

Welcome to CASB's 2007-2008 Annual Report

"CASB is like a family
with a common
interest in kids..."

And that family is
everywhere you go."

Leslie Kiesler
board member
Mesa County Valley 51

This year, CASB partnered with all 178 member school districts to lead Colorado's education initiatives so public schools continue to offer dynamic, relevant education to help students thrive in the 21st century.

CASB took a leading role to ensure responsibility for change stems from the local level and that the finance structure supports school districts throughout this change. We supported you with timely informative briefs on legislative changes, training on the board's crucial governance role and by serving as a trustworthy partner in meeting your policy and legal needs.

We are delighted to share with you our accomplishments from 2007/2008 as we help you create a public education system that prepares students to become citizens that participate in, and thrive in our diverse, global environment.

Colorado Association of School Boards



Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Jane Barnes
President
Jefferson County Schools
Region 5



Bill Bregar
President-Elect
Pueblo No. 70
Region 6



Deanne Elliott
Immediate Past President
Sargent RE-33J
Region 10



John Knapp
Rocky Ford R2
Region 3



Gary Northup
Re-1 Valley
Region 1



Marge Rinaldi
Adams Co. 50
Region 5



Jenny Patterson
Telluride R-1
Region 8

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Board of Directors *continued...*

DIRECTORS



Lyndon Burnett
Agate #300
Region 2



Ron Pfleiderer
Platte Valley Re-7
Region 4



Jana Ley
Poudre R-1
Region 4



Renée Howell
Littleton Public Schools
Region 5



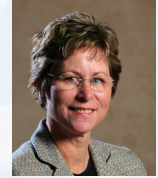
Aagje Barber
Cherry Creek Schools
Region 5



Norma Frank
Mapleton Public Schools
Region 5



Kevin Patterson
Denver Public Schools
Region 5



Jan Tanner
Colorado Springs District 11
Region 6

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Board of Directors *continued...*

DIRECTORS



Anna Lord
Manitou Springs 14
Region 6



Tom Sifers
East Grand #2
Region 7



Sherri Wright
Montezuma-Cortez Re-1
Region 9



Cory Off
Del Norte C-7
Region 10

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CASB Highlights

“The Communications Audit provided by CASB brought Thompson School District immediate results. It is always good to get an objective outside opinion. The CASB Audit was just what we needed.”

Marcia Venzke
board member
Thompson School District

CASB continues to provide leadership and services to help your school board thrive. Read on to learn about some of the benefits your districts received this year.

CASB participated in a statewide effort to improve the future of Colorado’s education system through tax reform.

- CASB helped conceive Believe in a Better Colorado (BBC), an unprecedented alliance among the state’s three largest education associations, CASB, CASE and CEA, to inform public school employees and citizens about Colorado’s dwindling tax base for essential public services, including K-12 education.
- Through BBC, CASB provided a comprehensive toolkit to help districts strategically communicate about BBC to all employees and school board members. This year, BBC will provide tools districts can use to host conversations about BBC with groups of key local stakeholders.
- At the same time, CASB, CASE and CEA’s executive directors are working with both public and private sector leaders to develop solutions to the state’s tax problem.

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CASB Highlights *continued...*

“Thank you for traveling to me to help us on the road to a robust communications plan. Communications are so important and I felt very fortunate to receive such expertise.”

Melony Sanguist
executive administration
Centennial BOCES

We provided you with communication tools so you could take on and talk about major issues.

- New CASB Web Updates informed you about up-to-date information on CASB’s Web site regarding policy updates, new publications, ever-changing happenings at the Capitol and more!
- CASB’s journal Prism delivered a well-rounded collection of articles on how online education can close opportunity gaps, can be integrated into the classroom and requires accountability.
- CASB’s HB 1118 toolkit helps school boards engage their communities in a dialogue about their local blueprint for education. Many districts are using toolkit as a step-by-step guide to the community-based process required by the law.
- CASB presentations and publications kept members up-to-date on current legal issues affecting school districts. In the months leading up to the fall elections, CASB’s legal staff conducted four regional seminars on legal issues and deadlines for school district elections.
- Through conversations at the state level and through conferences CASB built understanding and support for 21st-century learning.

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CASB Highlights *continued...*

“Thank you for sending your legislative updates and newsletters. They are great summaries and really help keep us abreast of what’s happening, which is a lot!”

Lesley Smith
board member
Boulder Valley Schools

We ensure the local school district voice is heard at the state level.

- CASB demonstrated to state policymakers that districts are working locally to identify their communities’ desires for an effective education through A Blueprint for Education report. The comprehensive report is the result of CASB members’ efforts at the fall 2007 regional meetings.
- CASB added a full-time government relations position to boost school board representation at the state and federal levels.
- CASB’s Board of Directors represented school boards as liaisons to state-level organizations and groups including the State Board of Education, Colorado High School Activities Association, Colorado School Finance Project, the State Land Board and School Lands Trust Coalition, Colorado Rural Schools Caucus, CASB Early Childhood Taskforce and the Colorado Coalition for Hispanic Education.
- CASB lobbyists work throughout the year to represent the interests of locally elected school boards before the State Legislature, Colorado’s Congressional Delegation, the State Board of Education and the P-20 Council. CASB’s legislative agenda is based on resolutions adopted by members at the CASB 2007 Delegate Assembly.

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CASB Highlights *continued...*

Did You Know?

CASB staff performed one third of all the 2007-2008 superintendent searches in Colorado. Professional and knowledgeable staff worked with 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 lobbyists worked diligently this year to ensure major bills were less prescriptive and more reasonable for local districts. CASB worked to testify on or amend SB 130 (ZIPS) SB 212 (CAP4K) and HB 1335 (BEST).
- CASB Conferences provided opportunities for school board members to lobby their legislators, interact with Governor Ritter and the State Board of Education, and collaborate with other board members.
- CASB’s new online Legislative Updates kept you up to date, in real time, on changes in major issues like the Governor’s education reform bill or zones of innovative performance legislation.

We helped you answer tough legal questions and concerns.

- CASB attorneys respond to members’ calls and e-mails daily for legal information on Colorado’s open meetings and open records laws, election and vacancy issues, confidentiality concerns, nonrenewal of teachers and administrators, student discipline and special education.
- CASB’s Legal Services Program (LSP), established in 2005 to provide high-quality, affordable legal representation in education law, continues to grow. Five member districts enjoy primary legal representation through LSP with several other districts engaging LSP on particular matters, including special education disputes, student discipline issues and policy concerns.

Colorado Association of School Boards



CASB Highlights *continued...*

CASB's legal resources represented the interests of all Colorado school districts at the state level.

- CASB filed three amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) briefs regarding: school districts’ ability to sue the state regarding the adequacy of school funding; school districts’ obligation to provide special education services to students with disabilities to enable them to make progress outside of the school setting; and, the level of specificity required in topic announcements for school boards convening in executive session.
- CASB attorneys participated in several committees and taskforces representing school board interests, including the State/School Trust lands, rules regarding the restraint and seclusion of students, and financial policies and procedures.
- CASB attorneys provided written comments to CDE and testimony before the State Board of Education on rules and rules revisions proposed by CDE.

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CASB Highlights *continued...*

We helped boards understand their governance role and strengthen their leadership skills.

“CASB is our lifeline. From conference planning, regional meetings, legislative updates, and support to build a “highly effective governance team,” the learning opportunities are endless. Board work is a challenge and my job would be more difficult without the services CASB provides. Thank you.”

Carol Brom
board member
Re-1 Valley

- CASB staff visited all regions of the state helping board members focus on governance, strengthen relationships with their fellow board members, staff and community through retreats and workshops.
- CASB staff visited your regions for leadership circles, one-on-one meetings and events to keep a finger on the pulse of membership needs.
- CASB Classrooms helped new and veteran board members strengthen essential board skills, such as financial accountability, effective board meetings and great governance.
- CASB staff provided daily phone support for members in need of immediate assistance with crisis situations, media relations, community engagement, board relations and legal issues.
- CASB provided election support through election guides, candidate workshops at fall regionals, phone support, training for new school board members and new board retreats.

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CASB Highlights *continued...*

“Maintaining an online policy manual is so much easier than trying to maintain a physical copy for everyone. This is a great service!”

Jeff Durbin
superintendent
Otis School District R-3
Online District Policy
Maintenance Service

We provided you extensive and comprehensive policy resources so you can make the best, most informed decisions.

- Policy staff assisted school districts, BOCES, CDE, other educational agencies daily by answering questions, providing information and reviewing school board policies.
- During this fiscal year, the department provided numerous districts with specialized and/or fee-based policy projects, including complete policy manual overhauls, policy manual re-coding work and policy manual audits.
- Policy staff served 11 school districts through CASB's Online District Policy Maintenance Service and provided the popular CASB Core Policy Online resource to more than one-third of CASB member school districts.
- The department provided membership with legislative policy updates and thoroughly reviewed and revised CASB's Core sample policies pertaining to students and personnel.

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“CASB keeps its finger on the pulse of the legislative action. That's valuable to me.”

Will Hathaway
board member
Sargent Re-33J

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Year End Review and Future Focus

“Statewide, education of our youth has become a priority issue, as it should be. As leadership has shifted at CDE and at the Capitol, CASB has kept a strong voice in the conversation and continues to focus its resources on work that will benefit its membership in providing support at the district level for student achievement.”

Deanne Elliott
CASB past president

The road ahead

The CASB Annual Report prompts us at CASB to take a critical look back at the accomplishments of the past year and imagine possibilities for the future. We are proud of the strides we’ve made this year and look ahead with expectations of great success.

On the home front, CASB reorganized our regions to better represent our members. A committee of your peers, board members from across the state, recommended that CASB change the make-up of its board of directors to better represent our rural school districts and give a stronger voice to our large urban and suburban districts. In a vote of confidence, you voted nine to one at the Delegate Assembly in December to make those changes, and you will see the results of those changes to the CASB Board this coming year.

In P-20 conversations, an issue at the forefront of state politics and policy, CASB continued to be a fearless leader for local communities and their locally elected school boards. CASB worked closely with the Colorado Department of Education, sometimes as the Department’s only ally, to build from our solid foundation schools that prepare all students to succeed. For much the same reason, CASB led efforts to find and move forward a solution to Colorado’s fossilized Constitutional tax code.

Colorado Association of School Boards



Year End Review and Future Focus *continued...*

“CASB’s focus is firmly fixed on supporting school districts as they prepare their students for the paths they choose after high school. We will work with school board members to lead this change, as they reflect the communities within which they live and work. If student success is the lens through which we examine our decisions, we will succeed, regardless of the challenges we face.”

Jane Barnes
CASB president

CASB looks toward tomorrow with many of the same priorities that brought us success in 2007. We will spend much of this upcoming year building a broader and more comprehensive mix of services to serve our state’s diverse school boards, to help districts succeed, regardless of location, size or current performance. CASB will continue its efforts to seek partnerships in its efforts to build good policy for transforming our schools to meet the needs of the 21st Century. CASB firmly believes excellence stems from the local level, so we will provide you with tools to build the schools your communities need.

In the coming year, CASB is committed to reforming Colorado’s Constitutional tax code. Our work with other education associations and business and academic leaders to build the Believe in a Better Colorado campaign is but one part of these efforts. We are also building partnerships with other political leaders, developing tools for our membership to better understand the challenges and possibilities of Constitutional tax reform, and participating in all capacities at both the state and local levels to bring forth the local school board voice.

In January, the CASB Board committed our association, through its 2008 goals, to be a statewide leader for tax and fiscal reform, to promote the implementation of a true standards-based system, and to prepare CASB’s diverse membership to lead locally and think globally. With your help, when we take this glance back one year from now, we will see great strides on all fronts. Thank you.

Ken DeLay, CASB Executive Director

Colorado Association of School Boards



Financial Information – Income

**2006-2007
AUDITED FUND
BALANCE**

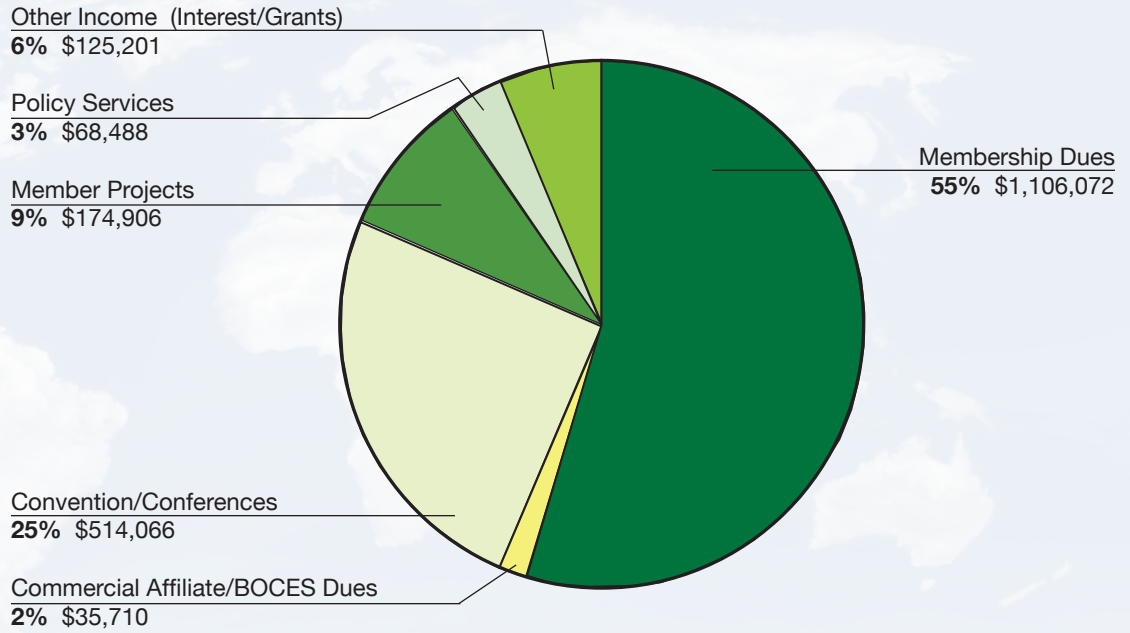
GENERAL FUND

JULY 1, 2006
Balance: \$261,626

REVENUES
\$2,024,443

EXPENDITURES
\$2,208,200

JUNE 30, 2007
Balance: \$77,869



Colorado Association of School Boards



Financial Information – Expenditures

**2006-2007
AUDITED FUND
BALANCE**

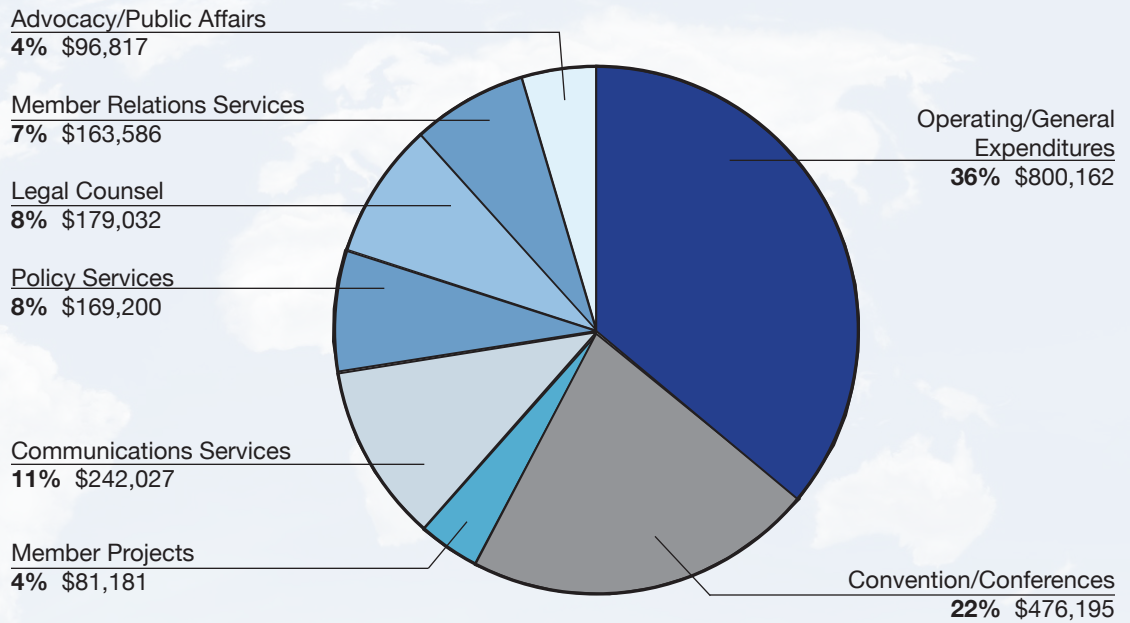
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CASB 2007 Goals

At the annual January retreat, CASB's Board of Directors creates CASB's goals which guide the association's work for the year.

Did You Know?

Gov. Ritter delivered an inspiring speech to a record-high crowd at CASB's Winter Conference. Perhaps more important, CASB members took advantage of the Governor's undivided attention, asking him pertinent questions about the state of education. CASB continues to work closely with the governor's office to support effective state policies.

Leadership

CASB will equip boards to effectively govern their school districts to improve student achievement.

Advocacy

CASB will advocate for accountable change and reform in public education that is responsive to local community values.

Services

CASB will provide programs and services that help members respond to districts' changing needs.

Adopted by CASB Board of Directors, January 2007

Colorado Association of School Boards



Contact

"The Core Online Policy service saves both district and CASB personnel valuable time, and reduces turn around time for clarifying questions."

Rose Cronk
superintendent
Woodland Park Re-2

Colorado Association of School Boards

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Did You Know?

CASB staff performed one third of all the 2007-2008 superintendent searches in Colorado. Professional and knowledgeable staff worked with 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.

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