidates. Following this evaluation an intensive interview process was developed. Interviews included a visionary presentation by the candidates.

It has been very interesting and challenging to work through the process of selecting a new Executive Director. **While it will be difficult to say good-bye to Tom, a visionary and charismatic leader who has advanced our organization in so many positive ways, the [MSBO](#) Board is excited to welcome David Martell to this new position. We are confident that he will successfully propel us into the future and continue the legacy of excellence that Tom and his predecessors have established!** I would like to thank the board for their efforts through this process, and the [MSBO](#) staff for their input. **As school business officials, we face challenging times. And while no two leaders are the same, David has demonstrated his passion and expertise for education during his tenure with schools and with [MSBO](#) specifically. Please join our board in welcoming David to this new and exciting chapter in his career. We are in good hands!**

Executive Director's View...Tom White – Passing the Torch

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

By: Tom White, Executive Director, MSBO

This is the most difficult newsletter column I've had to write in my career. I'm announcing my retirement from [MSBO](#). The [MSBO](#) Board has selected Dave Martell, our associate executive director, as my replacement. We will be working through the transition plan, including finalizing the timing, over the next few months.

It is hard for me to explain my motivation for retiring at this time. I have a great job, a great staff, a great board and I love what I do. One of my personal characteristics, however, has always been a drive to move on and do different things after a period of time, normally about 10 years for me. I have been the executive director for [MSBO](#) for nearly 11 years. During my 30-year career in education, I have changed professions - not just jobs - four times. I started out as a labor negotiator, and then served the chief lobbyist for [MASB](#) before accepting my current role at [MSBO](#). Along the way I was the Manager of Medical Economics for the Michigan State Medical Society.

To say I love the education industry is an understatement. Virtually my entire career has been spent working as an advocate for public education in one way or another. I have served on the Clinton County RESA Board of Education for 13 years. I have presented hundreds of speeches regarding education funding to a wide variety of audiences. I chaired an unsuccessful ballot initiative to garner stable revenues and reasonable increases for education funding. I was active in the campaign to defeat a voucher proposal and numerous legislative and ballot proposals that would have reduced funding for education. I've debated our detractors and helped our supporters.

It hasn't been a job; it has been a passion. I've had incredible experiences and opportunities and loved almost all of it. What a gift life presented me! But even in a happy and successful career there comes a time to move on and pass the torch to others who will carry it forward.

A small part of my decision is my health. I learned from my doctors that I had at least three heart attacks prior to my quintuple bypass surgery seven years ago. I don't have any serious medical issues now but I have an increased awareness of the fragility and preciousness of life. I want to chase a few more rainbows and expand my horizons while my health is good and my passion for life and new experiences is strong.

I can assure you that [MSBO](#) is well positioned for the future. While I am very proud to have played a part in lifting the organization to a higher level during the last 11 years, it is really the collective efforts of [MSBO](#) staff, board and members that have accomplished this feat. Anyone who has worked closely with our staff understands what I am saying.

Over the years people have frequently told me that [MSBO](#) is simply the best professional organization they have ever been associated with and this is a wonderful validation of the outstanding efforts of our staff, as well as the quality of our membership.

If you know Dave, you already understand why the Board chose him to step into this new role. Dave is well equipped to run the organization immediately. Dave is solid. During his 10 years as CFO for Haslett Public Schools, he was highly respected. He understands the realities of working in a school. He has a service orientation and a strong desire to learn and improve things. He has excelled during the three years he has worked at [MSBO](#); he understands our members and [MSBO](#)'s culture.

The most troubling aspect of this change is the sense that I am letting people down by stepping off the

center stage. Many kind folks have let me know that they value my efforts to help shape and present the complex issues related to public education funding in Michigan. That knowledge is comforting as I look back at a career filled with both successes and failures. Throughout the good times and bad, I was - and I remain - committed to my work and my beliefs, just like you. There is much dignity and value in what we all do.

While I am retiring from [MSBO](#) , I'm not really retiring from public education. I plan to continue chasing my passions, but will scale back my work time, change my professional focus and take more time to explore the world with my wife Sibyl - who I dated beginning at age 15 and married at age 22. We truly enjoy our time together.

"The Next Phase" may well include working some with the Confucius Institute at MSU. Traveling to China twice simply changed me and my life. I have become passionate about helping Michigan's schools and the citizens of our state understand the importance of building relationships with China and other Third World countries. Our imperative challenge is to help Michigan communities and graduates operate and compete in a global economy. I believe making Michigan an internationally inviting state is the second most important way to improve Michigan's economy and future. The first most important thing we can do is to successfully educate our children from pre-school through college. I hope to blend these two passions together in my next life phase.

I don't plan on "fading away," as Douglas McArthur put it about old soldiers, but to continue what I hope I've done all my life – fighting the good fight for things I believe in, but in a different way, on different fronts.

As we transition at [MSBO](#) , we will keep you informed. I will be working with [MSBO](#) at least through 2008 and I hope to play a major role in making our Annual Conference in Detroit in 2009 a very special event.

Thank you and bless you all for what you've given me and for what you do for the public schools and children of the state of Michigan. I'll see you at the 2008 Annual Conference in Grand Rapids in April!

MSBO: Positioning for the Future

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

By: David Martell, Associate Executive Director, MSBO

I appreciate this vote of confidence from the [MSBO](#) Board of Directors. I am excited to be asked to serve as the next executive director.

I am also excited at the possibilities for the future of [MSBO](#). While no one could ever really fill the void that will be created when a leader like Tom White retires, I look forward to continuing the long tradition of excellence he established. Tom has been a mentor to me, both when I was on the [MSBO](#) board and during my years on staff here at [MSBO](#). Along with the great [MSBO](#) staff, I will strive to continue to build upon the sound foundation he has laid.

You might ask why I would want to follow an extremely successful leader like Tom; it certainly won't be easy. My interest in taking on the challenge of leading [MSBO](#) is firmly rooted in my genuine desire to give back to an organization that is truly unique in the way its members provide support to each other. This role is all about the care and nurturing of an organization that, along with its members, strives to help improve the education of children through sound business practices.

I was introduced to [MSBO](#) when I first started working at Haslett Public Schools. I was impressed by the many ways [MSBO](#) supports new business officials and provides networking opportunities through regional groups and professional development. I soon became connected to other business officials and learned my way around the school business office.

Grateful for the support I was given, I took advantage of opportunities to give back to the organization, such as helping with the leadership of the Central Michigan SBO. It was not long before other opportunities came my way and I began speaking to groups on topics with which I could share my expertise. I took on additional leadership opportunities through the School Finance Services Committee and the [MSBO](#) Board of Directors. At every turn, I grew more impressed with both the organization and especially my fellow members. Finally, I made the tough decision to leave the comfort of a great district like Haslett to move to a position with [MSBO](#) where I could provide full time support to a much larger group of members.

In this new role, I will work diligently to help [MSBO](#) continue to grow and meet the needs of you, our members, for years to come. I look forward to working with Tom and the [MSBO](#) executive board leadership to develop a strategic transition plan over the coming months. The success of [MSBO](#) relies heavily on a staff empowered and motivated to perform each of our important jobs.

I want to again thank the [MSBO](#) Board of Directors for their confidence in me; I am both humbled and honored. Please join me in thanking Tom White for his many years of serving the membership of [MSBO](#) and being such an inspiring leader.

MSBO Board Member View – MSBO Resources Make a Difference

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

By: By Mitchell Bart, CFD, Director of Facilities/Purchasing, Kent ISD, MSBO Board Member

“There are other people in my district who are members of [MSBO](#) . What would I get out of being a member?”

If you have been a member of [MSBO](#) for any period of time, you have probably had someone ask you this question. As a member of the [MSBO](#) Board for the past several years, it is a question I have heard a number of times.

My first reaction is to say that what you get out of [MSBO](#) depends on what you put in. Every association is as strong as its members. If its members contribute, everyone benefits. At [MSBO](#) , our members give, and everyone gets, an amazing amount of resources. Here are some examples:

The Michigan Institute for Educational Management ([MIEM](#)) was founded in 1981 by [MASA](#) and [MSBO](#) to provide professional development activities for all school employees through conferences, workshops, training videos and certification programs. [MSBO](#) , along with [MASA](#) and other organizations, contributes to the advancement of all members through cutting-edge educational programs.

[MSBO](#) 's Program and Research Committees meet throughout the year to focus on topical issues such as facility planning and maintenance, food service, transportation, purchasing, school finance, intermediate school districts, technology and professional development. These committees are open for all members to attend and participate. They provide leadership, guidance and networking for members.

[MSBO](#) Regional Groups meet throughout the state, based on their geographical location. These groups are very important in assisting locals with state and regional issues and act as a conduit to [MSBO](#) . These groups also provide opportunities for regional collaboration without requiring “another trip to Lansing” to participate.

[MSBO](#) conferences provide valuable and timely information, professional development, and networking opportunities.

[MSBO](#) offers legislative updates and products such as PaySchools, Public Surplus, Purchasing Cards, Bus Purchasing and many more direct services.

The [MSBO](#) staff is likely the best in the business! Tom White is an outstanding leader who is recognized for his contributions well beyond our membership as a statewide resource in K-12 education. Dave Martell, Associate Executive Director, has valuable experience in school business and finance issues. Associate Executive Director Scott Little brings expertise to support services from careers in the military and education. These folks, along with all of the [MSBO](#) staff, truly have a passion for [MSBO](#) and its members and to provide the best service they can.

In short, you get as much as you give. And in our case, I believe our members give generously and receive in return through networking, shared expertise, services, and leadership.

So, whether you're from Jonesville, in the southern part of the state, or Copper Harbor in the UP, [MSBO](#) is a resource that will make you – and your district – more professional and better prepared in your professional life.

Is Refinancing Right for Your District?

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

By: Kari Blanchett, MILAF+/The PFM Group

Declining interest rates due to our lagging economy has many school districts wondering if they should refinance their debt. According to data obtained from the Michigan Municipal Advisory Council, 62 Michigan school districts issued a total of \$1,050,650,000 in refinancing bonds in 2007.

Two key factors make a refinancing work - lower interest rates and the passage of time.

Interest rates are currently near 30-year lows. This reduction in interest rates produces refinancing opportunities. However, even without the reduction of rates, the simple passing of time can create refinancing opportunities. In general, the longer the maturity of the bonds, the higher the interest rate. Shorter term bonds typically have lower interest rates. Ten years after the original borrowing, the interest rate on a 20-year bond can be replaced with a 10-year bond interest rate.

Ironically, low interest rates can also inhibit refinancing opportunities. To understand this, it is important to be familiar with bondholders call protection and the two types of refinancings: current refinancings and advanced refinancings. In Michigan, most debt issuances are sold with 10-year call protection, meaning the bonds cannot be called (or redeemed) within the first ten years. This does not necessarily mean the bond issuance cannot be refinanced within the first 10 years. It does impact the type of refinancing.

Here are the two types of refinancings:

Current Refinancing: A refinancing bond issue which settles **less** than 90 days before the call date on the bonds being refunded.

Advanced Refinancing: A refinancing bond issue which settles **more** than 90 days before the call date on the bonds being refunded.

An advanced refinancing requires new bond proceeds to be held in an interest-bearing escrow account until the call date on the old bonds. The federal government allows issuers to earn up to the new bond yield (or "arbitrage yield") on its escrow securities. When short-term interest rates are very low, and issuers cannot earn their "arbitrage yield" in the escrow, more funds are deposited into the escrow account, reducing the school's savings. In a very low short-term interest rate environment, it may not be possible to earn the "arbitrage rate" in the escrow account. Therefore, the longer the time until the redemption date of the bonds to be refinanced, the less likely the refinancing will produce adequate savings. When considering an advanced refinancing, a school district must be sure the savings are adequate. It is also important to note that the IRS only permits one advanced refunding of a new money bond issue. However, bond issues can be refunded in a number of partial refunding issues.

As independent advisors to school districts throughout the county and the State of Michigan, schools frequently ask us if they should refinance their bonds. Here are some vital questions to review when considering a refinancing:

Are we using the one advance refunding?

Based on the remaining life of the old issue, how many more chances will we have to refinance?

Will the refinancing produce at least 3% savings (or 2% savings for large issues or issues with very low interest rates)?

Are the savings net of all costs of issuance?

Are we saving at least as much as the costs of issuance?

How will a refinancing impact the budget or debt millage in the short and long term?

Can the refinancing assist in restructuring our debt to allow for new debt to be issued with little to no millage increase?

What is the "Option Value" of refunding now versus waiting until a later date?

In summary, when considering a refinancing, a school district should take into account the options and benefits or consequences. No single magical threshold or savings level will work for every school district and every debt. We recommend that school districts talk with a qualified, independent advisor who will assist in weighing the information and determining if refinancing is right for them.

Long Term Retirement Costs Continue Upward Slope

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

The Citizen's Research Council (CRC) tracks trends in state government spending. They estimate that the MPSERS rate will rise annually for the foreseeable future. For 2006-07 the effective rate was 17.74% of payroll. For 2007-08 the rate is 16.72%. The decline in rate was due to a change in the "smoothing" methodology for calculating investment income – going from five-year smoothing to a single-year mark-to-market. They have returned to five-year smoothing going forward.

The proposed rate for 2008-09 is 16.54%.

Some perspective:

In 1991 the rate was 10.79% of payroll

In 2000 the rate was 11.66% of payroll

In 2007 the rate was 17.71% of payroll

In 2008 the rate is 16.72% of payroll

For 2009 the rate is proposed at 16.54%.

For the future CRC estimates:

In 2010 the rate will be 18.12% of payroll

In 2015 the rate will be 21.92% of payroll

In 2020 the rate will be 27.91% of payroll

The bottom line is that we need to find a better way! What happens to the stock market affects our rates. The rate will rise, hopefully by less than CRC estimates.

To respond, calculate the cost of paying MPSERS on a per pupil basis, follow that figure and release these numbers to your staff and community as part of ongoing communications. Keeping people informed is vital to ongoing reform efforts.

Other considerations:

Continual cost shifts through increased co-pays and deductibles

Continue differentiation of two-tiered system

Switching from the current Defined Benefit approach to Defined Contribution has a significant increased cost in the short term before savings in the long term.

Sustainability is a key issue for all MPSERS members. There is a delicate balance to maintain between providing good benefits and making sure that the system is affordable today and into the future.

MSBO's First Renewable Energy Workshop

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

On March 6, [MSBO](#) will hold its first ever renewable energy workshop. The subject of renewable energy has certainly been in the news, but what does it mean to schools?

As energy costs continue to rise, all of us are looking to be more efficient while reducing our impact on the environment. One area many districts are discussing is the application of renewable energy. Many districts are talking about renewable energy, but lack the information needed to make a good decision.

Is a renewable project practical? What types of renewable energy are available and how effective are they? What do they cost???

[MSBO](#)'s Renewable Energy Workshop will answer these questions and much more. Hear from experts in this growing industry, along with districts that have already implemented renewable energy projects.

This workshop is for School Board members, Superintendents, Business Managers, Facilities Directors and anyone with an interest in renewable energy for schools.

For more information and registration [click here](#).

Reviewing 403(b) Regulations

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

By: Richard Turner, AIG Retirement

In the wake of the final 403(b) regulations, as well as subsequent IRS guidance in Revenue Procedure 2007-71, 403(b) plan sponsors, along with their legal counsel, are busily reviewing and making decisions regarding their plans in preparation for the January 1, 2009 general effective date of some important new requirements. An important part of such a review is determining what options are available.

For many 403(b) plans, particularly those sponsored by public schools, plan compliance historically has been decentralized, relying primarily on a bundled provider approach. Under such an approach the providers of the contracts and accounts (which were already required by the Code to incorporate most of the specific compliance rules, including limitations on loans, distributions and deferrals) were also required to administer those compliance requirements.

For certain requirements, such as loans and minimum required distributions, those providers were permitted to rely upon a participant's representations regarding certain information relative to other accounts maintained by the same participant. Plan sponsors were thus able to leverage existing expertise particularly with contract and account providers that had dedicated resources to such compliance processes.

For some plan sponsors, alternative approaches may have included selection of a single provider for both investments and services (this generally was not possible for public schools in a handful of states), or selection of a third party to provide an overlay of administrative processes, which might have included facilitating contributions to multiple providers, a function often referred to as "common remitter." If this third party was also a provider, or if it was affiliated with or had a related business relationship with a provider, questions frequently arose as to whether the plan services were sufficiently insulated from the marketing efforts of the related or associated provider. This discussion often has been discussed using terms such as "vendor neutrality," and its importance to plan sponsors appears to have grown over time.

Plan sponsors considering the range of compliance alternatives may have focused on a number of key considerations, including:

- General efficiency and effectiveness

- Employee choice of investment products

- Vendor neutrality

- Privacy of participant data

- The ability to reduce or eliminate significant day-to-day functions of the plan sponsor

- The ultimate cost to participants, who frequently are required to pay for additional plan services from a party other than their investment provider

A review of the final 403(b) regulations as well as more recent guidance in IRS Notice 2007-71 (which included both model plan language for public schools and additional transitional guidance and relief) finds each of the existing solution models (fully decentralized using bundled providers, fully centralized using either one or multiple providers, and hybrid approaches between these two) alive and well. Specifically, both the final regulations and the model plan language make clear that the plan sponsor is free to choose how to structure its compliance procedures. Thus, for example, there is no requirement that the plan sponsor itself review and approve such transactions as transfer, loan or distribution requests. It will be important, however, for the plan sponsor to make decisions about who will provide such review and approval, and then to document those procedures and structure agreements accordingly.

It is also important to note that each of these available compliance alternatives is likely to require modification in light of the final regulations. Fully decentralized compliance will require coordination among providers in place of reliance on participant representations for certain information. Fully centralized compliance will take on new duties that may be very foreign to standard centralized processes because it will frequently require some of that same coordination with certain previously deselected providers. An alternative which includes elements of both centralized and decentralized processing might involve a two-step process with centralized oversight of plan-wide compliance followed by decentralized processing of individual transactions.

MIEM Quality Data Sessions

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

Without good data, it is hard to make good decisions. One good decision you can make today is to register for the February [MIEM](#) Quality Data Workshop Series.

[MIEM](#) and the Center for Educational Performance & Information (CEPI) have teamed up to create sessions specifically aimed at decision-makers who work with the overwhelming amount of data facing schools today.

[MSBO](#) members know that our districts - and our performance - are judged based on our analysis and use of data. [MIEM](#) is encouraging school officials to “be proactive” and learn more about proper use and input to:

- The Michigan Electronic Grant System (MEGS)
- The MDE Cash Management System (CMS)
- The Single Record Student Database (SRSD)
- The Financial Information Database (FID)
- The School Infrastructure Database (SID)

Each three-hour Quality Data session is taught by a skilled school district practitioner and by a MDE or CEPI staff member responsible for the database. They review:

Each data field collected – how and why
How data is tied to a district’s performance and/or finances
What to do when things go wrong

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn from each other’s experiences. Your data input specialist should attend these sessions.

Register today!

Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS) and Cash Management System (CMS)

February 21, 2008

[Lansing Community College’s West Campus](#)

8:45 a.m. - noon

Presenters: Judy Byrnes, Grants Coordination and School Support, Education, and Glenda Rader, Michigan Department of Education

Single Record Student Database (SRSD)

February 21, 2008

[Lansing Community College’s West Campus](#)

12:45 - 4:00 p.m.

Presenters: Trina Anderson, CEPI

Financial Information Database (FID)

February 28, 2008

[Lansing Community College’s West Campus](#)

8:45 a.m. - noon

Presenters: Tom Howell, School Data Manager, Barry Tiedeman,

Senior Data Analyst, CEPI, and Glenda Rader, Michigan Department of Education

School Infrastructure Database (SID)/School Code Master

February 28, 2008

[Lansing Community College's West Campus](#)

12:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Presenters: Tom Howell, School Data Manager, and Lynne Erickson, School Data Coordinator, CEPI

For registration or for more information about the [MIEM](#) Quality Data Workshop Series, please visit [MIEM](#)'s website or contact [Debbie Kopkau](#) at (517) 327-2587.

Purchasing Card Program Saves Money

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

MSBO , in conjunction with MASB and MASA , is proud to be able to offer school districts throughout Michigan the opportunity to save money through a special “purchasing card” program. Districts using traditional credit cards as well as those who don’t, are encouraged to look into this no cost, high-benefit program.

The Michigan Purchasing Card Program, which started in 2005, has grown to include more than 125 school districts with \$30 million in annual purchases. Participating districts are projected to receive more than \$100,000 in rebates for 2007.

In addition to saving money, school districts in the program save time and gain greater control of expenditures. As the program grows, so does the size of the rebates distributed to participating districts. These districts also save money (minimum of \$1,200) in annual fees for a total of more than \$150,000 in savings.

For more information about the Michigan Purchase Card Program, please visit our [Purchasing Card Program Page](#) or call [David Martell, MSBO](#) Associate Executive Director, at (517) 327-2581.

Board of Directors Candidates Announced

Tagged: [Newsletter](#) • [Feb](#) • [2008](#)

The [MSBO](#) Nominations Committee has made its recommendations for the 2008 [MSBO](#) Board of Directors Election. The Committee, which included past [MSBO](#) presidents, reviewed several nominees for the two open director positions. The following elections slate was presented for Board review and approval:

President - Elect

Michael Adamczyk, RSBA, CFO
Troy School District

Directors

Jeff Crouse (Incumbent [MSBO](#) Board Member)
CFO, Charlevoix-Emmet ISD

Mary Reynolds
CFO, Farmington Public Schools

Dan Romzek
CFO, Davison Public Schools

According to Committee Chairman Matthew J. Losch, all of the nominees are active and valued members of the [MSBO](#) who are excited to serve on the Board of Directors.

Beginning this year, [MSBO](#) will be using a new voting system that allows members to vote via their computers. This will allow all [MSBO](#) members to vote regardless of attendance at the Annual Meeting. Voting will take place shortly before and during the [MSBO](#) Annual Meeting from April 30-May 1, 2008 in Grand Rapids.

Annual Conference in April

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Plan to attend the 2008 [MSBO](#) Annual Conference from April 29 - May 1, 2008, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. Watch for registration information to come your way soon!