

The Wave

The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards

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GCSchoolBoards@aol.com

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President's Message

If we allow it, the **challenges of public education in Texas** make school board service seem thankless and futile. However, we are compelled to listen for quiet cues among the noises of negative rhetoric, look beyond current circumstance and lead as if tomorrow is our only hope – because tomorrow will be here before we know it. **The children for whom we are responsible count on us to help them prepare to be responsible, productive citizens with the capacity to be critical thinkers and the courage to be problem solvers.**

My question to you is, "How can this be accomplished?" My proposed answer is, "**Perseverance, perseverance, and, once again, perseverance.**" This is where leadership takes a marked, divergent path from the politics of compromise and where decision-making becomes difficult because we are all integral parts of the communities we serve.

In support of our administrative teams, we are individual and corporate links to children, parents, teachers and community partners. Because we are human, not everyone will share the same position on every topic. We are called to be leaders and we do not have the luxury of multiple positions on any one topic. Therefore, based on data, information and the expertise of our superintendents and their staff, we will do our very best to produce policy to govern our districts well!

I look forward to working with you to help **Texas Association of School Boards legislative grassroots initiatives** be a success as we become a collective voice of reason to the **Texas Legislature**. Your voice is needed. I know we can count on you to communicate with your representatives in our quest to make Texas public schools stellar examples of success to the nation.

I encourage you to **be part of effective governance solutions** – leaders who are valuable assets to efficient, effective decision-making teams – champions for **every** child in **every** classroom on **every** campus of **every** district that is part of the **Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards** because our children deserve our personal best!



Marine D. Jones

Candidates Orientation to be held April 21

The **GCAASB** will host a **Candidates Orientation** session at **Region 4 ESC** at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, **April 21** for candidates seeking election to their local School Board in May.

The orientation session will feature two 30-minute presentations by **GCAASB Executive Board members** focusing on "**Serving Effectively after Being Elected**", and "**The Personal Impact of Being a Trustee**", followed by a question-answer session.

Superintendents whose districts will have a May Trustee Election are urged to make all candidates aware of the Candidates Orientation session that is being offered at no charge to candidates or districts.

Spring Workshop scheduled for April 28

Two programs that will provide a total of **2.5 hours of Board Training Credit** will be presented at the annual **Spring Workshop** that will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, **April 28, 2010** at Region 4 ESC.

During the initial session on “**The Board and the Big Conversation**”, **TASB Leadership Team Services Division Director Bill Nemir** will explore school district leadership and the conversations not held that shape the community and the culture of the district.

After the dinner and business meeting, **Catherine Clark, TASB Associate Executive Director for Governance Services**, will provide an overview of graduation requirements, school and district rating systems, the Texas Projection Measure, and the resource allocation ranking system under development during the after-dinner session on “**Texas Accountability Update**”.

The **2010-2011 GCAASB officers and directors will be elected** and **four \$500 scholarships will be awarded** during the brief business meeting that will follow the **dinner underwritten by GCAASB Associate Member Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP**. **Reservations** are to be made by 10:00 a.m. Friday, **April 23** by e-mailing GCSchoolBoards@aol.com or by calling **Tommye Wolverton of Region 4 at 713-744-6534**.

Officers, Directors nominees proposed

Officer and Directors nominees are in the process of being finalized for the 2010-2011 GCAASB term of office. Voting will occur during the business meeting at the April 28 Spring Workshop.

New **Officers proposed for 2010-2011** include **President Jimmy Zepeda of Hempstead ISD, First Vice President Kathy Green of La Porte ISD, Second Vice President Becky Streetman of Huffman ISD, and Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Schaper, Sr. of Spring Branch ISD**. Current GCAASB **President Marine Jones of Aldine ISD** will move to **Past President**.

Current GCAASB Directors **Sarah Winkler of Alief ISD, Pete Vincent of Alvin ISD, Linda Huebner of Columbia-Brazoria ISD, J. T. Floyd of Dickinson ISD, and Kathy Hanson of Tomball ISD** are proposed to continue their role on the Executive Board. **Five additional Director nominees** are still to be finalized. The full slate of Officer and Director nominees will be included with an e-mail reminder of the Spring Workshop in early April.

Grassroots meeting identifies regional priorities

Priority statements for **10 legislative issues of greatest important to Region 4 school districts** were developed and **TASB Legislative Advisory Council (LAC) representatives** were identified during the GCAASB-hosted **TASB Grassroots meeting February 10** at Region 4 ESC.

The 10 priority issues that resulted from an **online Governmental Relations survey** ranked **additional golden pennies, adequacy in school funding, facilities funding, a formula-funded finance system, and property value growth** as the top five concerns. Other priority issues are **unfunded mandates, vouchers, at-risk students, Career and Technology Education, and teacher shortages**.

TASB Directors from Region 4 facilitated the Grassroots process that produced the priority statements that will be considered at LAC meetings in April and June. Those Directors included **TASB President Sarah Winkler of Alief ISD, TASB Vice President Viola Garcia of Aldine ISD, TASB Legislative Committee co-chair Kathy Hanson of Tomball ISD, and Lida Woodul of Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, Benny May of Barbers Hill ISD, Manuel Rodriguez of Houston ISD, and Sonal Bhuchar of Fort Bend ISD**.

LAC recommendations will be submitted to the **TASB Legislative Committee** and, in turn, to the **TASB Board of Directors** before finally being voted on by the **TASB Delegate Assembly** at the **TASB/TASA Convention in Houston in September**.

GCAASB area trustees named as **LAC delegates** include **Estelle Holmes** of **Hitchcock ISD**, **Kim Janke** of **Needville ISD**, **Adele Brennan** of **Pearland ISD**, **Mary Grace Landrum** of **Spring Branch ISD**, **Chris Crockett** of **Katy ISD**, **Jeffrey Mitchell** of **Spring ISD**, **Kathy Green** of **La Porte ISD**, **Ettienne Zak** of **Stafford MSD**, **Bob Covey** of **Cypress-Fairbanks ISD**, and **Debby Kerner** of the **Harris County Department of Education**. Serving as **LAC alternates** will be **Charles Cunningham** of **Humble ISD**, **Mark Lewandowski** of **Tomball ISD**, **Ann Williams** of **Alief ISD**, and **Alton Smith** of **Aldine ISD**.

School districts winning the four **\$500 student scholarships** awarded by drawing at the membership meeting included **Royal**, **La Porte**, and **Spring Branch** which one two of the scholarships. Dinner for the Grassroots Meeting was underwritten by **GCAASB Associate Member PBK Architects**.

<p><i>Our Students ...</i> <i>Our Staff ...</i> <i>Our Schools ...</i> <i>Our Responsibility!</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2009-2010 Proud of Our Public Schools!!!</p>	
<p>President Marine Jones, Aldine ISD 1st Vice President Jimmy Zepeda, Hempstead ISD 2nd Vice President Kathy Green, La Porte ISD Secretary/Treasurer Becky Streetman, Huffman ISD Past President Kathy Hanson, Tomball ISD</p>	<p>Directors Sarah Winkler, Alief ISD Pete Vincent, Alvin ISD Linda Huebner, Columbia-Brazoria ISD J. T. Floyd, Dickinson ISD Greg Meyers, Houston ISD Joe Adams, Katy ISD Steve Szymczak, Klein ISD Frank Braden, Pasadena ISD Fred Rivas, Sheldon ISD Wayne Schaper, Sr., Spring Branch ISD</p>	<p>Executive Secretary Jerry Smith, APR</p>  <p>Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards</p>