



2006-2007
ANNUAL REPORT



Colorado Association of School Boards

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Deanne Elliott
President
Sargent RE-33J
Region 10



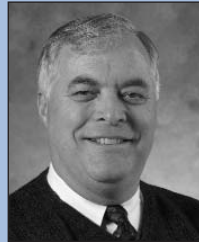
Jane Barnes
President-Elect
Jefferson County
Schools
Region 5



John Knapp
Immediate Past
President
Rocky Ford R2
Region 3



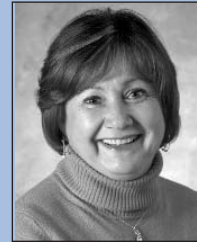
Gary Northup
Re-1 Valley
Region 1



Bill Bregar
Pueblo No. 70
Region 6



Jenny Patterson
Telluride R-1
Region 8



Sherri Wright
Montezuma-Cortez
Re-1
Region 9

Did you know?

Governor Bill Ritter delivered an inspiring speech at CASB's Winter Conference. CASB works closely with the governor's office to support effective state policies to educate all students for success in our future creative economy.

"CASB spent a significant amount of time this year growing the concept of a preschool through postsecondary system, recognizing there are multiple pathways to success. CASB challenged our members and other organizations to think differently as we all move progressively into the 21st-century learning environment."

John Knapp, CASB Past President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—DIRECTORS



Jody Boydston-
Johnson
Deer Trail 26J
Region 2



Ron Pfleiderer
Platte Valley Re-7
Region 4



Nancy Sarchet
Weld RE-1
Region 4



Angelika Schroeder
Boulder Valley
Schools
Region 5



Kay Fair
Cherry Creek
Schools
Region 5



Marge Rinaldi
Adams Co. 50
Region 5



Norma Frank
Mapleton Public
Schools
Region 5



Kevin Patterson
Denver Public
Schools
Region 5



Anna Lord
Manitou Springs 14
Region 6



Tom Sifers
East Grand #2
Region 7

Not pictured

Laurie Glauth
Woodland Park Re-2
Region 6

CASB continues to offer members top-notch services to help your school board thrive.

WE CHAMPIONED A PRESCHOOL THROUGH POSTSECONDARY SYSTEM TO HELP YOUR DISTRICTS PROVIDE AN EDUCATION SUITED TO THE NEEDS OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

CASB brought the school board point of view to the legislature's discussion on P² education with *The Next Generation of Colorado* report. Created from a series of discussions among school board members and superintendents around the topic of a preschool through postsecondary education, the report presented school boards as ready to lead the charge for reform from the local level.

Last fall, CASB's journal *Prism* and issues brief *Insights on Issues* informed members of many angles and aspects of how a seamless education system can increase student achievement by building on the existing Colorado standards-based system.

WE ENSURE THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT VOICE IS HEARD AT THE STATE LEVEL.

CASB's new Legislative Action Center connected Legislative Network members to legislative issues like HB 1118 and SB 131. Written updates urged members

to contact their legislators and provided them with talking points and direct links to legislators' e-mails and phone numbers.

CASB was instrumental in the Trujillo Commission's online education report offering policy recommendations for a higher level of accountability, equity and greater support of online education as an educational tool. These recommendations were incorporated into SB 215.

CASB's advocacy work is a year-round effort as we represent the interests of locally-elected school boards before the State Legislature, Colorado's Congressional Delegation and the State Board of Education. CASB based its legislative agenda on resolutions adopted by members at the CASB 2006 Delegate Assembly.

WE OFFER YOU LEGAL RESOURCES AND REPRESENTATION SO YOU HAVE OPTIONS WHEN ADDRESSING YOUR LEGAL ISSUES.

The majority of CASB's membership consulted CASB's legal staff for valuable and timely legal information. This information regarded Colorado's open meetings and open records laws, conflicts of

YOUR CASB STAFF

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CASB SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

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Read on to learn about new and unique services CASB provided members this year.

interest, nonrenewal of teachers and administrators, student discipline, and special education.

Members stayed up-to-date on current legal issues affecting school districts through the new online publication, *CASB Legal Update*. The *Update* covered important topics such as the Fair Campaign Practices Act, changes to Colorado's open meetings law, and requirements concerning school board financial disclosures and Amendment 41.

CASB supported the interests of all Colorado school districts when staff filed two *amicus curiae* ("friend of the court") briefs regarding the adequacy of school funding and the provision of extended school year services to students with disabilities.

CASB staff participated in various committees representing school boards' interests, including safe schools, NCLB highly qualified teacher requirements, restraint and seclusion of students, and the State/School Trust Lands.

Five member districts enjoy the high-quality, affordable primary legal representation of CASB's Legal Services Program (LSP). A number of other districts worked with LSP on a one-time basis to represent them during specific legal challenges, from student expulsions to election issues and superintendent contract negotiations. CASB established LSP in 2005 to provide high-quality, affordable legal representation in education law.

Through a preventative law approach, LSP educated and trained board members, administrators and staff on legal issues such as the Internet and student discipline, board members' e-mail use and compliance with anti-discrimination laws in district athletic programs.

Did you know? CASB staff performed one third of all the 2006–2007 superintendent searches in Colorado. Staff worked with school districts all over the state guiding them through the entire selection process, including a first-year goal-setting plan for the new superintendent and board. CASB significantly cut costs to districts this year by sending all application materials via e-mail and the Internet.

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"I like our online policy service because we can use the search feature to access policies faster instead of going through that ol' book. Also, our community can look at our policies . . . because they should be able to have easy access to our policies."

Jim Sullivan, Superintendent
East Otero School District
Online District Policy Maintenance Service

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WE CONNECT WITH YOU AND YOUR NEEDS ON YOUR TURF SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR.

In 2006, CASB staff visited school districts across Colorado working on school board effectiveness.

CASB staff kept a finger-on-the-pulse of our membership by traveling the state, from the southwest to the northeast corners, visiting and facilitating collaborative multi-school district meetings.

CASB Fall Regional Meetings gave you a primer for the upcoming legislative season. More importantly, CASB staff helped you focus on the real work of creating a consensus on what preschool through postsecondary education might look like on a local level. The results were incorporated into CASB's *Next Generation of Colorado* report.

Nine school districts of varying sizes and geographic locations strengthened their governing

skills through CASB Policy Governance® training sessions. Many Colorado school districts use Policy Governance® or model their board management after this comprehensive theory-based governance model.

WE HELPED YOU ANSWER TOUGH POLICY QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS SO YOU CAN MAKE THE BEST, MOST INFORMED DECISIONS.

Policy staff are continually engaged by school districts, BOCES, CDE, other educational agencies, and state school boards associations to answer questions, provide information and review school board policies.

CASB contracted with nine districts for specialized, fee-based policy projects, including complete policy manual overhauls and policy manual re-coding work. With our fee-based policy projects, CASB

Did you know? CASB's Legal Services Program (LSP) secured important victories impacting all Colorado school districts in a special education appeal, a charter school appeal and a high profile federal court lawsuit. In the latter, LSP attorneys obtained a judgment dismissing a student's Title IX claim stemming from a coach's decision to cut her from her high school volleyball team. An adverse decision against the school district would have required sweeping changes to all public school athletic programs.

staff assist districts in reviewing and revising school board and district policies ensuring that board and district goals are being met, and that districts are in compliance with legally-required policy mandates.

Eleven school districts enjoyed timely updates to their district policies through CASB's Online District Policy Maintenance Services.

Seventy-two school districts, two BOCES and five attorney council members took advantage of CASB's Core Policy Online resources where CASB members, their school district staff and community members can quickly access all CASB sample policies online.

CASB policy staff represented the school board policy point of view as they served on an education sub-committee through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The committee drafted guidelines for how educators can support their employees and students and continue operating during an emergency disruption, such as an influenza pandemic.

WE GIVE YOU TOOLS TO ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY, HELPING YOU ENJOY WIDE COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

CASB staff helped members along the Front Range learn about their school district's communication strengths and challenges and provided recommendations for change through CASB's Communication Assessment Service. In the future, these school districts will benefit from a stronger relationship with their unique communities.

In response to numerous member inquiries into communications issues, CASB's issues brief, *Insights on Issues*, provided members a resource for improving community relations. CASB staff counseled members on how to make community engagement work in their district so they can better understand their community members' values.

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YEAR-END REVIEW & FUTURE FOCUS

For Colorado and CASB, this has been a year to set new directions. Our conversations with you, our membership, around the state last summer and fall, permitted us to shape in important ways the legislature's efforts to reform high schools and to align what schools teach with the challenges our students face when they graduate. Several other CASB legislative priorities in recent years also found their way into law, such as a longitudinal accountability system and a reform of the state data systems. And Colorado will have a new commissioner of education. As your CASB Board of Directors looks to the future, it does so with a sense of new opportunities.

ADVOCACY

The board asked CASB staff to go back to some of the same themes which kept us busy in the last several years. After a year off following the passage of Referendum C, we will again go to work to promote reform of Colorado's constitutional tax code. The board also asked that CASB continue to take the lead in advocating for a seamless P² education system, preschool through postsecondary. And finally, to give you more clout, the board asked us to strengthen our state and federal advocacy programs.

Did you know? The 2006 Convention charged members to bring home the message of preparing students for the 21st century. Along with their staffs, board members are already starting to affect change within the school district. CASB plans to carry that energy into next year's convention by building on the same theme of leading locally and thinking globally.

BOARD TRAINING

Building strong training for school boards is another recurring theme for CASB. This year, the board asked that we devote more resources to the Leadership Development Program and to the Academy, which recognizes board member achievement. We will also work on communicating a consistent message to school boards and to others about the crucial role school boards play in improving student achievement.

SERVICES

In this next year, the board asked that we build on the services already offered, and take stock of what we do and what our members need. The board wants us to create a better understanding among you, our membership, of the benefits of CASB, and to ask you what services you need from us. We will also seek to find better and more cost-effective ways to extend our capacity to provide affordable services to our members.

Ken DeLay
CASB Executive Director

“CASB’s strength continues to be found in partnerships and collaboration within our own communities as well as with other education organizations, as we engage in thoughtful discussions addressing the urgency to prepare our students for successful futures.”

Deanne Elliott, CASB President

INCOME

2005-2006
AUDITED FUND
BALANCE

GENERAL FUND

JULY 1, 2005
Balance
\$292,255

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REVENUES
\$1,996,865

EXPENDITURES
\$2,027,495

JUNE 30, 2006
Balance
\$261,625

Membership Dues
55% \$1,098,153

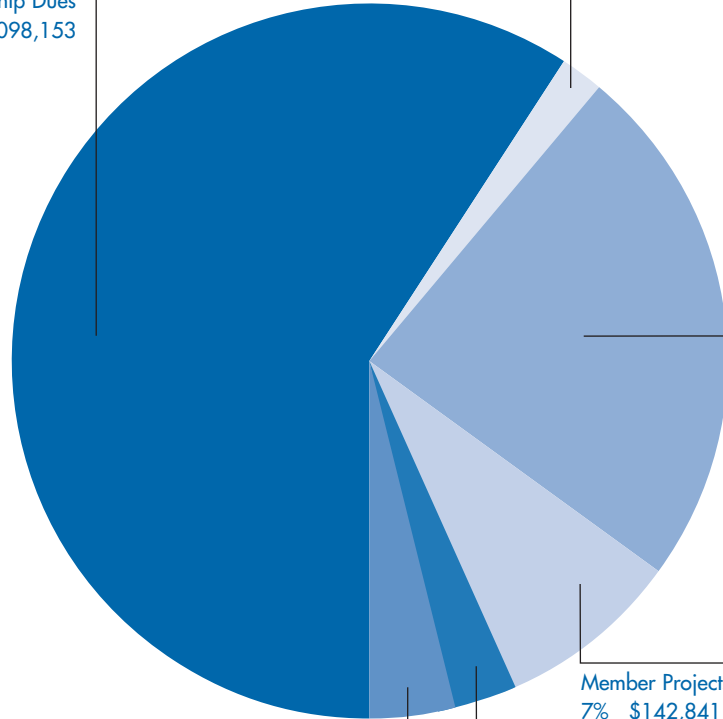
Commercial Affiliate/BOCES Dues
2% \$32,340

Convention/Conferences
28% \$564,922

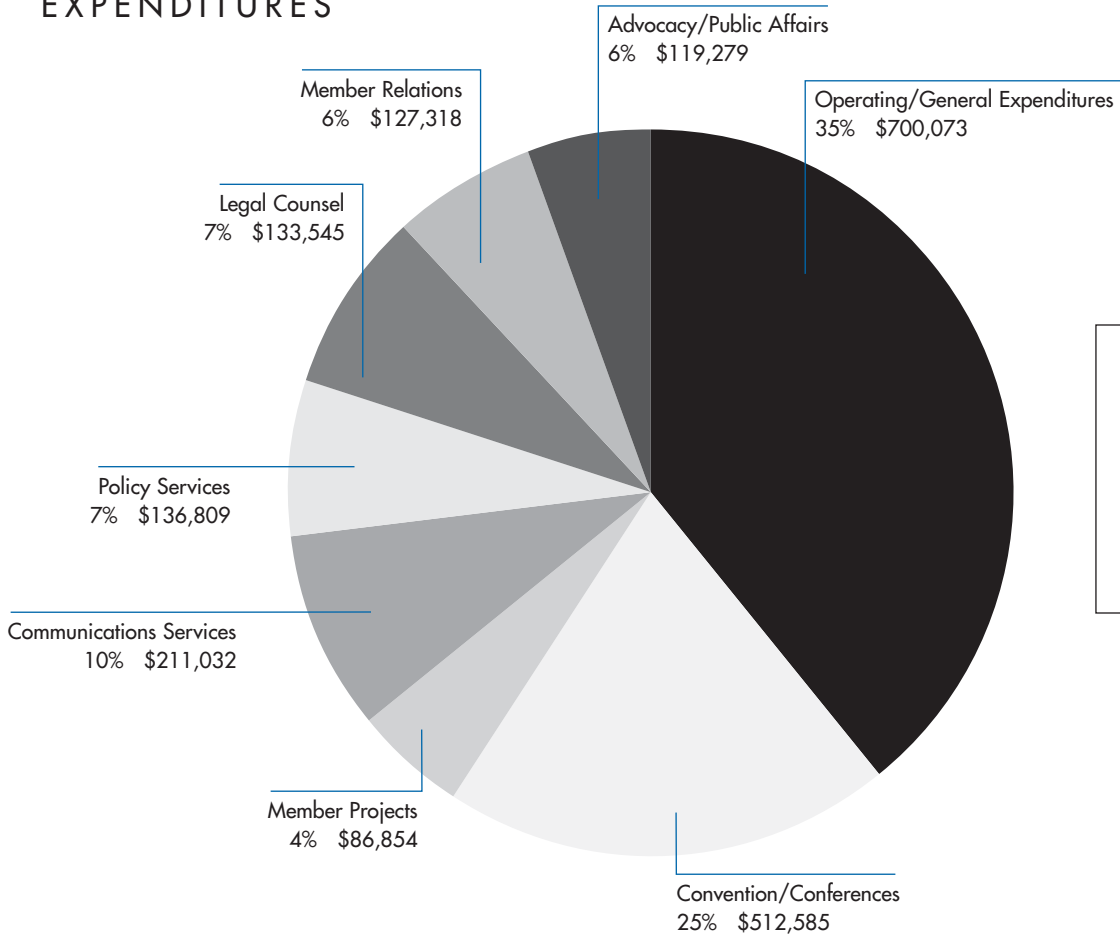
Member Projects
7% \$142,841

Policy Services
3% \$68,415

Other Income (Interest/Grants)
5% \$90,194



EXPENDITURES



“CASB staff were very helpful. They walked us through all of the steps [of a superintendent search] and involved everyone in the community.”

Lowell Steuhm, Board Member
Highland-Ault School, District Re-9

“Every organization needs to seek continuous improvement in communication. CASB’s service was excellent and the results will lead our district and our schools to more effective communication strategies. I would highly recommend CASB services to all school districts.”

Cindy Stevenson, Superintendent,
Jefferson County Schools
Communication Assessment Service

CASB MISSION

Advancing excellence in public education through effective leadership by locally elected school boards.



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