

## 2009 Leader's Retreat Session Descriptions

### **Improving board relations through thinking styles**

***Scott Childress, Former Superintendent and Education Consultant***

Session will introduce participants to a key explanation on how School Boards can work together. Thinking styles are the way individuals solve problems. Everyone uses creativity in problem solving, but how they use their preferred style can be a source of conflict. The Alamogordo School Board will demonstrate how this can be used in conjunction with Stages of Board Development.

Topic Strand: Boardsmanship

Level: Advanced

### **Making board meetings run more smoothly**

***C. Emery "Buck" Cuddy and John F. Kennedy, Attorneys with the Cuddy McCarthy Law Firm***

Overly formal parliamentary procedure issues can become an impediment to the smooth functioning of board meetings. A simplified set of procedures will be shared as an alternate to Roberts Rules of Order with a description of the differences.

Topic Strand: Boardsmanship /Legal Issues

Level: Advanced

### **Managing the manager**

***Tony Ortiz, Attorney with the Scheuer, Yost & Patterson Law Firm***

Board member tips on identifying qualities and qualifications for selecting a superintendent, developing goals for the district and measuring superintendent performance. Discussion will include ways to establish board/superintendent relationships that set the tone for a high performing district, how to manage superintendent performance issues and win/win process for ending the relationship.

Topic Strand: Administration /Boardsmanship

Level: Advanced

### **Off-campus cyber issues**

***Elena Gallegos, Carol Helms, Mary Jenke and Karla Schultz, Attorneys with the Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Aldridge & Gallegos Law Firm***

Whether it is school board e-mails, employee Facebook accounts, or student texting, this session will cover the impact of off-campus cyber conduct of employees, students, and even board members can have on school operations. Discussion will include suggestions for practical approaches to these potential problems.

Topic Strand: Technology

Level: Advanced

### **Open meeting issues for board leaders**

***C. Emery "Buck" Cuddy and John F. Kennedy, Attorneys with the Cuddy McCarthy Law Firm***

Although school district staff has the primary responsibility for technical compliance with the Open Meetings Act, board leaders must be knowledgeable about the OMA in order to make sure that the staff fulfills the requirements of the Act. This session will concentrate on the technical compliance issues and the board's obligation to insure compliance.

Topic Strand: Boardsmanship /Legal Issues

Level: Advanced

### **Systems Approach – What is the role of the school board?**

***Alicia Hatch and Marlane Parra, Consultants with Jim Shipley and Associates***

The New Mexico PED and many other school districts are utilizing a "systems approach" for improvement and performance excellence. This session will provide school board members with a toll for assessing its capacity for providing the leadership needed to support the district. It is essential that the board and the district establish a common language and understanding of "continuous improvement".

Topic Strand: Boardsmanship/Student Achievement

Level: Advanced

### **Understanding all those bond documents**

***Al Clemmons, PhD, Senior Vice President and Financial Advisor for George K. Baum & Co. and Patricia Salazar Ives, Attorney with the Cuddy McCarthy Law Firm***

In order to issue general obligation bonds, a school board has to adopt a series of formal resolutions. This session will provide a roadmap of the resolution adoption process from the calling of the election to the final approval of the sale of the bonds, with an explanation for why it is so critical for the documents to be correct, and the board leaders' responsibilities for proper adoption and execution of the documents. There will also be an update on current school financial issues.

Topic Strand: Finance/Legal Issues

Level: Advanced