

The Wave

The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards

Vol. 11, No. 1

GCSchoolBoards@aol.com

June 2011

President's Message

Hopefully, this message finds you with a bit of time to catch your breath since all the end-of-school functions and graduations have come and gone for another year. While summer is usually thought of as the time for education to take a break we know that, as Trustees, the busiest part of our year begins. Each district is in the midst of planning a budget for which there are no easy answers. The 182nd Legislature is in Special Session and each district sits in anticipation of the outcome.

Despite the challenges, in just over two short months the school bells will ring again and we must be prepared to do our best for the children of Texas. Remembering that the Board of Trustees serves as the advocate for educational excellence in our respective communities, we must persevere in our efforts to do more with less, while remembering that the public has trusted us with this all important service. There will be no fairy tale endings to the trials before us, but, as long as we keep the educational welfare and the future of each student as our ultimate goals, we will succeed.

The Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards has planned a year that will assist local boards in receiving up-to-the-minute communication and training. You will find a description and timeline of all programs planned for 2011-2012 in this newsletter. Never has it been more important or beneficial for your Board to be a member of the GCAASB. Let me encourage each of you to attend these four informative membership meetings as a Board. In addition to the information and training, it is an opportune time to network and share with other districts.

Best wishes as you meet over the coming weeks to plan the 2011/2012 school year. Remember that you are a team and the outcome is "winning" for the educational success of the children, not only in your individual district, but statewide across Texas.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.



Kathy Green, President

Executive Board issues Special Session resolution

Supporting the mission of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards **to enhance the quality of education for public school children in the Texas Gulf Coast area** by creating an opportunity for local school boards to impact the legislative process affecting public education, the **GCAASB Executive Board** on June 2 **authorized a Special Session resolution** to be sent to Senators and Representatives who represent GCAASB school districts.

The **“For the Benefit of Children” resolution** recognized that the duly elected Board of Trustees of each independent and municipal school district is **responsible to the community it serves for the education of children, the quality and welfare of the teaching and support staff, and the stewardship of taxes and other funds.** It noted that the current **lack of a funding bill and supporting legislation to provide flexibility in meeting its responsibilities is a major obstacle** for each Board of Trustees in preparing for the next school year.

The resolution recognized that, while far from perfect, Senate Bill 1 did provide funds to each Board of Trustees to **address (not meet) its responsibilities,** and Senate Bill 8 did provide flexibility to each Board of Trustees to **protect (not save) employee jobs** within the lessened funding provided by SB 1.

The resolution concluded with the GCAASB Executive Board most strongly **urging each member of the Texas Senate and House of Representatives to act willfully to pass an improved-funding version of SB 1, and to pass SB 8 as a supportive bill, doing so for the benefit of children!**

GCAASB dues lowered for school districts

Recognizing that school districts are facing a financial crisis, the GCAASB Executive Board has **lowered the dues for its member school districts by \$50.00 per dues category** for 2011-2012. The dues categories are based on the 2010 ADA reported to the Texas Education Agency on Oct. 21, 2010.

The **new dues structure for school districts** will be as follows:

50,000 plus ADA - \$300.00	25,000-49,999 ADA - \$250.00	15,000-24,999 ADA - \$225.00
10,000-14,999 ADA - \$200.00	5,000-9,999 ADA - \$175.00	2,000-4,999 ADA - \$150.00
1,000-1,999 ADA - \$100.00	Below 1,000 ADA - \$50.00	County Board/ESC - \$150.00

The **dues for Associate Members remain the same.** Those amounts are \$250.00 for firms with multiple members, and \$100.00 for individuals.

The 2011-2012 dues statements were mailed to Superintendents and Associate Members on June 2 and are due no later than September 15.

As of June 14, the **Alief, Danbury and Waller** school districts had **renewed their GCAASB membership.** Associate Members attorney **Richard Peebles,** the law firms of **Ogden, Gibson, Broocks, Longoria & Hall, L.L.P.** and **Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos & Green, P.C.,** and architects **Ambrose and House, LLP** had renewed their status.

Cutting edge programs identified for fall meetings

Attorney David Thompson and demographer Steve Murdock will bring timely messages about the future of Texas public education as they respectively keynote the **August 31 and November 16 GCAASB membership meetings at Region 4 ESC.**

Mr. Thompson, founder of the Thompson & Horton LLP law firm, will recap action from the regular and special legislative sessions and analyze potential legal and legislative action as he speaks on **"What Next?"** at the 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 31 meeting. **GCAASB Associate Members Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P., and cre8 Architects will co-sponsor the dinner** for that meeting.

Mr. Murdock, former State Demographer and current Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor in Sociology at The Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University, will discuss the social and economic changes of **"Texas Students Now and In the Future"** at the 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 16 meeting. **Associate Members co-sponsoring that meeting's meal** will be the **Belt Harris Pechacek, LLLP, and Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos and Green, P.C.**

The GCAASB will host the **"TASB Grassroots Meeting"** on **February 8, 2012** to begin preparations for the 2013 legislative session, with the **dinner to be co-sponsored by PBK Architects and Ogden, Gibson, Broocks, Longoria & Hall, L.L.P.** The annual GCAASB-hosted **"TASB Spring Workshop"**, with **Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, and Jefferies & Company, Inc. as dinner co-sponsors**, will conclude the year's four membership meetings on **April 25, 2012.**

Four \$500 student scholarships will be awarded by drawings **at each of the four membership meetings.**

Current Officers, Directors re-elected

The **2010-2011 GCAASB Officers and Directors** were re-elected for the 2011-2012 school year by the membership during the business meeting at the April 27 Spring Workshop. The re-election was the result of a **Bylaws provision** that allows Officers to continue in the position to which they were appointed to fill a vacancy.

Continuing officers are **President Kathy Green** of La Porte ISD, **First Vice President Becky Streetman** of Huffman ISD, **Second Vice President Sarah Winkler** of Alief ISD, **Secretary/Treasurer Wayne Schaper, Sr.** of Spring Branch ISD, and **Aldine ISD trustee Marine Jones** as Past President.

Continuing as **Directors** on the 15-member Executive Board are **Pete Vincent, Alvin ISD; Linda Huebner, Columbia-Brazoria ISD; Carl Burg, Goose Creek CISD; Charles Cunningham, Humble ISD; and Joe Adams, Katy ISD.**

Other Directors are **Georgan Reitmeier, Klein ISD; Kim Janke, Needville ISD; Jeffrey Mitchell, Spring ISD; Etienne Zak, Stafford MSD; and Mark Lewandowski, Tomball ISD.**

16 student scholarships awarded in 2010-2011

The **GCAASB** provided financial assistance to at least **16 students** during the 2010-2011 school year the awarding of multiple \$500 student scholarships by drawings at each of the membership meetings.

School districts **receiving scholarships** during 2010-2011 were **Channelview (3), Clear Creek, Crosby, Dickinson (2), Huffman (3), Katy (2), La Porte, Sheldon, and Spring Branch (2)**. The school district, not the GCAASB Executive Board, determines how the scholarships are awarded to students.

Trustees **Willie Hodson and Steven Dennis** of **Channelview ISD**, **Matt Dutton** of **Huffman ISD**, and **Neal Howard** of **Katy ISD** held the winning tickets for the four scholarships from the canceled February membership meeting that were awarded at the April 27 Spring Workshop.

The winners for the April meeting scholarships were trustees **Mike Mackey** and **J.T. Floyd** of **Dickinson ISD**, and **Keith Norwood** of **Sheldon ISD**, and **Huffman ISD Interim Supt. Jean Islay**.

The scholarship drawings at the April 27 meeting were conducted by **dinner co-sponsors Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, and Jefferies & Company, Inc.**

GCAASB budget to draw down fund balance

The GCAASB Executive Board has adopted a **2011-2012 budget** that will see **expenditures exceed revenues** due to school district dues being lowered while the Association's commitment to students is maintained through the awarding of 16 \$500 scholarships.

As the result of increasing school district and Associate memberships and under spent budgets, the GCAASB has compiled a **\$17,206.97 fund balance** to allow for 2011-2012 expenditures to be budgeted \$3,510 above projected income.

Retaining all 46 school districts and the 21 Associates that paid **GCAASB membership dues** in 2010-2011 will produce \$14,100 in **revenues**. **Dinner sponsorships** for the four membership meetings by eight Associate Members are projected to bring in revenues of \$4,400. A \$750 **grant** from TASB Field Services and **interest** revenues of \$100 are also included in the \$19,350 Income budget.

Major **expenditures** in the \$22,860 Expenses budget include \$8,000 for **student scholarships**, \$7,200 for **Executive Secretarial services**, \$4,400 for **membership meeting meals**, and \$1,620 for **Executive Board meeting expenses**.

Other expenditure items are \$750 for the **TASB/TASA Convention**, \$450 for **postage and printing**, \$200 for **office supplies**, \$200 for **Association promotion**, and \$40 for **Candidate Training**.

*Please make Reservations
by 10:00 a.m. August 26
for the August 31
“What Next?” Program
by e-mailing
GCSchoolBoards.com
or calling
713-744-6534*

<p><i>Our Students ... Our Staff ... Our Schools ... Our Responsibility!</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2011-2012 Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards <i>Proud of Our Public Schools!!!</i></p>	
<p>President Kathy Green, La Porte ISD 1st Vice President Becky Streetman, Huffman ISD 2nd Vice President Sarah Winkler, Alief ISD Secretary/Treasurer Wayne Schaper, Sr., Spring Branch ISD Past President Marine Jones, Aldine ISD</p>	<p>Directors Pete Vincent, Alvin ISD Linda Huebner, Columbia-Brazoria ISD Carl Burg, Goose Creek CISD Charles Cunningham, Humble ISD Joe Adams, Katy ISD Georgan Reitmeier, Klein ISD Kim Janke, Needville ISD Jeffrey Mitchell, Spring ISD Ettienne Zak, Stafford MSD Mark Lewandowski, Tomball ISD</p>	<p>Executive Secretary Jerry Smith, APR</p> 