

FROM THE EDITOR

Lists: From Trivial to Serious



Are you a list person? Are you someone who can't wait to find out the end-of-year bests and worsts? When you look for information, do you want it to be broken out for you into simple, quickly read, disposable chunks?

If the answer is yes, then you'll love this issue.

Yes, we realize it's only July, but our justification for this month's cover story is that it's the end of the school year. And while most listmakers look at the top 10, we decided to go with lists of five instead.

Simply titled "Lists," this month's cover package by *ASBJ*'s editors covers everything from the trivial to the very serious. Yes, the subject matter of the lists is subjective, but I think you'll find many that are practical and instructive as well.

For example, take a look at Senior Editor Naomi Dillon's list of five knee-jerk reactions that could prove costly. It has a host of tips that you should consider when making tough budget decisions, if not before.

Another list, actually two for the price of one, comes courtesy of Senior Editor Del Stover, who focuses on the five ways your school board can excel and follows that up with five ways to make your board fail.

Or check out this list, from Senior Editor Lawrence Hardy, which looks at "Five reforms that failed" and includes a few words on those on which the jury

remains out.

We hope you enjoy them.

Also this month, *ASBJ* welcomes back Kelley Carey, a frequent contributor who writes for us on facilities planning. This month's feature, "Avoiding the Costly Mistake," provides you with critical information on how to plan the site of new facilities.

As Kelley notes, what you don't know about your enrollment *will* hurt you, especially when you are building new schools. And as a longtime facilities planner who has written more than a dozen articles for the magazine over the past decade, Kelley knows what he is talking about.

It's a good and somewhat sobering read, especially when you consider how many districts have made such simple-to-avoid mistakes.

In August, *ASBJ* will publish its fourth annual "New Board Member and Administrator Guide." As always, we are looking for tips and sound advice from you. If you have any ideas for topics, or advice for those who are in similar positions, please send me an e-mail at gcook@nsba.org. I would love to hear what you have to say.

And who knows, maybe it will show up in a list some time.

Until next month ... ■

Glenn Cook, Editor-in-Chief