

# The Wave

The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards  
Vol. 9, No. 2 [GCSchoolBoards@aol.com](mailto:GCSchoolBoards@aol.com) September 2009

## **President's Message**

Summer is ended, the 2009-10 school year has launched and children all over Texas have returned to school to discover how they can grow, learn and become successful students. As leaders in our school districts, we have been apprised of new legislation that influences how we make policy and govern. Therefore, now is the time for school board members in the **Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards** to assess how current legislation impacts our districts and then proactively support our administrators in changes to reflect the most efficient way to insure that **every** child for whom we are responsible is afforded the opportunity to learn.

As you work in your school district, I encourage you to take time in your board meetings to celebrate student achievement. Celebration of success is only one way we can strengthen Texas public education. We must also tell the story of what is right about our schools. As I shared at our September meeting, development of a strong public relations mind-set is a powerful key to success.

Therefore, please join me in support of high performance standards through efficient use of resources we have been given. The **TASA/TASB Convention** October 2-4 will provide an excellent opportunity for you to learn about techniques and strategies that have yielded satisfactory results. The old adage "none of us is as smart as all of us" is especially true during the current biennium.

My desire is that the 2009-10 school year be a banner year for us all because when one of us succeeds, we all succeed!



*Marine D. Jones*

## **September meeting draws large crowd**

Attorney **David Thompson** of **Thompson & Horton LLP** kicked-off the 2009-2010 school year for the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards with a speech on "**The Future of Public Education in Texas**" to 110 Trustees, Superintendents and Associate Members on September 2 at **Region 4 ESC**.

Mr. Thompson tied Texas public education's current plight to the Carnegie unit/production assembly line "time constant/performance variable" concept, noting the likely development of more on-line and virtual programs. He also observed that the fact that more people are choosing Texas public education is an indication that many things are good in our public schools.

Districts winning **\$500 student scholarships** at the membership meeting were **Galena Park, Katy, Spring, and Aldine**. **Associate Member Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P.**, sponsored the dinner for the meeting that earned attending Trustees one hour of Board Training credit.

## **At the polls**

In addition to Trustee Elections in some districts on November 3, bond elections will be held in

\***Alvin ISD**, \$112 million

\***Brazosport ISD**, \$166 million

### ***Candidates Orientation to be held October 14***

The **GCAASB** will host **Candidates Orientation** sessions at **Region 4 ESC** at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, **October 14** for candidates seeking election to their local School Board in November. A similar orientation will be held for May election candidates at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, **April 21, 2010**.

The orientation session will feature three 20-minute presentations by **GCAASB Executive Board members** focusing on “**Being a Candidate**”, “**Serving Effectively after Being Elected**”, and “**The Personal Impact of Being a Trustee**”, followed by a question-answer session.

Superintendents of districts with a November 3 Trustee Election are encouraged to make the October 14 orientation session known to all candidates.

With the annual **TASB/TASA Convention** being held at **Houston’s George R. Brown Convention Center Oct. 2-5**, a **November GCAASB membership meeting will not be held**. Attendance at November meetings has annually been the lowest of the four meetings traditionally held.

### ***Districts and Associates renewing GCAASB membership***

Seventeen additional school districts and three more education-related businesses renewed **GCAASB** membership dues by the September 15 due date.

Districts renewing **GCAASB** membership include **Crosby, Pasadena, Humble, La Porte, Sheldon, Dickinson, Deer Park, Spring Branch, Tomball, Hempstead, Klein, Needville, Hitchcock, Clear Creek, Alvin, and Santa Fe**, and the **Harris County Department of Education**.

Renewing their **Associate Member** status were **PBK Architects, Jefferies & Company, and cre8 architects**.

### ***Sarah Winkler to become TASB President***

**Former GCAASB President and current GCAASB Director Sarah Winkler of Alief ISD** will become **President** of the **Texas Association of School Boards** at the close of the **TASA/TASB Convention**.

“I very much appreciate the support of my fellow **Region 4** trustees and I look forward to serving as President of **TASB**,” Mrs. Winkler said. “I hope to promote the importance of advocacy during my year as president. Legislative advocacy is certainly important and I definitely would like to get more trustees involved, but I also want to raise awareness about the importance of advocating for our schools, students, and public education in our communities.”

Mrs. Winkler emphasized that **advocacy** is not limited to funding, saying that “we also need volunteers and supporters that will spread the word **about our students’ successes and challenges**”.

**Aldine ISD Trustee Viola Garcia**, who is currently serving as **TASB’s Secretary/Treasurer**, will seek **Delegate Assembly** approval to become a **TASB Vice President**.

The **TASB Delegate Assembly** will also choose between incumbent **Benny May of Barbers Hill ISD** and challengers **Steven Dennis of Channelview ISD** and **Stuart Stromeyer of Clear Creek ISD** for **Position 4C** on the **TASB Board of Directors**. Unopposed for seats on the **TASB Board** are **GCAASB Past President Kathy Hanson of Tomball ISD** for **Position 4A**, **Fort Bend ISD Trustee Sonta Bhuchar** for **Position 4G**, and **Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Trustee Lida Woodul** for **Position 4F**.

Also at the convention, the **Lamar Consolidated ISD Board of Trustees** will be recognized as the **Honor Board** and **Galena Park ISD Supt. Dr. Mark Henry** will be featured as the **Superintendent of the Year** for **Region 4 ESC**. Both the **LCISD Board** and **Dr. Henry** are finalists for the respective honors of **State Honor Board** and **Texas Superintendent of the Year** title that will be announced at the convention.

**TASA/TASB CONVENTION PROGRAMS**  
**By GCAASB Member Districts and Associate Members**  
**At George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston**

**FRIDAY, OCT. 2**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>PROGRAM TITLE</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>	<b>ROOM</b>
7:30 a.m.	New Criminal Background Check Requirements for School Employees and Contractors	Clear Creek ISD	350D
7:30 a.m.	Preparing the School District for Immigration Enforcement Actions	Escamilla & Poneck, Inc.	332BE
7:30 a.m.	To Be a Collaborator or Not To Be a Collaborator	Region 4 ESC & Aldine ISD	310BE
7:30 a.m.	What Do They Really Need to Know?	Hempstead ISD & Thompson & Horton, LLP	310CF
9:00 a.m.	Relevant Data, Relevant Board Reports	Region 4 ESC	310BE
10:30 a.m.	A Collaborative Model for Strategic Support in High School Science	Region 4 ESC & Houston ISD	330A
10:30 a.m.	Effective Communications – It Takes a Plan	Pasadena ISD	352F
10:30 a.m.	Leading Instruction for Student Success: Customizing ILD/PDAS at Spring Branch ISD	Region 4 ESC & Spring Branch ISD	350E
10:30 a.m.	Put Rivalry Aside for Student Success	Hempstead ISD, Royal ISD & Waller ISD	320BE
10:30 a.m.	Using Data to Improve Learning	Region 4 ESC & Houston ISD	360CF
1:00 p.m.	Increasing Mathematics Achievement – What a Difference a Day Makes!	Waller ISD & Region 4 ESC	310CF
1:00 p.m.	Leadership Essentials	Tomball ISD	360CF
1:00 p.m.	Rollback Tax Elections: Laws and Politics	Thompson & Horton, LLP	330A
1:00 p.m.	School Design Matters	Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	352E
1:00 p.m.	School Finance Basics: A Comparative Study with Arizona, Michigan, Mississippi and Virginia	Texas City ISD	320CF
1:00 p.m.	To Quit or Not To Quit: Navigating Legally Sound Employee Resignations	Thompson & Horton, LLP	332AD
2:30 p.m.	An Education Foundation – A School District’s New Best Friend	Klein ISD	350E
2:30 p.m.	Bond Program Coaching: An Innovative Bond Program Management Tool	Huffman ISD & Region 4 ESC	322A
2:30 p.m.	Stimulus Package – Strings Attached	Region 4 ESC	320AD

**SATURDAY, OCT. 3**


<b>TIME</b>	<b>PROGRAM TITLE</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>	<b>ROOM</b>
7:30 a.m.	Is There An Enemy Among Us?	Feldman, Rogers, Morris & Grover, LLP	330B
7:30 a.m.	Texas High Performing Schools: Getting Started and Tools for Getting It Done	SHW Group & Humble ISD	320CF
7:30 a.m.	The Global Center for Science and Technology	Fort Bend ISD & PBK Architects	310AD
7:30 a.m.	Tight Budgets Mean Diligence in Energy Purchase: Top 10 Mistakes to Avoid	Harris County Department of Education	322A
9:00 a.m.	Chain of Tools: Creating Connections that Transform	Lamar CISD & Region 4 ESC	322A
9:00 a.m.	Presidents on Presidents: Managing Personalities on Your School Board	Aldine ISD	351CF
9:00 a.m.	Red Rover, Red Rover Can the Transfer Student Come Over	Feldman, Rogers, Morris & Grover, LLP	332CF
9:00 a.m.	Texas Public School Funding: The Haves vs. The Have Nots	Clear Creek ISD & Katy ISD	350D
9:00 a.m.	The “Pear-fect” Match: A Community Education Alliance Partnership	Pearland ISD	310AD

## SATURDAY, OCT. 3

1:00 p.m.	Aligning District Practices to Support the School Board's Theory of Action	Aldine ISD	322A
1:00 p.m.	Education Foundations: How They Operate in Texas	Thompson & Horton, LLP & Pasadena ISD	352F
1:00 p.m.	Historical Overview of Public School Funding in Texas	Klein ISD	350D
1:00 p.m.	Ready, Set, Hire – Long Range Staffing Plans for High Performance	Clear Creek ISD	320BE
1:00 p.m.	Special Education for the Uninformed (And Those Who Ought to Know but Don't)	Feldman, Rogers, Morris & Grover, LLP	332CF
1:00 p.m.	That Coach Has Got To Go!	Feldman, Rogers, Morris & Grover, LLP	342ABDE
3:30 p.m.	Educating Immigrant English Language Learners in 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools	Aldine ISD	310CF
3:30 p.m.	Five Things a New Superintendent Should Know	Alvin ISD	352F
3:30 p.m.	School Design Matters	Klein ISD	352E
3:30 p.m.	Transforming Teaching and Learning Through Technology	Klein ISD	350D

## SUNDAY, OCT. 4

TIME	PROGRAM TITLE	PRESENTER(S)	ROOM
7:30 a.m.	What Message Are You Sending? Utilizing Rapid Notification Services	Tomball ISD	310CF
10:45 a.m.	A Deadly "Game"	Pasadena ISD	320AD
10:45 a.m.	So You Think You've Been to Hell – Wait Until You Have a Tax Rollback Election!	Alief ISD, Humble ISD & Galena Park ISD	310CF

<p><i>Our Students ...</i> <i>Our Staff ...</i> <i>Our Schools ...</i> <i>Our Responsibility!</i></p>	<h1 style="margin: 0;"><i>Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards</i></h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;"><b>2009-2010</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><b><i>Proud of Our Public Schools!!!</i></b></p>	
<p><b>President</b> Marine Jones, Aldine ISD</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> Jimmy Zepeda, Hempstead ISD</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b> Kathy Green, La Porte ISD</p> <p><b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Becky Streetman, Huffman ISD</p> <p><b>Past President</b> Kathy Hanson, Tomball ISD</p>	<p><b>Directors</b></p> <p>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><b>Executive Secretary</b> Jerry Smith, APR</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="margin: 5px 0;"><b>Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards</b></p> </div>