

aasbo

Alabama Association of School Business Officials

2023 Robert Morton Award District Nominees

AASBO is pleased to announce the 2023 district nominees for the Robert L. Morton Award. This award is named in honor of the late Robert L. Morton, former assistant superintendent of administration and finance for the Alabama State Department of Education. This award recognizes outstanding Chief School Finance Officers devoted to going above and beyond to do their job and to serve their community. AASBO seeks to recognize individuals who are trying to make a difference in the lives of their peers and subordinates and have set new standards for themselves and their colleagues in their profession. Congratulations to the district nominees.



District 1
Chad Green, Gulf Shores City

Chad Green has been employed with Gulf Shores City Schools for 4 years as the Chief School Financial Officer. He was previously employed by Satsuma City Schools as their

Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to that he worked in public accounting for five years. He is a graduate of Huntingdon College with a Bachelor's in Accounting and The University of South Alabama with a Master's Degree in Accounting. He also is a Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations (SFO). He is an active member of the Association of School Business Officials International and was recently awarded the Emerging Leaders Scholarship in 2022. He resides in Gulf Shores with his wife, Sarah Beth and their two children, Margaret and Chance.



District 2
Alisa Benson, Chilton County

Alisa Benson has been employed with the Chilton County Board of Education for the past 2 years as the CSFO. Prior to that, she was employed with the Autauga County Board of Education as CSFO for 6 years and with the Alabama Department of Education for 8 years working on both the State Department of Education side and the Local Education Agency side. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of South Carolina and her Master of Business Administration from Troy University. In 2020, she received her SFO certification from ASBO International. Prior to moving to Alabama, she was a junior high teacher in the New Orleans area. She has four sons and one grandson and enjoys spending her time with them.



District 3
Katie Odom, Andalusia City

Katie Odom has been employed with the Andalusia City Board of Education for the past 9 years as the Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to her employment with the Andalusia

City Board of Education, she worked in public accounting for 10 years. She graduated from Troy University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Accounting as well as a Master of Business Administration with a focus in Accounting. She has been married to her husband Kiel Odom for 19 years and they have three boys, Matthew (11), Eli (9), and John Michael (3).



District 4
Jason Mann, Elmore County

Jason Mann has been employed with the Elmore County Board of Education for the past 7 years as the Chief School Finance Officer. Prior to his employment with the Elmore County Board of Education he worked for 5 years with the LEA Accounting Department of the Alabama State Department of Education as a Team Accountant. He is a graduate of Troy University with a Bachelor in Business Administration. He also is a graduate of Louisiana State University with a Master of Business Administration, and is also a national certified School Finance Officer (SFO).



District 5
Sarita Price, Pelham City

Sarita Price has been employed with the Pelham City Board of Education for the past 3-1/2 years as the Chief School Financial Officer (CSFO). She also worked as CSFO with the Muscle Shoals Board of Education for 5 years, Alabaster City Board of Education for 1-1/2 years, and Hartselle City Board of Education for 6 years. Prior to beginning her career in school finance, she served as Assistant Business Manager at Calhoun Community College, Assistant Financial Aid Director at Athens State University, and was an Examiner with the State of Alabama Examiners of Public Accounts. She also has experience as a

bookkeeper/Office Manager in a small manufacturing industry, an auto dealership, and in banking. She is a graduate of Athens State University with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and is a licensed CPA and SFO. She is an active member of Alabama Association of School Business Officials and ASBO International. She is also an active member of the Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama and has served as Board Member, Treasurer, Vice President, and President for the organization.



District 6
Robert Jordan, Oxford City

Robert E. Jordan has been employed with the Oxford City Board of Education for the past 27 years as the Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to his employment with Oxford City, he worked in public accounting for seven years. He is a 1988 graduate of Jacksonville State University with a B.S. in Accounting and has been a CPA since 1992. In addition to being a member of AASBO, he is a member of the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



District 7
Danny Higdon, Tuscaloosa County

Danny Higdon has been employed with the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education for 16 1/2 years (2005 – 2020 and 2021 – present) and is the CSFO. He has held the position of CFO/Director of Finance, Director of Accounting and Coordinator of Accounting. Prior to his employment with Tuscaloosa County, he worked with the City of Northport as the Assistant Finance Director and Auditor. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama with Bachelors of Science in Commerce and Business Administration. He earned his School

Business Official certification in 2008 from AASBO and his Payroll/Personnel certification in 2011. He is a former member of the Alabama Revenue Officers Association (AMROA) where he served as Treasurer, President, and Chairman of the Board. He is also a former member of the Alabama Army National Guard and achieved the rank of Captain. He has been married to his wife Mitzi for 36 years and has three sons and five grandchildren.



District 8
Serena Owsley, Athens City

Serena Owsley has been employed with Athens City School Board of Education for the past 26 years. She has served as CSFO for 7 years. She has also served as assistant superintendent since 2018. During her years at Athens City Schools, she has held the position of bookkeeper, payroll coordinator and accounting supervisor. Prior to entering Public Education with Athens City Schools, she worked for a private CPA firm as a tax accountant and auditor for 5 years.

She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She received the ASBO International Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations (SFO) in 2018. In addition to being a member of AASBO and ASBO, she is also a member of SSA, CLAS, AASPA and ASPMA.

Serena has been married to her husband, Charles for 37 years. They have 2 daughters, a son, 2 son-in-law's and 5 beautiful grandchildren.



District 9
Cindy Parker, Blount County

Cindy has been employed by the Blount County Board of Education for 9 years as the Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to her employment with the Blount County Board of Education she worked as the Controller with a private corporation for 14 years and then in 2002, she became a local school bookkeeper and worked for 10 years. She is a graduate from Faulkner University with a Business Administration degree. She also has Master's in Accounting from The University of Alabama in Birmingham. In June 2017, she obtained her SFO Certification from ASBO International. Cindy resides in Hayden with her husband of 36 years. She has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.