



# Board Briefs

*Report on the September 2011 meeting of the TASB Board of Directors • Austin, Texas  
Plus highlights of the 2011 Delegate Assembly*

## **Advocacy Agenda Approved**

The TASB Delegate Assembly approved changes to the Association's [2010–12 Advocacy Agenda](#) at its annual meeting in Austin. Delegates met October 1 and approved priorities, which guide advocacy activities during the legislative biennium, and resolutions, which help TASB respond to legislative and regulatory issues that may arise. This legislative plan of action was developed through grassroots and Legislative Advisory Council meetings and resolutions submitted by member districts.

### **Following are two revised priorities adopted by the Delegate Assembly on recommendation of the TASB Board:**

TASB supports a simpler, sustainable school finance system that:

- Provides districts with adequate amounts of state and local funds to
  - Prepare students to achieve rigorous academic goals,
  - Cover annual enrollment growth and rising operating costs, and
  - Fund state and federal mandates;
- Gives school boards access to more golden pennies and additional taxing authority without voter approval;
- Provides formula-funding that closes the equity gap among districts as soon as possible; and
- Attributes statewide property value growth back to the school finance system.

### **Two new priorities adopted by delegates include:**

TASB supports the creation of a measure to credit districts with student growth in the accountability ratings.

TASB supports legislation to correct the state's structural deficit, which perpetuates the underfunding of public education.

### **Following are additions to the 2010–12 Advocacy Resolutions:**

TASB shall oppose a specific state certification requirement for prekindergarten that would be paid for by assessing a per student fee at the local district's expense.

TASB shall oppose any legislation that removes, omits, or hinders a local school board's decision-making authority regarding the reconstitution, closure, or alternative management of a school.

TASB shall oppose legislation that would require school districts to allow open-enrollment charter schools to take over unused or underutilized facilities.

TASB shall oppose legislation to remove the guarantee of repayment should the state use the proration mechanism to cut district funding entitlements.

TASB shall support legislation that provides average daily attendance (ADA) funding for students based on completion of a foundation curriculum course provided by a district through its own computer-based virtual instruction.

TASB shall support the coordination of high school curriculum with higher education in order to decrease the need for student remediation courses upon entrance into institutions of higher education.

TASB shall support legislation and/or constitutional amendment which provides for the distribution of the corpus of the Permanent School Fund (when it exceeds \$20 billion) to each school district on a pro-rata basis over three years.

TASB shall support the inclusion of 92 percent of Texas public school students in an equalized funding system.

TASB shall support legislation to allow school districts that have passed a tax rate election to continue taxing at that rate without calling another election in subsequent years.

TASB shall support less intrusive government by leaving authority and meaningful discretion (other than over arching standards) to the locally elected school board of trustees (not state).

TASB shall oppose increasing standards on any accountability system without corresponding increases in funding.

TASB shall support legislation that provides funding for Fast Growth Adjustment (FGA).

TASB shall support legislation that would increase and guarantee equalized facilities funding for both the Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) and Existing Debt Allotment (EDA).

TASB shall support legislation to give all districts the resources necessary to vertically align their elementary, middle, and high school curricula to prepare all students to succeed.

**The following is a revised resolution, adopted by the Assembly:**

TASB shall support legislation to restore the New Instructional Facilities Allotment (NIFA) at \$250 per average daily attendance.

### **Delegates Elect TASB Leadership**

Association officers and directors were approved by delegates to lead TASB in the coming year. President Gary Inmon, Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD, and Immediate Past President Sylvester Vasquez Jr. of Southwest ISD are automatic succession offices. The remaining slate of officers, as presented by the TASB Nominations Committee and TASB Board, was elected by the 2011 Delegate Assembly. All assumed their positions at the close of convention.

- President-Elect: Viola M. Garcia, Aldine ISD
- Vice-President: Faye Beaulieu, Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD
- Vice-President: Andra Self, Lufkin ISD
- Secretary-Treasurer: Bret Begert, Fort Elliott CISD

### **Directors elected by action of the regions**

The following were elected by receiving endorsements from a majority of the active members in their regions. These directors took office at the end of convention.

Elected to three-year terms (2011–14), filling expired terms:

- Region 4, Position G: Sonal Bhuchar, Fort Bend ISD, large district member
- Region 8: Robert Sheppard, Pleasant Grove ISD, regional member
- Region 11, Position B: Carlos Vasquez, Fort Worth ISD, large district member
- Region 19, Position A: Patricia Hughes, El Paso ISD, large district member

Filling vacancies for three-year terms (2011–14):

- Region 4, Position D: Michael Lunceford, Houston ISD, large district member
- Region 20, Position B: Karen Freeman, Northside ISD—Bexar County, large district member

### **Nominated by the TASB Nominations Committee**

Elected to three-year terms (2011–14) filling expiring terms:

- Region 4, Position B: Manuel Guajardo Jr., Texas City ISD
- Region 13, Position B: Desiree Cornelius-Fisher, Manor ISD
- Region 14: Richard Chambers, Snyder ISD
- Region 15: Fred Contreras, Grape Creek ISD

Elected to two-year terms (2011–13), filling unexpired terms:

- Region 6: Marilyn Bettes, Navasota ISD
- Region 9: Bob Payton, Wichita Falls ISD

Elected to one-year term (2011–12), filling unexpired term:

- Region 4, Position A: Joe Adams, Katy ISD

### **Superintendent of the Year Named**

TASB's Member Services Committee conducted interviews with the five state finalists for the annual Superintendent of the Year (SOTY) award. The winner, John Folks of Northside ISD, ESC 20, was announced October 1 at the TASA/TASB Convention in Austin. Other state finalists included Thomas Price Jr., Splendora ISD, ESC 6; Gayle Stinson, Lake Dallas ISD, ESC 11; Sharon Shields, La Vega ISD, ESC 12; and Michael Steck, Veribest ISD, ESC 15.

With a total of 35 years in education administration, Folks serves approximately 97,000 students. He has led Northside ISD for almost a decade. Active in his local community, Folks has been on the board of directors for numerous statewide organizations and held many other education leadership positions. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education and doctorate in educational administration at the University of Oklahoma.

### **TASA Names Outstanding School Board**

Lubbock ISD won the title of 2011 Outstanding School Board during the TASA/TASB Convention. Board President James Arnold accepted the award on behalf of his board and thanked his fellow board members and Superintendent Karen Garza for their teamwork. The district was chosen from five statewide Honor School Boards that interviewed with a TASA committee of nine superintendents from across the state.

Four other boards received recognition as statewide Honor Boards. They are Barbers Hill ISD, Superintendent Greg Poole, ESC 4; Copperas Cove ISD, Superintendent Rose Cameron, ESC 12; Denton ISD, Superintendent Ray Braswell, Region 11; and Ysleta ISD, Superintendent Michael Zolkoski, ESC 19.

All five boards were recognized at the convention's first general session September 30, along with four regional Honor Boards.

### Advocacy Initiatives and Resources

Resources to help school boards communicate their district's circumstances and challenges to their local communities, legislators, and other stakeholders are available to members. TASB staff is finalizing an elections toolkit to help trustees learn more about candidates' stances on education. Three new advocacy documents address permissible activities for school board members during an election season, communicating school efficiencies, and how the business community can help advocate for public schools.

### Walsh First TASB Partner

Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos, and Green P.C. has joined TASB as its initial partner in the Association's newly created TASB Partners program. The program was established earlier this year to create partnerships that result in collaborative projects to support public education in Texas.

The TASB Partners initiative provides a way for members of the business community to engage with the Association in projects to benefit public schools, students, and the leadership of Texas school districts.

### New Catalog of Services and Products

Periodically, TASB produces an updated catalog for members that serves as a handy single source of information about services and products available from TASB and its related entities. The catalog was updated this summer and mailed to all board members, other school personnel, and education service centers in September. Field Services staff members will also provide the catalog when they visit districts, and an [online](#) version is posted at [tasb.org](http://tasb.org).

## Mark Your Calendar

### TASB Risk Management Fund

"Essentials of Vehicle Collision Investigations" training will be hosted at Irving ISD on **October 11**. There is no registration fee for Workers' Compensation and Property and Liability Auto program members.

The following week, Fund members can participate in a free Webinar entitled "Vacant/Unoccupied Buildings, Equipment Breakdown, Crime and Electronic Data Equipment: Are You Covered?" Hosted on **October 18**, 10–11 a.m., the presentation will cover these three special interest topics that challenge schools.

### Superintendent Secretary Training Conference, October 13–14

Attendees at this popular training program receive practical information about election law, ethics, community surveys, HR records, policy updates, and managing e-mail. The conference will be offered again **February 23–24, 2012**. TASB has waived registration fees for this event, but registration is required because seating is limited. Contact [Mary Ann Briley](#) for details.

In addition, BoardBook® staff will provide training at the 2011–12 Superintendent Secretary Training Conferences at TASB offices. The training will focus on how to maximize efficiencies with BoardBook. BoardBook also offers monthly workshops at no cost for current subscribers. These are held at the TASB offices and are scheduled for **October 12**, **November 11**, and **December 9**. Contact [Tim Curtis](#) for detailed information.

### HR Services

TASB HR Services will offer Austin-based training to school district HR professionals this month. On October 21, "Legal Issues for Supervisors" will be presented at Region 20 ESC. Staff will present at the Texas School HR Administrators Academy on **October 31–November 1** in Austin. Contact [HR Services](#) for more information.

### Legal Training

Legal Services attorneys hit the road in November for the annual one-day regional legal training seminars. Contact [Annette Moseley](#) for details.

Austin, November 4  
Nacogdoches, November 9  
Commerce, November 10  
Abilene, November 15  
Amarillo, November 17  
South Padre, November 19

### OnSite Services™

Free training opportunities for OnSite members:

Asbestos Designated Person, Greenville ISD (Region 10),  
November 4

Integrated Pest Management, Greenville ISD,  
November 5

Indoor Air Quality Coordinator, Greenville ISD,  
November 6

Asbestos O&M Contractor Class, TASB offices, Austin,  
November 25–26

Asbestos Designated Person, Flour Bluff ISD (Region 2),  
December 6

Integrated Pest Management, Flour Bluff ISD,  
December 7

Indoor Air Quality Coordinator, Flour Bluff ISD,  
December 8

### Large District Leadership Forum, December 1–2

TASB will again host a leadership forum for boards and superintendents of the largest districts in the state (greater than 20,000 ADA). Work sessions will concentrate on how to sustain reform efforts while improving district efficiencies and how to build and maintain public confidence in an age of social media and public demands for transparency. The event will be held at the Westin Austin at the Domain. Registration fees for the event have been waived. Large districts have received “save the date” information; for more details, contact [Kathy Dundee](#).

### In Other Action, the Board Approved:

- Minutes of the July 2011 Board meeting
- Election of the 2011–12 Nominations Committee
- Amendments to Board policy on affiliate members that eliminated the business affiliate category
- 2011–12 objectives and job targets for the Executive Director Incentive Compensation Plan

*The next meeting of the TASB Board of Directors is December 3 in Austin.*

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**When you need help...**



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