

EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT FINANCE SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE



Illinois Government Finance Officers Association



How satisfied were you with Opening Speaker Laurie Guest?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
61	1	0	0	0	62

How satisfied were you with the conference registration process?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
61	1	0	0	0	62

How satisfied were you with the conference facilities?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
55	6	1	0	0	62

How satisfied were you with the conference overall?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
45	14	2	0	0	61

What improvements or suggestions for topics do you recommend for next year's conference?

Although I know it's not always feasible, it would be better if the sessions could have been grouped together at least all on one floor.
 Content none. Tables were too close to be able to get in and even set down to.
 Different topics with timely content and more time allotted per session.
 Each session needed more time for participation/questions. Perhaps it needs to be a 2-day conference.
 Go back to IASBO only. I preferred going to Bloomington in the past (closer to home) because all sessions related to schools. Or at least be more specific about who topics are geared for - perhaps using small icons to recommend who (school, municipality, etc) would benefit most.
 Have someone tell the speaker how much time they have, a timer or something, so maybe they can get through all their material.
 Have the conference in Chicago.
 I realize you are trying to give everyone enough for their buck. but there were other sessions I would

I realize you are trying to give everyone enough for them back, but there were other sessions I would like to have attended. And I am not sure how to fix that. I also like to have some time to interact/share with other people in the same job as I, lunch was just too quick. And again I realize you are on a time schedule. I do appreciate having this conference downstate for those of us who can't attend the conference in Chicago. At least we don't feel left out.

I think that the speakers need more time to present there sessions.

I wish that I had covered the last 2 session over a 2 day period. One day was simply not long enough for me.

I would attend the ones that I missed this time. Time management, minutes, Paperless Board meetings, Board Book, Technology use. Lots of great ones to choose from.

I would like to see more sessions addressing employee benefits/more payroll-specific information.

If the conference is at a facility with multiple levels, you might want to consider having drinks available on multiple levels. The elevator wait was very long and you did not have time to stop back into the refreshment room unless you were passing it.

Just longer sessions

Make the sessions last longer than an hour.

More in depth payroll sessions.

More time between the sessions. It seemed all sessions went over and the other sessions started on time. Lunch was very rushed.

More time needed between sessions and probably another 1/2 hour needed for lunch. I realize that facilitators would have to limit their presentations and I know that is not always possible.

None

none

Not so cold

Nothing everything went well I really enjoyed it and I cant wait for next years conference.

PCard

Possibly offer some of the sessions twice if the conference were longer so that an attendee could get to one of them if something else is offered that they would rather go to at the same time. The office staff usually do not get invited to attend the joint conference in Chicago, so many of the topics offered there would be beneficial to us.

Some of the topics like the FOIA should be extended in time length. With all of the regulations that are changing, need more time to explain.

Tables were too crowded in the breakout sessions.

The Holiday Inn accommodations are less than desirable. I am a non-smoker but the only room available was a smoking room. I didn't even know hotels still provided for smokers. I would rethink attendance at the conference if that is the only accommodation available.

There could be a more precise description of what the breakout session will cover and who it really is geared to.

There were several of us that thought that lunch was "on your own" - since no room was indicated on the program. If it hadn't been for one of us overhearing another, four of us would have gone out for lunch.

This is the first time I have attended the conference. It was very informative but some of the presenters did not get over everything before they ran out of time. Maybe allot more time for the sessions, or the speakers should condense their presentation more.

Time management is a good topic, but need to present some workable suggestions, or field some questions with ideas for resolving issues. Basically, everyone comes from the same type of job so if one person is having an issue, most likely several others in the room are, too. So response to questions from the attendees on specific areas of concern would be appreciated.

Too new to suggest yet

Try to have it not with other groups. We registered early and still couldn't get a room in the same hotel.

Update on FOIA & IL Open Meetings Act since the laws continue to change.

Would have liked to attend a few of the other conferences, but they conflicted with ones I was attending.

Would like to hear more about record keeping and length of time certain records are to be kept, certain records that can never be destroyed. I would like to hear more on this subject.

General Comments?

All in all I enjoyed the day. Thanks for all your hard work.

As I had attended one in Bloomington several years ago, it seemed to be a repeat - but appreciate having one closer and not having to drive 4-5 hours.

Being so new to the position that I hold, I was impressed with the manner in which the conference grabbed my attention. There is so much to learn and it will take attendance at several more conferences to gather what it is that I need to know. I'm sure you'll see me in the future. Well done. Definitely keep this conference up. This type of training is invaluable. I would be interested in 1 1/2 days, but starting at 8:30/9:00 so that many could driver up in a.m., stay overnight, then finish up around 1 p.m. on day two. Job well done to all who organized this conference. Thanks. Excellent use of my time. Thank you for offering it to us.

Have staff remind speakers of time remaining or help with time mgmt. Needed the 15 minutes to "move" given the elevator situation. 3 floors was awkward. Lunch was good; we were very rushed with dessert arriving at nearly 1 PM. Would prefer getting a "tickler" reminder since registered 3 months out. Early start time!

I am hoping to get others from our office to join me next year. Lots of great information for many areas of the administrative offices to use.

I feel that I learned a lot from the day.

I found all presentors to be well knowledged in their area and everyone did their best to stay "on time" which we all know can be difficult. I truely appreciated having lunch provided. It gave me time to discuss the items I learned with other support staff and compare ideas.

I got sick and did not get to attend any afternoon sessions.

I thought it was a very good conference, I sure did like the guest speaker.

I wish you would offer a gluten free lunch option.

I work for a community college and would like to see some sessions relating to our specific area.

Overall a very informative conference.

I would have liked to have seen some of the topics, like the legal responsibilities of the support staff repeated at another session. There were 2 or 3 other sessions that looked interesting, but they were only offered once.

It is great to have such a funny opening speaking, it sets the tone for the whole day!!

Laurie Guest was a GREAT motivational speaker, could have listened to her longer. Appreciated the refreshments, snacks and meal.

Loved Laurie Guest! Will highly recommend any conference she speaks at!

Loved the speaker!

My last 3 sessions were all in "Plaza D" where it was way too cold. I am rarely chilled but was very glad I had brought a jacket. (If only I had worn socks too.) Though most of my sessions were in 1 room, it was confusing to have rooms on 3 different floors. (I do admit the exercise was good after sitting for an hour.)

Overall, great conference and I would attend again. Thank you.

Perhaps there could be multi levels of programs (a little more indepth for bookkeepers or payroll administrators)where the basics didn't necessarily have to be covered. I thought the program was outstanding & very comprehensive towards all the positions that attended. Thanks for all of your hard work!!

Thanks again for everyone's time and input putting this conference together. Hope to see you all next year.

The conference was very well worth my time. The Opening Speaker (Laurie) was wonderful - she held you captive in a fun way and was so very informative about support staff in the workplace. Most of the time you are the first person parents meet and they guage your district by your attitude. She was excellent - I would love to hear her again. She deserves a "great big" thanks!!!!

The conference was well planned and full of relevant topics that pertained to my job. I hope I can attend another one in the future.

This conference presented very useful information and I look forward to attending future conferences. This is the best conference I have attended - it offered wonderful professional development and information re. legal issues I needed to be aware of.

This was one of the best, most informative conferences I have attended. There were other sessions I wanted to attend, but couldn't because I was already attending another important session, which is a good problem. The Crowne Plaza is also easy access from the interstate. Thank you for a job very well done.

This was the first conference that I went to besides the school board secretary conference in Chicago. I really enjoyed the conference and can't wait till next year. Laurie Guest was great and would like to see her back. There are many break out sessions that would like to attend and was not able to (just not enough time). Thanks for a great conference.

Very glad I came, it was a very long drive. But well worth it!

Well organized conference. I learned alot in areas not necessarily geared to me, but it was a great conference.

Would definitely enjoy hearing Laurie again! KUDO's to all who helped make the event such a success! Time and effort were evident!

Hot Topics in Payroll Administration

TIME: 9:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
4	8	1	0	0	13

Comments

Less examples of fraud, more examples of how to process payroll.

Just needed longer than one hour

The presenter gave us real time examples of TAX cases... but didn't really give us examples of what we are suppose to do. for example he told us about people using cell phones for personal use.. but didn't ever get around to telling us how we are suppose to treat that. He did give email address for questions.. and that was helpful. I was expecting more variety of information from this session.. not just IRS tax information.

Informative

Session could have been longer. He had a lot of information to give us in the time allotted.

Mr Knapp was interesting and informative but I thought there might be more than IRS issues.

Legal Responsibilities of Educational Support Staff

TIME: 9:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
7	3	2	0	0	12

Comments

Very entertaining speaking but explanation of the class in the brochure didn't indicate that it would be strictly for a school building not district superintendent secretary.

I thought the speaker did a very good job - added a little humor and answered many questions. Very good!!

Too much on student records. Most of those attending report directly to the superintendent and do not deal with student records. Otherwise, it was a good session.

Very informative

I received information that was very useful and also learned I am doing things right.

More for school secretaries and dealing with children. Not Supt. secy.

Minutes, Meetings and Records: Making the Most of Minutes

TIME: 9:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
15	4	2	0	0	21

Comments

Great advice from the presenter and the question and answer session is a good way to see how other

Very organized. Anne knows her material!

Anna Lovern is very informative and presented the material in a clear concise way.

Learned some things, but I should have chosen a different session as this didn't apply to my job

Very informative!

Good information. Could have been expanded for more questions.

Even though I have been doing board minutes for five years, this session was quite informative.

I did not gain as much information from this session as I had hoped. When I left, I still had questions.

I found it to be very informative and helpful.

Very good information about what you should and shouldn't include in your minutes.
 Would like to have seen some examples and formats, since I am new I'm not sure it is being done the correct way.
 I'm new in my position so a lot of questions were answered for me.
 The room was a little crowded, making it hard to see the screen in the front.

Online School Board Meetings

TIME: 9:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
3	4	1	0	0	8

Comments

Presenter was a little apprehensive. Some questions were not contemplated.
 Organized, very knowledgeable, and very pleasant. Great presenters.
 Presenters were not good speakers. They did not cover the process of getting a packet online.
 very interesting to actually see the demonstration as opposed to hearing about the benefits
 very informative; personable presenters

School Finance 101

TIME: 9:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
6	2	0	0	0	8

Comments

I went in there as lost as could be and came out with so much information.
 Presenter was very informative and knowledgeable.
 very informative

Budgeting Tips and Tools

TIME: 11:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
4	8	5	0	0	17

Comments

Didn't get a chance to finish the material - maybe this session should be 1 1/2 hrs.

Did not go into much detail

This was geared toward school districts and I am from municipality. Topic didn't really apply to my needs... however was informative and I think that it would have been helpful to school personnel

He didn't get through all his material and I was more interested in what he didn't get too.

Wish it would have been a little longer - very informative but didnt cover all the information in the handouts I think this was a good topic to cover but the presenter probably needed more time to cover everything. He had very good ideas but there is so much involved in budgeting it was hard for him to cover it all in an hour.

The speaker started late and did not get over all the materials.

We didn't get through all the material.

Probably would have good info., but speaker made it half way through his presentation and then time was up. We didn't get to the part I wanted to hear about.

That was a good session. I now have a better understanding into the planning a budget.

Got some good useful general information - presentation could have been more specific on subject to be more helpful. Ran short of time.

Speaker did not have enough time to finish the information he was talking about. Only dissatisfied because the information did not really apply to my job duties.

Very informative just ran out of time

The presenter had excellent information, but he didn't have enough time to cover everything.

Crossing the Divide: Working Effectively with all Generations

TIME: 11:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
0	3	1	0	0	4

Comments

Quite interesting.

Open Meetings Act and Electronic Records

TIME: 11:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
15	10	3	0	0	28

Comments

Again, needed more than one hour

Talked more about FOIA which was to be discussed at a later session.

Very informative

She was very interesting. You could hear her very clearly. You could not hear the people asking questions. It would be helpful if the person stood and faced the crowd or the speaker repeated the questions so that everyone knew what had been asked. The speaker herself was very informative. Very good!!

Not much info on the Open Meetings Act and the pending changes. Info on the Electronic Records

was very thorough.

Q and A portion answered a lot of my questions.

Your presenter seems to know exactly how to bring her knowledge in a manner that we could understand without referring to a law dictionary. Those of us who are not attorneys appreciate that.

Thank you.

Ms. Jones presented information about upcoming changes to the FOIA law that I was unaware of - glad I attended

Speaker allowed 2 attendees to dominate session with their own issues which were mostly about FOIA I found it to be very informative and helpful. Enjoyed Stephanie!

A lot of information to cover in an hour, didn't get to everything.

Very informative.

Very necessary and informative. Suggest that the description include a "disclaimer" that this does not replace working with you district's school board attorney

Not enough time in this session to cover such in-depth topics. Presenter was only able to cover first few bullets on her agenda.

interesting information that will be helpful to me

preferred to stick to OMA. Handouts were very hard to read (dark background made it hard to read the words). Given some contradicting info (quorum vs majority of quorum), but very knowledgeable speaker. Too many questions allowed that got us off track or too specific.

The room was quite large, when a person would ask a question from the front, the people in back could not hear the question - only the answer.

Parliamentary Procedure

TIME: 11:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
2	3	3	1	0	9

Comments

Enjoyed the session!

As a Board secretary, there is really nothing I can do during a meeting to help it run more smoothly other than get frustrated that it is not going well. I wished I had attended one of the other sessions.

This session was quite helpful, but unfortunately, parliamentary procedure can be a little dull & boring. However, the speaker did a good job & made it "less boring".

Great handouts and information. I wish we had a little more time with this session.

Protecting Identities

TIME: 11:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
1	0	2	2	0	5

Comments

This session was not geared towards school employees. Thought it would be more of what a District could do to ensure the privacy of the employees and students.

did not pertain to school districts, if I was not sitting in front I would have left to attend a different session Mr Jurgens knew his topic but the "Red Flag" rules this session covered applied to only 2 people in the room (municipalities, not schools).

Really this pertained more to municipalities, but I'll pass along the info to our CFO. It might be helpful as we expand our registration process (using credit).

More for municipalities, water dept, Gas depart, electric...not schools

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

TIME: 1:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
26	2	0	0	0	28

Comments

This was great as it affects our jobs in the Unit Office tremendously. Stephanie was a great speaker. Again, there was lot of information and many questions. This session could have used some more time. Great!

Same speaker as Open Meetings Act - She did a very good job. She let you know that if she wasn't sure of the answer she aimed you in the right direction to find the answer. She was full of very good information.

Provided everything I had hoped for, did not miss a beat. Answered all my questions in great deal; very thorough presentation. Would recommend everyone attend.

Knowledgeable presenter

Because this is such a hot topic, there was not enough time to cover all attendees wanted to know, but presenters did their best

I found this session to be very informative and helpful, as well! Will definitely be referring back to the handout! Thank you for the "heads up"!

Necessary info about an emerging field.

I realize we have a lot of "housecleaning" to do when I get back to the office.

Appreciated knowledgeable presenter. Again, have to keep the specific questions from just a few people from dominating the time everyone.

Could spend 1 entire day in this session! WOW! It was good, just an hour was not long enough.

Great content & Stephanie is very knowledgeable about FOIA. She is a strong speaker & the session was very informative & enlightening.

Very, very useful. Gained great knowledge. Great presenter.

IASB Press

TIME: 1:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
7	2	0	0	0	9

Comments

Laurel was very good at explaining PRESS. She is a good PR person for the IASB as well. I would feel comfortable contacting her or anyone else at the IASB with questions. Thank you Laurel.

I learned a lot!

Very useful information. I use PRESS often but learned some useful search features within the program.

Not what I thought it would be from the description. Was geared towards updating and maintaining board policy with means for research. Interesting still.

I am a PRESS user. This session was great. Learned more about the service. Very informative.

Relationship Building: Can't We All Just Get Along?

TIME: 1:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
5	1	0	0	0	6

Comments

This workshop was very beneficial. It is very important to learn how to get along in the workplace.

Good interaction, good discussion
 Best session by far!!! Jason Leahy was absolutely the best!!
 Mr. Leahy made this session very fun and provided valuable relationship building ideas.
 Exciting speaker - was able to retrieve a lot of audience participation. Needed more time for session.
 It was nice to hear that some other districts have some of the same issues that we do.

Student Imprest and Activity Accounts

TIME: 1:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
3	5	0	0	0	8

Comments

They really didn't have any guidelines, they just let the audience talk. It was ok.
 Good content, but the speakers were doom and gloom.
 Again - longer session. We didn't even get to the power point - it was all discussion, which was very helpful. But still would have been helpful to hear some actual do's and don'ts.
 very informative, lots of group discussion.

Understanding the Key Concepts of Government Accounting - GAAP / GASB

TIME: 1:00

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
1	1	5	3	0	10

Comments

Very disappointing. Speaker did not have any experience with school districts. Half the class knew more about school finance and regulations than he did. Lasted about 1/2 hour.
 The session did not go for the full hour. I think the topic was a little dry and is probably hard for anyone to present!
 The speaker was not familiar with school accounting - was not that helpful.
 Did not go into GASB much at all - just highlighted the differences between government & industry accounting
 Speaker was fine/Information not relevant to schools in general.
 Speaker wasn't well versed on School Finances
 Speaker was nice enough guy but admitted he never deals with schools. Info wasn't anything a bookkeeper needs to know.

Benefits: Cobra, Section 125, and FMLA

TIME: 2:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
10	5	2	0	0	17

Comments

Wasn't enough time to cover all the material

Could have spent 1 entire day in this session too! Information overload!

Again, very, very useful and gained great knowledge. Great presenter. Tons of information. Ran out of time.

This should have been 3 separate sessions. For myself, this was the most relevant information I received but not enough time to cover all topics.

Again, he didn't get through his material.

There was so much information it was hard to cover all of it in just an hour. I thought the presenter was very knowledgeable and was able to answer questions from the audience but maybe it should have been broken up into two sessions.

Presenter spent too much time on FMLA Law, only had about ten minutes to discuss COBRA and did not even cover Section 125. Maybe next year split these items up or allot more time.

Only had time for FMLA - nothing mentioned about COBRA or 125 plans - which is what I really needed to hear about.

Again lots of information for an hour, didn't get everything covered because of so many questions that everyone had. This shows this a topic that needs a lot of clarification for secretaries.

Most beneficial but spent too much time on FMLA and couldn't get to Section 125 plans. Very good speaker and very helpful with questions. Could have used 2 hours.

This was the BEST session of all that I attended. Well presented & practical examples. HOWEVER... we did not have enough time to cover all of the material. My suggestion would be to split this into 2 or even 3 sessions in the future. There is a lot of information to cover and several people had practical questions that could apply to everyone in the group.

Good Speaker

The speaker had probably three hours of material he could have presented. Ran short of time to cover all of the materials. Learned a lot.

Speaker for this session also did not finish his information. Glad there was a hand out so I can finish looking at it in my spare time.

Good presenter with way too much info for a 1 hour session. Only got through maybe 1/3 of his handout.

Key Revenue Sources for Municipalities

TIME: 2:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
0	1	0	0	0	1

Comments

N/A

Paperless Board Meetings and the Board book

TIME: 2:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
9	5	1	1	0	16

Comments

I registered for this session before our district decided to go with board book, so I already knew what was presented.

The session wasn't as rewarding. Wished there was more interaction. Mostly with a laptop that we could do a mock meeting. I know with budgets that is hard, but I didn't get a lot out of it. It was kind of confusing to me and seems really burdensome.

Our District uses BoardDocs so I was just trying to see what IASB offered. No offense to the presenter, but it was pretty boring.

Laurel definitely has a lot of knowledge about BoardBook, and did an excellent presentation.

Great way to search past board meetings for information discussed. I like the paperless aspect. The overhead was hard to read.

Ms. DiPrima was very informative and I am very interested in learning more about this program. I plan to inform the superintendent about this.

Technology Use for Support Professionals

TIME: 2:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
9	3	3	0	0	15

Comments

It was okay, we don't have all the capabilities that were presented so I couldn't apply them here at our office. And when I am in a session such as this, we usually all have a computer and are working along with the presenter. I realize that isn't possible with this type of conference, but the information shared was very interesting.

Extremely helpful information for my specific job.

I could hear the Supt. but you could not hear the speaker very well. She had a lot of good information just couldn't hear her very well. You could tell she was very informed about her information. I think it will be very useful in the future.

Always love seeing new technology. Though I used Office for most of the the items that were demonstrated. The Onenote was something I had not looked at. I can see a potential where it might be useful in my daily work and those around me.

Loved the fact that the presenter actually used the technology in the same settings as the audience. Can't wait to start playing with other programs.

Great idea for a presentation, some tech problems. Would like to see more of this type of workshop. Would prefer a more general overview and faster style. Show us a few possibilities, but since we don't have computers, we don't need all the details on how to do them; we can't practice/try. Provide those in handouts or provide resources. Enjoyed Debbie.

Perfect end to the day. One of our own giving some of the best advice I received all day. Can't wait to go back and start learning her tools of the trade.

It was good, just a few technical difficulties getting started.

I was one of the presenters for this one. Hopefully it was useful to those who attended.
Couldn't hear the speaker very well, no mike.
Very informative. Though we may not have all the programs (Adobe pro and Filemaker Pro) - the ideas shared gave me some ideas of my own. Now to find the time to try them out.

Time Management

TIME: 2:15

How satisfied were you with this session?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
1	4	2	0	0	7

Comments

I enjoyed this session and went away with a couple of new and fresh ideas that I plan to implement in our office.

I almost felt I could teach this session!

Blah, didn't learn much here.

Probably should have attended a different session. I found out I already manage time pretty well.

Session was fine but I wish I would have gone to Technology Use.

I found I am using my time wisely.