

# The Wave

The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards

Vol. 8, No. 3

[GCSchoolBoards@aol.com](mailto:GCSchoolBoards@aol.com)


October 2008

## After 'Ike'

The **Officers and Directors of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards** extends its most heartfelt understanding and support to each of you as you lead in the recovery efforts for your school district in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike! We know that your efforts give true meaning to the **GCAASB motto of "Our Students! Our Staff! Our Schools! Our Responsibility!!!"**

Our thoughts and prayers are also with you as you deal with personal and employment issues.

Much of the information in this newsletter had been prepared for publication on Sept. 15. Obviously, the newsletter was not distributed as scheduled since Ike knocked out power so extensively. The information has been updated. **Please make special notice that the Candidate Orientation planned for Oct. 15 has been canceled, but that the GCAASB membership meeting scheduled for Nov. 5 will be held.** This will provide an opportunity for Trustees to earn 1.5 hours of Board Training credit, and should be especially helpful for those who could not attend the TASA/TASB Convention in Dallas.

<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;">2008-2009 <b>Proud of Our Public Schools!!!</b></p>	
<p><b>President</b> Kathy Hanson, Tomball ISD <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> Marine Jones, Aldine ISD <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b> Jimmy Zepeda, Hempstead ISD <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Kathy Green, La Porte ISD <b>Past President</b> Pete Vincent, Alvin ISD</p>	<p><b>Directors</b> Sarah Winkler, Alief ISD Linda Huebner, Columbia-Brazoria ISD Earl Boykin, Crosby ISD Greg Meyers, Houston ISD Becky Streetman, Huffman 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><b>Executive Secretary</b> Jerry Smith, APR</p> 

## ***President's Message***

As Board members, we don't always agree with our fellow board members on all issues. However, I would hope that we would agree that all of us are serving for the benefit our children and our community. As school districts, we don't do everything right 100% of the time. But, I do know that we have a lot of good students and teachers, doing a lot of good things in our schools and our community. So why is it that a lot of what we hear in the media is the negative information about our schools, students and teachers? As school board members, it is our job to make better what we are not doing well, and to let the public know what we are doing well.

During our September meeting, we heard from **Scott & Leslie Milder of *Friends of Texas Public Schools***. The Milders shared their own experiences and frustrations in dealing with misperceptions and negative information that is commonly and erroneously accepted as fact. They founded the ***Friends of Texas Public Schools*** to get the word out about positive things happening in our public schools and take a positive approach to sharing these accomplishments with the public. The website for this organization is <http://www.fotps.org/>. This is an excellent resource and you as a Board member can use their information and plug in your experiences and the facts for your community to share the positive accomplishments of your district. My experience has been that people are thrilled to hear that there are good things happening in their schools!

Another organization that supports getting the word out about good things that are happening in our public schools is ***Raise Your Hand Texas***. This organization is a bipartisan group of business and community leaders, parents and taxpayers dedicated to strengthening and improving our public schools. They want to make a difference by focusing on the following three points of action:

- **Celebrate** the outstanding work done by Texas teachers, administrators and students each and every day.
- **Defend** our public schools against criticism that is unfair or inaccurate.
- **Strengthen** our public schools by seeking additional state resources and making commonsense suggestions that will help provide a safe and effective learning environment for all Texas children

They don't ask for money. They ask for your support by becoming a **Member Advocate**. This organization provides speakers for community groups and also asks for volunteers to serve as speakers. You can find out more information about ***Raise Your Hand Texas*** at their website: <http://www.raiseyourhandtexas.org>. It provides ideas for you to help to spread the word about what good things are happening in our schools and what you can do to support a strong education system.

Our students and teachers are doing wonderful things every day! Let's all work hard to let people in our communities know about the good things that are happening in our schools!



*Kathy Hanson*

## ***First meeting focuses on Texas public schools accomplishments***

**Friends of Texas Public Schools (FOTPS) founders Leslie & Scott Milder** urged attendees at the Sept. 3 kick-off meeting to "Be Proud of Texas Public Schools" and to actively promote accomplishments of their schools and aggressively correct published and broadcast errors and misperceptions.

The membership meeting, co-sponsored by **Associate Members cre8 architects** and **DEPFA First Albany Securities LLC**, also featured **Channelview ISD, Spring Branch ISD** and **Dickinson ISD** receiving **\$500 student scholarships** by drawings. **Clear Creek ISD Trustee Ann Hammond** was the recipient of a **complimentary registration** for the **TASB Winter Governance & Legal Seminar**.

### ***Oct. 15 Candidate Orientation canceled***

Due to numerous issues related to Hurricane Ike, the **GCAASB Executive Board** has **canceled** a planned **Candidate Orientation** for **Oct. 15** for candidates seeking election to their local school board on Nov. 4.

A no-cost **Candidate Orientation** will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, **April 15** at Region 4 ESC for candidates for the **May 2009 local school board elections**. The “**Serving on a School Board...**” video developed by TASB will be used as the framework for the two-hour orientation session that will be conducted by GCAASB Officers and Directors.

### ***November GCAASB meeting to focus on legal, architectural issues***

Attendees at the **Nov. 5 GCAASB membership meeting** at Region 4 ESC will earn **1.5 hours of credit** as two separate programs will be presented on legal and architectural issues that school trustees and administrators face.

The “**Sticks & Stones**” program will be presented by **David Feldman** of **Associate Member Feldman, Rogers, Morris & Grover** and by **Mark Lam** of **Associate Member SHW Group**.

**Reservations** for the Nov. 5 dinner meeting, which will be hosted by **Associate Member Perdue, Brandon, Collins, Mott & Fielder, LLP**, must be made by Friday, Oct. 31 either by e-mailing [GCSchoolBoards@aol.com](mailto:GCSchoolBoards@aol.com) or by calling **Tommye Wolverton** at Region 4 at 713-744-6534.

### ***GCAASB had major presence at TASA/TASB Convention***

The **GCAASB** was most visible at the **TASA/TASB Convention** in Dallas Sept. 26-28 coordinating the **Area Associations of School Boards booth**, having representation on the **TASB Officer line-up**, having the **Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees** as a **finalist for Texas Honor Board**, and having **17 districts and 4 Associate Members** presenting programs.

**GCAASB Director Sarah Winkler** of **Alief ISD** was elected as **President Elect** of the **TASB Board of Trustees** for 2008-09, and **Aldine ISD Trustee Dr. Viola Garcia** was elected as **TASB Secretary/Treasurer** by the **TASB Delegate Assembly**. **Angleton ISD Trustee Dr. Renard Thomas** moved from **TASB President** to **Immediate Past President**.

**GCAASB-member districts** invited to **present programs** at the convention included **Aldine ISD; Alvin ISD; Brazosport ISD; Columbia-Brazoria ISD; Clear Creek ISD; Fort Bend ISD; Friendswood ISD; Goose Creek CISD; Harris County Department of Education; Klein ISD; La Porte ISD; Pasadena ISD; Sheldon ISD; Spring ISD; Region 4 ESC; and Tomball ISD**.

**Associate Members** presenting programs were **Escamilla & Poneck; Feldman, Rogers, Morris & Grover; PBK Architects; and SHW Group**.

In the **Exhibit of School Architecture**, **Spring ISD and SHW Group** combined to win the **Caudill Award** for Andy Dekaney High School. Also earning architectural recognition were the following GCAASB school districts and architectural firms: **Alief ISD & Bay Architects; Alvin ISD & SHW Group; Clear Creek ISD & PBK (2); Cypress-Fairbanks ISD & PBK; Cypress-Fairbanks ISD & Bay Architects (2); Dickinson ISD & PBK; Dickinson ISD & Bay Architects; Galena Park ISD & VLK Architects; Goose Creek CISD & VLK Architects; Houston ISD & VLK Architects; Houston ISD & RDC Architects; Humble ISD & Joiner Partnership; Humble ISD & SBWV Architects; Katy ISD & VLK Architects; La Porte ISD & PBK; Lamar Consolidated ISD & PBK; Pasadena ISD & Bay Architects; Pearland ISD & PBK; and Texas City ISD & Bay Architects**.

***Additional districts renew GCAASB membership***

**Eight** additional districts have joined the 26 school districts that had renewed their **GCAASB membership** by July 31 to support the **GCAASB mission of enhancing the quality of education for public school children in the Texas Gulf Coast area**. That mission is undertaken by providing education and information to local school boards, and by creating an opportunity for local school boards to impact the legislative process affecting public education.

Districts renewing their GCAASB membership by Sept. 30 include **Sheldon, Crosby, La Marque, Angleton, Pearland, Katy, Goose Creek, and Kendleton**.

**Anslow-Bryant Construction** joined as a new **Associate Member**.

***At the polls***

In addition to Trustee elections in some GCAASB districts, the Nov. 4 election will also have the following **bond election**:

**Santa Fe ISD**, 3 propositions totaling \$65,154,000.

Special **tax rate elections** scheduled in November include:

**Alief ISD**, 7.5 cent increase, Nov. 20

**Humble ISD**, 13 cent increase, Nov. 22

*Gulf Coast Area  
Association of School Boards  
presents  
'Sticks & Stones'*

*Overviews of Legal and Architectural Issues for School Boards*

*6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5*

*at*

*Region 4 ESC*

*7145 West Tidwell, Houston*

*Registration Deadline is Friday, Oct. 31!*

*Register by e-mailing*

*[GCSchoolBoards@aol.com](mailto:GCSchoolBoards@aol.com)*

*or by calling*

*Tommye Wolverton of Region 4 at 713-744-6534*