

## **Annual Convention Breakout Descriptions**

*Saturday, December 5, 2009*

*(Alphabetical Listing)*

### ***Achieving District Accreditation***

AdvancED District Accreditation is a powerful systems approach, which recognizes that increasing student achievement involves more than improving instruction. This session will focus on how District Leadership and the School Board can work together to improve student performance and organizational effectiveness, while providing an internationally-recognized mark of quality for the school district, its schools, students, teachers and the community.

*Dr. Susanna Murphy, State Director, NCA Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement*

### ***The AVID Program in New Mexico***

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a college readiness program designed to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges. Nationally, AVID is in over 4,000 schools in 45 states. Statewide, it is in 10 districts and 28 schools. This session will share information about the program and provide AVID teachers and students the opportunity to share their success stories.

*Mike Chambers, Superintendent, Magdalena Municipal Schools*

### ***Business Process Improvement for School Districts***

Business process improvement (BPI) is a systematic, process-oriented approach that improves effectiveness and efficiency of business processes to reduce administrative costs in managing operational and capital funds by 5 to 20 percent of total budget – and sends the money back into the classroom. During periods of declining funding, BPI is a critical tool for protecting vulnerable academic programs from cost-cutting measures.

*Peter Baston, CEO and Lilli Segre, Managing Partner, IDEAS Business Technology Integration*

### ***Creating Effective School-Community Partnerships***

Promoting and supporting parent involvement in the education of all children has been a priority of the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at the local, state, national and international level for its more than 100 years. This session will: highlight the research that links family involvement to student success; introduce PTA's National Standards for Family-School-Community Partnerships; and explore effective strategies for creating and sustaining effective family-school partnerships.

*Mrs. Radiums Guess, National Service Representative of the National PTA; Mercedes Sandoval, President and Sue Holland, President-Elect of the New Mexico PTA*

### ***Discipline of Students with Disabilities***

This presentation will examine the legal requirements governing discipline of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including short-term suspensions, long-term suspension and expulsion; removal for drugs, weapons and serious bodily injury; the services that must be provided during a disciplinary removal; the authority of school personnel; and the role of the IEP team.

*Elena M. Gallegos and Carol S. Helms, Attorney in the Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Aldridge & Gallegos Law Firm*

### ***Employment Practices and ADA Compliance***

Congress has enacted major changes in the federal laws addressing discrimination against people with disabilities – the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504. These changes will affect virtually every aspect of school operations including but not limited to employment practices. This session identifies the major employment issues school districts will encounter and offers practical solutions for legal compliance.

*Carol S. Helms and Karla A. Schultz, Attorney in the Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Aldridge & Gallegos Law Firm*

### ***High Expectations for All***

High performing schools have high expectations – for everyone from the school board to the classroom. Learn about the policies, procedures, and tools that ensure all schools within the system have and effectively utilize the resources necessary to bring about and sustain high performance from all students. Knowing what to expect and how to measure it will transform the entire district.

*Dr. Lester Beason, State Director, JBHM Education Group*

### ***Implementing Sunshine Laws***

What counts as a public record? What are your obligations under the Open Meetings Act? This session will answer your questions about the Inspection of Public Records Act and the Open Meetings Act. We'll also discuss the cost – in real dollars – of secrecy and show you how statute and legal precedence make a clear case for embracing transparency.

*Sarah Welsh, Executive Director, NM Foundation for Open Government*

### ***Investigating Employee Misconduct***

Investigating employee misconduct is complicated, including issues ranging from misuse of funds, sexual harassment, mistreatment of students, and/or misuse of technology. This session explores how to conduct a thorough, accurate, and fair investigation while maintaining effective work relations among interested parties. The session also addresses witness interviews, documentation, the collection and preservation of evidence, and disciplinary actions.

*Chris G. Elizalde and Karla A. Schultz, Attorneys in the Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Aldridge & Gallegos Law Firm*

### ***Making Schools Safer!***

An effective school security program consists of more than just the state-mandated crisis management plan. This workshop will provide you with the tools you need to collaboratively and holistically approach school safety and security. Attendees will learn how to address the most current threats, implement site-specific strategies, and access helpful resources.

*Paul Timm, President, RETA Security, Inc.*

### ***Marketing Your Schools***

Today traditional public schools, charter schools, home schooling and private schools are all competing for the same students. When other schools take your students, they take not only the funding attached to those students, but also voter and community support. Learn the techniques of effective marketing and utilizing competition as a catalyst to increase enrollment, recruit quality teachers and improve community support.

*Vicki Smith, Educational Consultant and former school board member and NMSBA officer*

### ***Parent Involvement in Student Success***

This interactive workshop addresses how parents can help their children create a positive future with education as the cornerstone. The presentation will center on: the barrier busters to parent involvement; three keys for building academic achievement; and motivating children from the inside out.

*Dr. Patty O'Sullivan, Executive Director, Envision Your Future*

### ***Q&A About Internal Audits***

Follow-up session with keynote speaker Charles K. Trainor. Taxpayers want assurances from their school boards that their money is being spent wisely and efficiently. As economic conditions deteriorate there are increased occurrences of fraud and abuse in our schools. Come seek advice and ask questions regarding financial oversight, internal audit controls and fraud prevention in your district.

*Charles K. Trainor, Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Fraud Examiner*

### ***Reductions in Force Revisited***

In our dire economic climate, with state-mandated budget cuts and declining student populations, it is critical that School Board members and Superintendents carefully comply with Reduction in Force (RIF) policies, develop and implement legally defensible RIF plans and provide the requisite level of "due process" to those staff members affected.

*John F. Kennedy, Attorney and Partner in the Cuddy & McCarthy Law Firm*

### ***Scheuer, Yost & Patterson's Bring Your Best Question***

Come armed with your toughest school law predicament for the attorneys at SYP to tackle.

*Charlotte H. Hetherington and Tony F. Ortiz, Attorneys in the Scheuer, Yost & Patterson Law Firm*

### ***The School Athletics Equity Act***

The 2009 Legislature adopted rigorous new requirements for data gathering and reporting, to be completed over the next two or three years, to assure nondiscrimination and gender equity in athletics programs conducted in grades seven through twelve. Planning for compliance will require that School Boards, Superintendent and Athletic Directors reorient their programs and budgets to reflect the comparability in opportunities, as required by Title IX.

*Andrew M. Sanchez, Attorney and Partner in the Cuddy & McCarthy Law Firm*

### ***The School Board and Curriculum***

The word "curriculum" means more than the names of school subjects offered or the textbooks and other programs used. Curriculum decisions are among the most important made in schools, and boards can and should contribute in appropriate ways. Participants will explore a variety of ideas about curriculum and learn the roles school boards should play in fostering robust curriculum development.

*Alan W. Garrett, Master Board Member and Member of the Portales Municipal Schools BOE*

### ***Stump the Lawyer***

An NMSBA tradition! Join the lawyers of Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP and get the answers to your burning school law questions! The session may begin with a brief update on legal developments. Stump the lawyer and win a prize!

*C. Emery Cuddy, Jr., Attorney and Partner in the Cuddy & McCarthy Law Firm*

***'Tis the Season to be Jolly***

A review of the legal issues surrounding school holiday events in the classroom and assemblies. When is a Christmas tree just a tree?

*Tony F. Ortiz and Charlotte H. Hetherington, Attorneys in the Scheuer, Yost & Patterson Law Firm*

***Top 5 Legal Issues That Hit the School District Budget***

A small number of legal issues are repeat offenders when it comes to impacting school district funds. This presentation names the “offenders” and dissects decisions and/or actions that routinely result in money flowing through the legal budget instead of the educational needs of students. This session delves into how your district can stop the cycle and minimize legal costs.

*Panel of Attorneys in the Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Aldridge & Gallegos Law Firm*

***Technology Issues and the Schools***

Come visit with the attorneys of Scheuer, Yost & Patterson about the tough technology issues facing districts – from Facebook and staff technology abuse to public records requests for email and maintenance of electronic discovery.

*Tony F. Ortiz and Charlotte H. Hetherington, Attorneys in the Scheuer, Yost & Patterson Law Firm*