



CASE STUDY

Collaboration Solution for School Administrators & Board Members of the Michigan Association of School Boards

Abstract

The Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB™) is a voluntary, non-profit association of local and intermediate boards of education located throughout the State of Michigan. Based in Lansing, Michigan, MASB has been recognized as a major voice influencing education issues at the state level. MASB promotes high standards in providing educational programs, help school board members keep informed about education issues, represent the interests of boards of education, and promote public understanding about school boards and citizen involvement in schools.



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Vertex redesigned The Employment Relations Information Network (ERIN™) site for the Michigan Association of School Boards. The site serves as a tool for data collection, storage, comparison and reporting, and is utilized by around 300 public school districts in Michigan. As part of this engagement, we also upgraded the existing enterprise level SharePoint environment.

Business Challenge

MASB was using Employment Relations Information Network (ERIN) website for maintaining employee relations, and contract and negotiation data for the member school districts in the State of Michigan. The site houses salary and health benefit data for various school district positions in three areas: teachers, principals and superintendents. The primary audience of the ERIN website is K-12 public school administrators and board members.

Built using Cold Fusion technology, the site was cumbersome and not intuitive. Most importantly, the site failed to cater to MASB members that come from varying backgrounds, education levels and technological literacy levels. As a result, the user adoption was low.

Vertex Solution

Vertex performed a detailed discovery and scoping of all requirements for redesigning and enhancing ERIN website lines and provided a strategic roadmap for using SharePoint as the technology platform for developing the new ERIN website.

Post the discovery phase Vertex upgraded the existing SharePoint environment from MOSS 2007 to SharePoint 2010.

The next step was design, develop and implement a new ERIN website in SharePoint 2010.

Solution Highlights

Vertex redesigned The Employment Relation Information Network (ERIN™) site giving it a new and fresh perspective.

Following are some of the key aspects of our solution:

- Branding - We incorporated a new branding theme to provide fresh a perspective in line with the new MASB branding values.
- Improved UI – The new User Interface ensured ease of navigation and quick access of information for the users.
- Document Management – An effective document management system for files upload(PDF, Excel, Visio, and TIFF) with user level permissions.
- Announcements and notifications – built in key functionalities for calendar view, announcements and notifications.
- Strong Search functionality – Users can view information based on different search criteria such as year, district, counties, compensation, insurance, days per year, and so forth.
- Reports – The site allows authorized users to generate different reports based on multiple criteria such as “report type”, “category”, etc.
- Integration – Integrated with key external data sources.
- Security Configuration: Integrated iMIS as the authentication provider, synchronized with the Active Directory. The users are authenticated based on the credentials from the iMIS (SQL server) database.
- Data Migration – Exhaustive Data migration carried out from the existing site to the new site to ensure continuity in data availability for users.

BUSINESS VALUE

- Improved user experience through user friendly features & easy accessibility
- Improved collaboration among school districts
- Access to key metrics through reports and graphs
- A flexible and scalable solution

About Us

Vertex is a CMMi Level-3 IT consulting organization that engages with its customers at a strategic level and provides 'thought leadership'. Vertex's team of Solution Scientists craft innovative solutions, with a holistic view, that make businesses smarter. Vertex acts as an advisory partner, aligning its offerings with the business goals and objectives of its customers.

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