



CBO MENTOR WORKSHOP
August 22-23, 2008

How would you rate Fridays "Debt Financing" session?

Unsatisfactory		0	0%
Poor		0	0%
Average		0	0%
Above Average		3	12%
Excellent		21	88%

Please give us examples on how we can improve the "Debt Financing" session?

1	Great data presented on a growing trend and how school districts and tax payers are being "cheated"
2	Lori and Jonathan hit on an area in which I do not have alot of experience. It was great. A review of the type of circumstances we will need to use this information, if it wasn't all inclusive, would be helpful.
3	Change to a Sat morning.
4	The session was very informative and entertaining. Lori's passion & knowledge are very transparent and inspiring. The only improvement I can see would be to allot a little more time for Lori.
5	Excellent Speaker. Very informative and kept my attention throughout. Her presentation made me want to learn even more on this topic
6	It was a little long for the time allotted. If we had planned on a longer time period, I don't think it would have felt long. Lori is a very gifted presenter and made it interesting.
7	Too long. Too much detail.
8	Expand the time. In addition to the lap top you had us bring, having an HP calculator also is helpful.
9	That session was fantastic! No recommendations.
10	It was great! Informative and entertaining. I thought it was a good mix of "high finance" with the basics.
11	I think 2 hours was not enough time. I would like to see this more of a 4 hour session.
12	Awesome! Very energetic in a topic that often can be a snoozer. I told Francie that they need to come back for a stand-up routine at every session. More constructive though - great content. Would have liked to go through a case study. What might that negotiation process look like. Is it common practice the way they develop contracts for bonds?
13	Work through an actual bond placement, show who does what, what it should cost and what others have been paying. Go through the exact math on a bond issue.
14	No examples - GFS is great!
15	Perhaps some info on what appropriate charges would be- I was kind of left with the thought that everyone was going to take advantage of us...
16	I think the speaker we had was engaging as well as entertaining.
17	It was very interesting. Maybe you could give more time for the presentation so it is not so rushed.
18	More time for this subject.
19	Expand the time. The speaker was dynamic and informative.




How would you rate the “Staying out of Trouble / What's ahead in these Difficult Budget Times” Session?

Unsatisfactory		0	0%
Poor		0	0%
Average		0	0%
Above Average		5	21%
Excellent		19	79%

Please give us examples on how we can improve the "Staying out of Trouble / What's ahead in these Difficult Budget Times” session.

1	I recognized some challenges that my district is facing and the need to address quickly
2	None.
3	On it's own, Friday night.
4	I thought this session was just as great as the one prior. Joel really put things into perspective. Only improvement I can see would be to maybe schedule this on a separate night that the debt financing. This way for those who have questions have the time and energy to ask them.
5	Great Advise
6	Joel did great. I wouldn't have minded a longer time slot to hear his stories.
7	Joel was great, as usual.
8	It was a very good combination of general trends, entertaining "stories", and warnings about what is to come. I appreciated the emphasis on FCMAT being available to everyone before trouble arises.
9	Great session. It's really nice to know what to watch out for.
10	Joel was great! Good stories despite at the expense of OUSD. I would appreciate to have more narrative and maybe a case study on what happened over time to get these Districts into trouble and having a discussion with the group about that. Perhaps that will help trigger flags if any of us are ever in this situation.
11	Just let Joel go.....
12	No - Joel is a wealth of information.
13	It was good- no suggestions
14	This was a great presentation as well. More time would have made this presentation even better.
15	No need for improvement
16	Actual scenarios are always good...




How would you rate the Saturday "Financial Reporting I" morning session? session?

Unsatisfactory		0	0%
Poor		0	0%
Average		3	12%
Above Average		12	48%
Excellent		10	40%

Please give us examples on how we can improve the "Financial Reporting I" session.

1	These presentations are helpful and real life examples make the data more meaningful
2	In reflecting on this, I would like to know in what circumstances you would want to make sure you roll this information out for clarity.
3	I thought the morning exercise to explain the Revenue Limits was challenging but a great way to really understand something rather complex.
4	This was a great exercise and preparation for the presentations was challenging. I enjoyed hearing all the presentations. (Tough to keep to 5 minutes though..)
5	More time for the PowerPoint presentations.
6	It is good to break up the financial reporting sessions with other activities, in order to digest the information.
7	Another great session in teaching us what to look for at financial data.
8	More interactive examples - It helps to apply topics when possible.
9	It was good- a little bit more time would have been great!
10	Discussing financials is just a dry topic. For me, the more hands on activities there are the better it is. Maybe adding more hands on group work would make this information easier to understand.
11	Allow time for group activities
12	Wonderful when Francie is talking, and we're asking questions. However, the presentations (ours) can be a bit repetitive. . . [continued in next comment]

How would you rate the morning "Saturday's "Leadership Laws I" morning session" session?

Unsatisfactory		0	0%
Poor		0	0%
Average		3	12%
Above Average		11	44%
Excellent		11	44%

Please give examples on how we can improve the morning saturday's "Leadership Laws I" morning session.

1	You are giving us some great reading material
2	Our group overprepared.. . handouts, powerpoint, etc. It may be by design that we weren't told to put all papers down and "go" to help us think on our feet. If not, these directions would reduce some planning stress.
3	We were all great. Good summations on the laws.
4	Despite my performance, I do believe in being able to communicate succinctly. My only suggestion on the next session is to make the presentation timeframes & expectations very clear.
5	I screwed up on knowing what what was wanted on the presentation
6	I enjoyed the book and got a lot out of it, and I thought the mode of presentation on the 21 laws was a great method to utilize. However, our group was a bit confused on the assignment and weren't sure if there was going to be a presentation, or just group discussion.
7	The book was excellent and I would expect to refer to it often in the future. The presentations and group discussions were also very helpful. My only suggestion might be to be more specific on exactly what was expected for the project. Our group did not understand that we would be giving "separate" presentations. When the term "jigsaw" was used in the assignment, we all thought we would be mixing into other groups for a group discussion. However, it did give us the experience of adjusting to a last minute unknown!
8	Although I missed part of the presentation, I did everyone did a great job in explaining the laws.
9	Not a comment that will create improvement, but I liked the way you bounced through the presentation of the laws.
10	Fun, and good too see all the team work
11	I like the 2 minute speaking drills, it is a good skill to have. However, individual feedback on how we can improve our 2 minute presentations would make these exercises more relevant.
12	I would have liked more feedback on our presentations
13	Leadership discussions are always great and very beneficial.....however, it takes time away from learning how to be a CBO.....always a balancing act.....
14	One of the better "team" activities. Memorable and meaningful.
15	[continuing] I realize that it's important for us to develop public presentation abilities, but there is definitely a trade-off between student skills practice, and the informational value of the sessions. [continued]




How would rate the afternoon "Leadership Laws II "afternoon session?

Unsatisfactory		0	0%
Poor		0	0%
Average		5	21%
Above Average		9	38%
Excellent		11	46%

Please give us examples on how we can improve the afternoon " Leadership Laws II"afternoon session.

1	The group projects are great/challenging exercises
2	We birdwalked some but did come up with the list. I think we were out of gas a bit. No suggestions.
3	Some of us had trouble keeping the presentation to 5 minutes.
4	More time for specific ideas.
5	same as above
6	I don't remember having this session in the afternoon, but I really like this topic as it makes me more aware as to how to become a better/effective leader.
7	same as above
8	Give it more time.
9	same as above
10	The time restraints feel artificial and at times interfere with the learning. The focus becomes on the structure rather than the content.
11	For both the "Financial" and the "Leadership" sessions (especially the Financial), I wish we could have had much more time hearing from Francie and Bill, and less time hearing each other say the same things! :-)




How would you rate the "Financial Reporting II " afternoon session?

Unsatisfactory		0	0%
Poor		0	0%
Average		3	13%
Above Average		9	39%
Excellent		11	48%

Please give us examples on how we can improve the afternoon "Financial Reporting II" session.

1	Again, real life examples and stories add to the presentation
2	It provided a base of understanding for those who don't deal with this daily. A brief review of the list made from questions regarding what we want out of this session would have helped to assure each was answered. Maybe asking Joel what specific areas the teachers union is training people on and making sure we are up to speed.
3	Anytime you can incorporate activities, especially with the budget, I understand the lesson better.
4	Very informative
5	same as above
6	Gives me more ideas as to what to look for and to say things in a different manner.
7	Obviously time, but most everyone in this group knows the SACS codes, if they do not, then provide a primer for those prior to the meeting, and go over common mistakes in coding, what to look for, and what does not look right???
8	No examples that would to improve
9	No need to improve any session that let's us out at 2pm!!!
10	Allow more time
11	Everything is great and I am learning a great deal.....wish there could be a bit more opportunity to take what is presented and review during the intervening weeks.....for example it would have been good to have an assignment with debt financing and your current district.....allows you to review the concepts and apply to your situation.....then discuss with your team the following session...

What is your overall rating of this session?

Unsatisfactory		0	0%
Poor		0	0%
Average		1	4%
Above Average		8	32%
Excellent		16	64%

Please give us your comments on how can we improve the overall session.

	As always - another great session - I have already utilized the data link for an inquiry from a board member - Thanks Christina!
2	I thought the information was very useful. I've met with both, the Supt. and the Budget Manager, this morning to review information received from this week. It seems that we all over-prepare but the process is helping us be concise with presentations and improve out "thinking on our feet". The weekends force us to put everyday things aside and work on developing as a professional. I appreciate it.
3	Split the financial into two days.
4	I thought overall the session was great. As stated earlier, the only suggestion I have is to break up Lori and Joel into two different days.
5	It was a very good session and the preparation for it especially challenged us and helped us grow.
6	Don't worry about going over 9pm
7	Best session to date!
8	Would it be helpful to have some of the presentation information ahead of time so that we could review and be ready with questions? Sometimes there is so much to digest that questions aren't formed until later.
9	Everything is great so far.
10	Is it possible to do case studies around some of these topics. I find it useful to not just have the code, basic terminology, and basic exercise but to also go through a challenging situation for a District on how they managed to turn around position control or how they were able to better manage the operation of special education.
11	No additional comments
12	I thought it was excellent that we stayed until 10:00 on Friday and left at 2pm on Saturday. That extra hour gained me 3 hours of my weekend with my family- thank you!!
13	The sessions were all very interesting. Other than more time I don't know how they could be improved.
14	see 13
15	Very useful session. Friday was energizing and that carried over into Saturday. As always a good deal of info to digest.