

# FROM THE EDITOR

## Money Management and More

The central office where I once worked was an L-shaped building. The bottom part of the L was devoted to curriculum and instruction and personnel. The top part of the L included the board room, the entrance to the basement, the child nutrition department, and finance.

When you walked through the finance department, the floor squeaked—literally squeaked. The running joke, especially around budget time, was that it was due to the finance director being so tight.

The squeaky floor, in fact, was an apt metaphor for a low-wealth, recently consolidated district that tried everything it could to remain on steady financial footing. As Senior Editor Naomi Dillon reports in her cover story, “Managing Your Money,” on Page 18, we were not alone.

Naomi’s story, which includes a number of solid tips and practices for you to consider during budget time, is one of a number in this issue that focuses on finance-related issues. In addition to features on the lottery and commercialism, I’d like to call your attention to two columns written by our two newest contributing editors.

In “Building a Budget” on Page 50, Governance columnist Doug Eadie discusses how the board can be involved in the budget process in a meaningful way. In “The End at the Beginning” on Page 48, Money colum-

nist Charles K. Trainor talks about the negotiation of superintendent contracts, and the pitfalls boards face if they do not carefully look at exit payments.

Doug, who has written 16 books on board and CEO leadership, is the author of *Five Habits of High-Impact School Boards*. Charles, or “Chuck” as he likes to be called, is a certified internal auditor and a 20-year member of New York’s Briarcliff Manor School Board.

We are very fortunate to have both on board and contributing to the magazine. Readers have long sought more advice on these two topics, and we’re pleased to bring them to you.

Finally, I’d like to call your attention to the magazine’s Up Front and Learn More sections, both of which are designed to provide you with quick takes and resources on topics of interest. Most of the pieces in these sections are compiled by *ASBJ* associate editor Carol Chmelynski, who has done a terrific job of finding nuggets large and small that you will enjoy.

As these sections continue to evolve, we’d like to hear what you think. Please send us an e-mail at [editorial@asbj.com](mailto:editorial@asbj.com), or fax a letter to us at (703) 549-6719.

Until next month...

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