
President's View – Rob Burgess...Gooooood Morning Vietnam!***

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

By: Rob Burgess, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, Lakeshore Public Schools and President of MSBO

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Understanding Your Retirement

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By: Richard Montcalm, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, Utica Community Schools and Past President of MSBO

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Meet the 2008-2009 MSBO Board of Directors

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Renewable Energy and Efficiency Technologies for Schools – the Time is Now

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

By: Ramsey Zimmerman, Partner, Shepherd Advisors and Shanna Draheim, Consultant, Shepherd Advisors

With energy costs rising, and increasing pressure to improve performance and reduce costs, schools are looking for additional ways to reduce their energy consumption and implement renewable energy projects.

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This newest [MSBO](#) Partnership will save your district money and enhance training opportunities for your employees. [MSBO](#), [MASA](#) and [MASB](#) have partnered with SafeSchools, the nation's leading provider of online employee training designed specifically for schools, to offer Michigan schools access to this great program at a very low subscription fee.

School Employment Law Reference Manual is a "must have" resource

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[MSBO](#)'s recently published School Employment Law Reference Manual is a "must have" for your school district. The manual provides basic and general information and guidelines to assist school management to understand legal issues involving employment, labor, and personnel relations.

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It was a great turnout for this year's SET SEG 17th Annual Fun Run/Walk held at the 70th Annual [MSBO](#) Conference in Grand Rapids. Fifty-nine participants braved the chilly, 46-degree morning. The winner's circle also saw some returning champions. Both Paul Soma and Cheryl Porter have won previous events.

MSBO Conference Opening Keynote Speaker Inspires

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

Speaker Bill Strickland's message was simple – give people the tools they need, treat them with respect, and they will perform miraculous deeds. Throughout his distinguished career, Strickland has been honored with numerous prestigious awards for his contributions to the arts and the community.

President's View...Stephanie Eagen—Choosing Leaders

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

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

The [MSBO](#) Board made a significant change in process for Board elections this year. We hope you are aware of this new process and that you will take time to participate in the governance of your professional organization.

What's the big change? Actually, there are two:

Executive Director's View...Tom White—Partnerships

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

By: Tom White, Executive Director, MSBO

A number of years ago the [MSBO](#) Board made the decision to try to leverage [MSBO](#)'s resources by utilizing partnerships to help achieve our goals. I felt then, and still believe, it was a wise decision.

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [next >](#) [last »](#)

President's View – Rob Burgess...Gooooood Morning Vietnam!***

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By: Rob Burgess, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, Lakeshore Public Schools and President of MSBO

Many years ago back in the ancient 1970's, I was first introduced as a young radio disc jockey on Armed Forces radio by a more experienced radio professional. Back in those days, on Armed Forces radio one could hear almost every genre of music from rock and roll to country, from Tejano to jazz, rhythm and blues to classical. "Gramps" was a country music fan. He had something like 10 years of radio experience and MAN could he spin the records and shoot the fat as he told us tales about his favorites. They were people like Buck Owens, Crystal Gail, and Johnny Cash. But Gramps loved his listeners and he knew that I loved rock and roll, so he gave me a new nickname and introduced me with a song by the Jackson Five: Rockin' Robin. Some of you may know how the song's lyrics go:

"Rockin robin, tweet, tweet, tweetily dee. Oh Rockin Robin were surely gonna rock tonight."

As a new inexperienced disc jockey it had to be the greatest let down in the history of radio for the listeners of KMTH-AM on Midway Island as I came on the air. My first few weeks and maybe months on the air, I stunk. I like to think after that I settled in to being an OK disc jockey. You'd have to ask the radio audience of at most 1,200 people on Midway if that was true.

It is humbling to me to serve in this organization in this capacity. I now stand here where Stephanie Eagan, Matt Losch, Jeff Mills, Rick Montcalm and so many other distinguished leaders have stood.

What makes a leader? Is it their ability to inspire? Over the years, I have heard many inspirational speakers. Some were business leaders, some priests, rabbis, or ministers, some were governors. All may have inspired me with their speeches, but frankly, I am not sure a single one made a lasting difference in my life. So, giving a good speech is not leadership.

Is a good leader someone who has a vision? Over the years, I have been inspired by the visions of many superintendents, curriculum gurus, or presidential candidates. But again, I say that I am not sure any of them actually changed my life.

What is a leader? At least for me, I have become convinced that a leader is someone who cares. A leader cares about people. A leader is someone who is ethical in how he or she treats people. A leader is compassionate; a leader tries to be fair even if it is not always possible to be so. A leader does not shy away from difficult issues, but tries to make a difference. A leader is someone who reaches out to both sides of the aisles and says: Let's solve these problems together. Let's do what we can to make this world a better place for all God's children, for parents and grand parents, for teachers and principals, for bus drivers and custodians, for secretaries and paraprofessionals.

Thank you to the leaders in this audience. Thank you to not only those that have served now or in the past on the Board of [MSBO](#) , but who serve in capacities as committee chairs, or committee volunteers, as officers of our regional groups, as speakers or in other capacities at this and many other [MSBO](#) events and conferences.

Thank you to those in this audience who serve their local church, temple, synagogue or mosque. Who are involved in service groups in their communities like the Lions Club, or Rotary, Optimists, or Kiwanis.

Thank you for your involvement in band or choir boosters, little leagues or youth soccer, science expos or spelling bees.

Thank you to those who work overtime to ensure that the budget for our children's education is "just right", that the boilers are working properly, that the buses are operating safely, that our computers are purring smoothly, that the pay checks get out on time, and that the food our children eat is hot, nutritional, and delicious.

Thank you!

But I must not stop there. The famous Englishman, theologian, and children's author C.S. Lewis once said: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

This year, I am asking you to do just a little more. To always put the interests of Michigan's 1.7 million pre-school to high school children and our adult education students first. To always remember that we are

here to serve them. To always know that we as leaders of MSBO are here to do the best we can, with the resources that we have.

I am not asking you to put more on your plate. We are already busy people. What I am asking for you to do is remember why we are here: for the children, the adult education students, the parents and grand parents, the taxpayers, the teachers, the support staff, and our Boards of Education.

For this year, I would ask you to remember. Leaders are people who care. Therefore, I would ask you to dig just a little deeper this year and get involved, make a difference, be passionate about your work, care for children and "Give a little bit."

**** Please note, I am a Vietnam-era veteran, but I did not serve in Vietnam. As indicated, I was a journalist/disc jockey/broadcaster with Armed Forces Radio/TV. I served with the 7th Fleet in Japan and also on Midway Island.*

Executive Director's View...Tom White - What can we do about school finance in Michigan?

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

By: Tom White, Executive Director, MSBO

I recently had someone ask me which states have good school finance systems. I admitted I don't really know but then my answer came out, "Almost any system will work if there is enough money." The Proposal A system worked fine through the 1990's when we were receiving adequate, in retrospect even generous, funding. For you old-timers who remember Proposal A's predecessor, the Bursley Formula, it too worked fine when there were adequate resources.

But we're in a different time now and resources aren't adequate. Further, we aren't likely to be receiving significant funding increases any time soon, in fact if nothing else changes, we'll be fortunate to hold even with inflation and/or avoid cuts.

I was a lobbyist before Proposal A passed and from my perspective it was a huge improvement over the prior system. But nearly 15 years have passed and the underlying circumstances have changed, as has our economy. It is time to create a new system.

Drawing from the academic literature about school funding there are four main principles of a good school funding system (PEAS principles):

Predictability – The ability of schools to know with reasonable advance notice what their funding will be for the coming school year or years.

Equity – Funds are distributed to enable all districts to have the financial resources to offer similar educational opportunities for their students, taking into account differences between individual districts.

Adequacy – Assuring that the amount paid by state government to local districts is sufficient to providing a high quality education. At the minimum, that which is required by state and federal law and regulations.

Stability – The assurance that once committed, the funds will be provided consistently and without interruption.

These principles may be ideals but are certainly not wildly farfetched. It is commonly accepted, that for many good reasons, education is the most important endeavor of the state. Policy makers are regularly and rightfully asking educators to strive to improve teaching and learning. Shouldn't they be held to a similar standard when it comes to crafting laws to fund education? Shouldn't they be striving to improve our system of funding public schools?

Now for an unpleasant dose of reality. Given these economic times, schools cannot expect to receive significant additional funds and simply continue doing what they are doing and doing it the same way. We have to change.

What is the answer? Nothing is simple...a transition to a new funding system, and new ways of educating students are complex and will take time. But like the proverbial journey of a thousand miles, it won't start without that first step forward.

A possible starting point is beginning to take shape in Lansing. [MSBO](#) , the Tri-County Alliance, [MASA](#) , [MASB](#) , and Middle Cities have been working together on the framework of a school funding and reform study. The study would examine our current system both for educating students and funding schools, and would make recommendations through the Michigan Department of Education to the legislature.

Why do we need a study? Most importantly we need a study in order to bring the legislature, MDE and the interest groups together at the same table for serious discussion and goal setting. Of course, we could offer our own suggestions without a study but the process of conducting a study provides:

1. credibility that comes from engaging outside, objective experts;
2. common understanding among the players; and

3. information that can be used as a blueprint for improving our education system.

As currently conceived, such a study would cover areas such as the use of technology to enhance education while reducing costs, the value and place of pre-school programs, enhancing the structure of how education is provided, and of course, how Michigan should fund our pre-school through grade 12 system. Using the PEAS principles articulated above would be a good start from my perspective.

Such a study takes on added importance in the world of legislative term limits. By the time legislators have developed the expertise and relationships to take on serious changes such as those needed in our education funding system, their time is up! If the legislature will participate in this study as a partner with MDE and the school associations, perhaps we can institutionalize what we are doing to go beyond individuals, affected by term limits.

I wish this was easier. I wish we had the resources to fund education without having to resort to a study or any other mechanism to replace a broken system. But the political system and our economic realities do not permit it. We need to gather people with diverse viewpoints together to reach a consensus on how to improve what we are doing in classrooms and how we fund it. Hopefully by working together in a thoughtful way, we can avoid the "Government by Crisis" approach we've endured for the last few years.

Understanding Your Retirement

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

By: Richard Montcalm, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, Utica Community Schools and Past President of MSBO

Over the past few years there have been many discussions among central office employees on what part of compensation is reportable for retirement.

Problems have arisen when certain employee contracts have included language that is outside of the reportable compensation rules for the retirement system. Some administrators have retired and unfortunately found that their contract included language that the administrator and their board thought complied, but did not.

The key is to make certain that annual compensation is clear and reported according to the retirement statute. State statute limits increases from contract year to contract year. With this issue negatively affecting recent retirees, several individuals from [MASA](#) , [MSBO](#) , [MASB](#) , and the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) have met to try and clarify what is allowable compensation, how it is reported, and what is the intent of an administrator's contract. As a follow up there will be a posting on the ORS website to further explain reportable compensation.

There is no statutory authority to allow money attributed to the reimbursement of MIP or FICA, nor dollars given to be equivalent to those in the contract language, to be counted toward retirement. Therefore, it is imperative for administrators who have this type of language in their contract to have it reviewed and if appropriate, changed ASAP in order to have those funds fall within the allowable guidelines and be included in the retirement calculation.

What can you do today as a school business official? Work with your Superintendent and Board of Education. If it is the intent of your board to have those funds be counted towards retirement, then you may need to change the contract. It should reflect compensation as salary and not a reimbursement or equivalent for MIP or FICA. Once the change is made, it may take a period of time for any large increase in compensation to be recognized as reportable compensation. If you or someone in your district is within striking distance of retirement, it would be a good idea to have the Board officially address this issue now by re-wording, re-adopting and re-signing the contract(s) this fiscal year. Based on statute, the ORS uses a formula which limits the amount that can be annually increased from the previous year and still count towards retirement. Therefore, the sooner you make the change, the sooner the compensation will be fully recognized for retirement. If your district needs to clarify a contract of an individual, first review the website and the payroll guidelines RIM (Reporting Instruction Manual) and then work with ORS to understand the formula and work with your board to change the contract(s).

If you have any questions please contact ORS and have the wording reviewed.

Richard Montcalm is also a member of The Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System Board, which provides oversight of the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System.

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MSBO is partnering with a company called RFP Depot (soon to be BidSync) to offer you and your constituent districts a streamlined, web-based RFP and bidding system. This secure, automated, web-based system allows schools to manage all competitive and other procurement processes online. No special software is needed. It can be used by an individual district or for collaborative bidding.

This highly flexible and sophisticated tool does not have a direct cost to your district. The winning vendor pays a 1 percent fee, with a maximum payment, that supports the system. **MSBO** received documentation of the savings from using the system and it shows that districts more than offset the modest 1 percent fee. Fixed pricing is also available.

The RFP Depot system provides districts maximum flexibility. They have a large national database of vendors and are willing to add any vendor you wish at no cost. Your bids will be sent electronically to whatever grouping of vendors you choose...whether you want to bid nationally, statewide or locally.

In the process of considering a partnership, with RFP Depot we had more than a dozen members review this system and their overwhelming response was an enthusiastic, "...when can I start using it!" RFP Depot has been in operation for over six years and has more than 350 registered agencies nationwide. Oakland Schools and Kent ISD are both planning on using RFP Depot for collaborative bidding in the coming year, and several others are giving it serious consideration.

We believe this system lends itself for use by both ISDs and local districts. RFP Depot simplifies the bidding process and increases your ability to do multiple and collaborative bidding. It is also a powerful management tool for tracking and understanding your purchasing patterns.

Requests for sample RFPs are one of the most commonly addressed needs on the **MSBO** Listservs. RFP Depot offers thousands of sample RFPs and much, much more. **MSBO** is very impressed with RFP Depot and it is easy to use. See a list of benefits below for you and your locals when using the RFP Depot system. To get more information, contact Michael Madsen from RFP Depot at (800) 990-9339, ext. 413 or Deneen Hansen, **MSBO** at 517/327-2585 and provide the name and contact information for the administrator of your district.

Watch for several one-hour web demos to be announced so you can view this product with your colleagues. Some Benefits of RFP Depot's System

- Easy to use interface with one-on-one technical support available from RFP Depot

- No cost to members to use the system for their own bids

- Enter bid requirements online and check on the status of a bid any time

- Eliminate time spent tabulating bid results

- Set up contracts online with vendors

- Exposure to a nation-wide network of vendors that increase the competitiveness of **MSBO** and member bids

- Access to nation-wide network of bid specifications and the ability to piggyback on bids locally, state-wide or from around the country

- Standardize your bids for consistency from year to year

- Increased opportunity for volume-based savings

- Have a permanent record of all bid information including diversity goals, bid packages, awards, and responses with a monthly CD-ROM extract

Meet the 2008-2009 MSBO Board of Directors

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

Robert Burgess, Chief Financial Officer of Lakeshore Public Schools was installed as the 71st [MSBO](#) President at the [MSBO](#) Annual Conference.

This year, [MSBO](#) teamed up with ASBO to use their online voting system. [MSBO](#) voter turnout exceeded expectations with 807 total votes cast. The online voting system enabled [MSBO](#) to save money and permitted all active members to vote for the first time in [MSBO](#)'s history.

[MSBO](#) President-Elect, Michael Adamczyk, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services of Troy Public Schools was elected. Three candidates threw their names in the mix for 2 openings on the board. [MSBO](#) members re-elected Jeff Crouse, Chief Financial Officer of Charlevoix-Emmet ISD and Mary Reynolds, Executive Director of Business Services of Farmington Public Schools. Dan Romzek, Finance/Operations Director of Davison Community Schools, rounded out the ballot.

Renewable Energy and Efficiency Technologies for Schools – the Time is Now

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

By: Ramsey Zimmerman, Partner, Shepherd Advisors and Shanna Draheim, Consultant, Shepherd Advisors

With energy costs rising, and increasing pressure to improve performance and reduce costs, schools are looking for additional ways to reduce their energy consumption and implement renewable energy projects. Many schools in Michigan have made advances in improving the energy efficiency of their buildings, but there are many ways to do so, and even ways to harness renewable energy like the sun, wind, and Earth for electricity, light, heating and cooling.

Energy costs now account for the second highest school expense nationally (next to salaries). In response, [MSBO](#) has been making energy efficiency and renewable energy a priority issue for its members. [MSBO](#) has information and resources on energy efficiency and renewable energy on their “Energy Management/Energy Essentials” web pages. In March of this year, [MSBO](#) hosted an “Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Michigan Schools” workshop at Lansing Community College. Over 60 people attended the event, which featured 11 speakers on energy efficiency and renewable energy project opportunities, and displays by 9 renewable energy and energy efficiency technology vendors.

Energy efficiency....what's next?

Opportunities for energy efficiency projects in schools go well beyond changing light bulbs and upgrading HVAC systems. Energy efficiency technologies are available that can significantly reduce overall energy use and cost for schools, as well as offering opportunities for improving the learning environment and integrating energy savings with school curriculum.

“Daylighting” buildings with highly efficient windows and skylight technology, for example, reduces lighting needs and allows for downsized HVAC systems. As an additional benefit, studies have shown that daylight may significantly increase students’ test scores and promote better health and physical development, and can be attained without an increase in school construction or maintenance costs.

Other energy efficiency technologies that reduce energy use by minimizing electricity waste and improving system performance include:

- Energy efficient transformers that reduce energy loss. Upgrading to more efficient transformers can decrease energy use by as much as 50-70% over the life of the system, with average payback under 3 years.

- Lighting voltage regulators that reduce energy use by allowing existing lighting fixtures to run cooler and longer.

- Reactive power correcting technologies that improve motor function and thus reduce energy use.

- Sine wave inverters or correctors that improve the quality of electricity, reduce wear on equipment, and improve use of renewable energy.

These technologies can also create learning opportunities for students by participating in the project development and monitoring changes in building electrical use.

Renewable Energy All Around Us

While many schools are familiar with energy efficiency technologies and the potential for significant cost savings, fewer school administrators and facility managers understand the benefits of renewable energy technologies, or are aware of the wide range of cost-effective renewable energy technologies that are available right now. Renewable energy projects in schools make excellent showcases for displaying the benefits of alternative sources of energy – not only for the schools’ students, but for the entire community. Renewable energy projects fall into two categories:

Projects that generate electricity to be used on site or sold back to the electrical grid.

Projects that reduce the need for energy purchase by using renewable resources for lighting, heating and/or cooling.

Solar photovoltaic and wind turbine systems are perhaps the most well known renewable energy technologies. These are both still relatively expensive compared to grid-supplied electricity, but they provide substantial educational benefits – incorporating the technology into science, math, language, and arts curriculum that teach students about the role of renewable energy in meeting our energy needs. In addition, federal and state funding for such projects is available to help demonstrate the effectiveness of these technologies and build a market for them.

In addition to these traditional renewable energy technologies, there are several other renewable energy technologies that offer significant benefits for reducing fossil fuel energy needs in a very cost-effective manner:

Innovative solar hot water heating technologies that are compact, cost-effective, and available pre-assembled with easy installation.

Passive solar space heating that circulates air past a solar heat surface(s) and through the building by convection. No mechanical equipment is needed for passive solar heating.

Active solar space heating technology that uses solar collectors, fans, and pumps to circulate warm air. These systems reduce heating needs and improve air quality.

Geothermal heating and cooling technology that uses the constant temperature of the earth as the exchange medium instead of the outside air temperature. Geothermal systems use 25-50% less electricity than traditional air-source heat systems, require smaller HVAC systems, and are extremely quiet.

Hybrid PV systems that use both ultra-thin amorphous silicon layers and crystalline silicon cells, thereby increasing efficiency.

Ready for You

The time is ripe for schools to more seriously evaluate options for deploying energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. These technologies are available and ready to deploy in schools now. Energy costs will continue to rise in the future, and schools will be under increasing pressure to reduce facility costs. Advances in technology have made energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies increasingly cost-effective. Schools are the perfect place to deploy these technologies and teach Michigan's students and communities about the benefits and availability of alternative energy sources.

Examples of School Efficiency and Renewable Projects:

Monroe County Intermediate School District is in the process of installing almost 200 tubular daylight pipes and an evacuated tube solar hot water heating system at its Education Center. The daylight pipes will use the sun to light all of the offices and classrooms. The hot water system will heat 320 gallons of hot water for the building on an average daily basis. The District estimates the systems will pay for themselves in less than 5 years.

Wilson Middle School, the City of Wyandotte, CRESIT Energy, and Johnson Controls partnered to install a 10 kW solar array at the middle school to generate electricity. The solar array will save the school about \$2,000 a year. The project will be incorporated into the middle school curriculum, and will be a showcase for the entire community of the feasibility of renewable energy projects.

Shepherd Advisors is a management consulting firm.

SafeSchools helps your district save money

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This newest [MSBO](#) Partnership will save your district money and enhance training opportunities for your employees. [MSBO](#) , [MASA](#) and [MASB](#) have partnered with SafeSchools, the nation's leading provider of online employee training designed specifically for schools, to offer Michigan schools access to this great program at a very low subscription fee. If your district is a member of both the [MASB](#) -SEG Property/Casualty Pool and the SEG Self-Insurer Workers' Compensation Fund, you qualify to receive all SafeSchools programs for FREE. This is possible due to the generous support of SET SEG.

SafeSchools offers 80 courses all online, and is planning another 40 within the next two years. Courses cover a wide variety of topics that are required for many of your employees (bloodborne pathogens, asbestos, etc.) as well as important topics like bullying, sexual harassment, and student management/discipline.

More information is coming soon! Questions? Contact [Andrew Deitschel](#), at 800/434-0154, ext. 4 or [Deneen Hansen](#) at 517/327-2585

School Employment Law Reference Manual is a “must have” resource

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MSBO 's recently published School Employment Law Reference Manual is a “must have” for your school district. The manual provides basic and general information and guidelines to assist school management to understand legal issues involving employment, labor, and personnel relations. This comprehensive, 14-chapter manual comes as a searchable CD and covers employment law issues including specific chapters focusing on Making Good Discipline and Discharge Decisions and Wage and Hour Issues, to Workers' Disability and Unemployment Compensation and Employee Benefits and MPERS. It also includes sample policies addressing Anti-Discrimination and Social Security Number Privacy, as well as a sample COBRA Notification Letter. Get your copy now for the low price of \$100 by [purchasing online](#) or downloading the [order form](#). Questions? Contact the MSBO office at 517-327-5920 or [Lillie Kopke](#).

This book has been prepared by the Labor and Employment Group and the School Law Group of the law firm of Miller Canfield. Miller Canfield traces its history to 1852 when it opened a practice on Detroit's Jefferson Avenue. Today, with nine offices in Michigan, Miller Canfield has the most lawyers in Michigan of any law firm and is one of the nation's leading firms in its specialty areas.

Are you interested in being part of the MSBO team?

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

Current [MSBO](#) Associate Executive Director David Martell will move into the role of [MSBO](#) Executive Director in January 2009 when Tom White retires. As part of the [MSBO](#)'s Board's succession planning and to allow for a smooth transition, resumes are now being accepted to fill Dave's position of Associate Executive Director of Business Services. We hope to make an offer to the successful candidate this summer and have the new Associate Executive Director start as early as this fall. Candidates interested in this position must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Business Management, Education or a related field and a minimum of ten years of experience. A Master's Degree or CPA is preferred, but not required. [MSBO](#) CFO certification is also preferred. The Position Announcement and [Application Procedure](#) can be found on the [MSBO](#) website, or visit [Hiring Solutions' website](#) for more information. The application deadline is June 30, 2008.

MSBO Golf Outing = Networking and Fun

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Join us at [MSBO](#) 's Annual Golf Outing on Wednesday, July 16 at Timber Ridge in East Lansing, MI. We had to move from our usual course, Forest Akers at MSU, due to a scheduling conflict but we are very excited to be going to Timber Ridge, it is one of the finest examples of using what nature has provided as a perfect backdrop for great golf; it has the look and feel of an "up-north" but is right here in mid-Michigan. Of the tens of thousands of public courses in America, only 12 have earned the highest possible rating by Golf Digest readers - Timber Ridge is one of them. This event is for members and sponsors only. For sponsorship information, contact [Deneen Hansen](#) at 517.327.2585.

[Register online](#)

SET SEG Promotes Health and Fun

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

It was a great turnout for this year's SET SEG 17th Annual Fun Run/Walk held at the 70th Annual [MSBO](#) Conference in Grand Rapids. Fifty-nine participants braved the chilly, 46-degree morning. The winner's circle also saw some returning champions. Both Paul Soma and Cheryl Porter have won previous events. Everyone who participated is a winner in the game of health. We hope to see you next year in Detroit.

Closest Prediction – 1 mile: Cheryl Wald, Howell Public Schools

Predicted: 14:30 Actual: 14:43.13 seconds

Closet Prediction – 5000 Meters: Mike Klosowski, Huron ISD

Predicted: 24:30 Actual: 24:30

5000 Meters Fastest Male – Paul Soma, Traverse City Public Schools

Time: 21:39

5000 Meters Fastest Female – Cheryl Porter, Lapeer ISD

Time: 26:40

MSBO Conference Opening Keynote Speaker Inspires

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

Speaker Bill Strickland's message was simple – give people the tools they need, treat them with respect, and they will perform miraculous deeds. Throughout his distinguished career, Strickland has been honored with numerous prestigious awards for his contributions to the arts and the community. Working with corporations, community leaders, and schools, Strickland and his staff strive to give disadvantaged kids and adults the opportunities and tools they need to envision and built a better, brighter future.

To learn more and to get a copy of Bill Strickland's inspirational book *Make the Impossible Possible*, visit [his website](#).