

# The Wave

The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards

Vol. 11, No. 3

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

September 2011

## *President's Message*

Finally we are beginning to see signs of Fall! Cooler temperatures, a little rain, and Friday nights taken up with football rivalries as the students of Texas are busy with learning and adapting to a school year riddled with change. However, **children are nothing if not resilient**. As we all know, they adapt much more quickly than adults and, under the guidance of their teachers, will succeed, of that I am confident!

This new school year has nearly all districts holding tight to already decreased budgets and looking ahead to what is next. The **first GCAASB meeting** in August drew a record crowd of Trustees and Superintendents interested in hearing **David Thompson's** views on what exactly is next. The 130+ crowd was eager for the opportunity to take away any information that will assist them in **focusing on the next level of difficulty in providing an optimal quality education for children attending public schools in Texas**. It is not going to get easier!

While much of is considered "local control" by school boards has been replaced with governmental control, as Trustees we are still in a unique position to bring forth a stronger educational future, both locally and statewide. As elected public officials, we are bound to represent our constituents and to serve. It is on us, individually, to become informed, to take action, and to follow through with making education a priority. **Our duties as Trustees may be part time and voluntary but, in order to be effective, they must become a full time dedication**. Think about that. Are you doing all you can as a Trustee to make education a priority?

Please mark your calendars for **November 16** to attend the **next GCAASB meeting** where demographer **Steve Murdoch** will discuss "**Texas Students Now and In the Future**". Also, as you attend the **TASB/TASA Convention** in Austin later this month, you are encouraged to stop by the **Area Associations of School Boards booth** at the entrance to the exhibit hall to pick up your **area ribbon** to display your **pride in being part of GCAASB!** We appreciate each one of you and look forward to seeing you in Austin!

*"The sign on the door of opportunity reads PUSH."*



*Kathy Green*, President

## *Executive Board vacancy filled*

The **GCAASB Executive Board** has appointed **Steven Dennis** of the **Channelview ISD Board of Trustees** to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of **GCAASB Director Jeffrey Mitchell** from his position on the **Spring ISD Board of Trustees**.

## ***Texas students to be examined at November 16 membership meeting***

The **second fall GCAASB membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 16** at Region 4 ESC will feature **Steve 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, discussing the social and economic changes of **"Texas Students Now and In the Future"**.

**Associate Members co-sponsoring that meeting's meal** will be the **Belt Harris Pechacek, LLLP**, and **Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos and Green, P.C.** They will also conduct drawings for the four \$500 student scholarships that will be awarded.

**Reservations** must be made **by 10 a.m. Friday, November 11** to ensure that sufficient food is prepared by **AC Catering**. All reservations need to be made **by e-mailing [GCSchoolBoards@aol.com](mailto:GCSchoolBoards@aol.com)** or by calling **GCAASB Executive Secretary Jerry Smith at 832-722-0213** since legislative funding reductions have caused Region 4 to reduce staff,

At the August 31 GCAASB membership meeting, **attorney David Thompson** of the **Thompson & Horton LLP** law firm noted that, as the result of reduced funding of public education by the Texas Legislature, Texas school districts are moving toward another round of litigation since all significant changes in funding public education since 1975, except for HB 72, have been in response to court decisions.

**Earning \$500 student scholarships** for their school district at that meeting were **trustees Becky Streetman of Huffman ISD, Joe Stephens of Galena Park ISD, Ron McGraw of Anahuac ISD, and Linda Butler of Dickinson ISD.** **GCAASB Associate Members Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P.,** and **cre8 Architects**, who co-sponsored the dinner, drew the winning tickets.

## ***Districts, Associates renewing GCAASB membership***

**Thirty-three school districts and 15 supportive education-related businesses** had renewed their **GCAASB membership** by the September 15 "dues-due" date.

Renewing memberships during the August 1-September 15 period were the **Bellville, Alvin, Columbia-Brazoria, Clear Creek, Klein, Aldine, Huffman, Hempstead, Channelview, Dickinson, Tomball, Pearland, Humble, and Sheldon** school districts.

The **Alief, Danbury, Waller, Galena Park, Pasadena, Texas City, Needville, Goose Creek, Lamar Consolidated, La Porte, Cypress-Fairbanks, Spring, Stafford, Houston, Hitchcock, Fort Bend, and Spring Branch** school districts as well as **Region 4 ESC** and **Harris County Department of Education** had renewed their **GCAASB memberships** by August 1.

**Associate Members** renewing their status since August 1 were the investment firm of **Jefferies & Company, Inc.**, architects **cre8 Incorporated** and **SHW Group**, the law firm of **Thompson & Horton LLP**, certified public accountants **Belt Harris Pechacek LLLP**, the delinquent tax collection firm of **Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P.**, and individual **Deval Allums** of Siemens Industries.

Attorney **Richard Peebles**, the law firms of **Ogden, Gibson, Broocks, Longoria & Hall, L.L.P.** ; **Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos & Green, P.C.**; and **Rogers, Morris & Grover LLP**, and architects **Ambrose and House, LLP; VLK Architects, Inc.; Bay Architects, Inc.; and PBK, Inc.** had previously renewed their **Associate Member** status.

## ***Region 4 Honor Board, Superintendent to be recognized at Convention***

The **Barbers Hill ISD Board of Trustees**, the Honor Board for Region 4, is one of the five finalists for the Texas Honor Board award to be presented during the **TASB/TASA Convention** in Austin September 30-October 2.

Serving on the Barbers Hill Board are **President Carmena Goss, Vice President Becky Tice, Secretary Benny May, and members Cynthia Erwin, Ron Mayfield, Fred Skinner, and George Barrera**. They were nominated by **Supt. Dr. Greg Poole**.

**Aldine ISD Supt. Dr. Wanda Bamberg**, who was selected as Region 4 Superintendent of the Year, will also be recognized during the convention.

## ***TASB/TASA Convention to feature programs by GCAASB members***

Representatives from **10 GCAASB-member school districts** and from **six GCAASB Associate Members** will make **presentations** at the **TASB/TASA Convention in Austin Sept. 30 and Oct. 1**. Following is a listing of those presentations:


### **FRIDAY, SEPT. 30**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>	<b>ROOM</b>
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Critical Connections	Channelview ISD	13AB
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Libraries without Borders: Shaping Learning through Interactive Media Centers	VLK Architects	18D
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Online Credit Recovery Initiative	Houston ISD	19B
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Paying for College – Tax Strategies and Financial Aid	Spring Branch ISD	12B
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Special Education – Tips from the Trenches	Schwartz & Eichelbaum Wardell Mehl and Hansen, P.C.	11AB
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	The Most Unkindest Cut of All: Surviving a RIF with a Conscience	Schwartz & Eichelbaum Wardell Mehl and Hansen, P.C.	11AB
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Bullying – What to Know About It and How to Avoid Legal Claims	Escamilla, Poneck, & Cruz, LLP	13AB
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Educating in a Tough Economy	Cypress-Fairbanks ISD	15
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Grievances: What You Need to Know	Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos & Green, P.C.	17A
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Keep the Doors Open: Creative Tips for Reducing M&O Costs of Existing Facilities	PBK Architects and Klein ISD	11AB
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Let's Play the Homeschool Feud!	Waller ISD	15

**SATURDAY, OCT. 1**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>	<b>ROOM</b>
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	ESCO Performance Contracting – Guaranteed Operating Savings	PBK Architects and Region 4 ESC	17B
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	HISD's New Teacher Appraisal and Development System	Houston ISD	18A
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Navigating Student Discipline: It Can Be Done!	Thompson & Horton, LLP	19A
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Public Comment Time – Love It or Hate It	Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos & Green, P.C.	17A
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Surviving the Storm: Tax Ratification Elections in 2011 and Beyond	Thompson & Horton, LLP	18C
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	The ABCs of IEPs: Special Education for Board Members	Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos & Green, P.C.	16B
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Leading and Learning (Virtually!) Anytime, Anyplace	Humble ISD	16A
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Redirecting Attention to Lowering Costs and Raising Student Performance	SHW Group and Spring ISD	15
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Transforming Learning and Teaching through Technology	Klein ISD	17B

*Make Reservations by 10:00 a.m. November 11  
 for the  
 November 16 Program  
 “Texas Students Now and In the Future”  
 by e-mailing [GCSchoolBoards.com](http://GCSchoolBoards.com)  
 or by calling Jerry Smith at 832-722-0213*

<p><i>Our Students ...                  Our Staff ...                  Our Schools ...                  Our Responsibility!</i></p>		2011-2012 <b>Gulf Coast Area                  Association of School Boards</b>  <i>Proud of Our Public Schools!!!</i>
		<p><b>Executive Secretary</b>                  Jerry Smith, APR</p> 
<p><b>President</b>                  Kathy Green, La Porte ISD  <b>1st Vice President</b>                  Becky Streetman, Huffman ISD  <b>2nd Vice President</b>                  Sarah Winkler, Alief ISD  <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>                  Wayne Schaper, Sr., Spring Branch ISD  <b>Past President</b>                  Marine Jones, Aldine ISD</p>	<p><b>Directors</b>                  Pete Vincent, Alvin ISD                  Steven Dennis, Channelview 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                  Ettienne Zak, Stafford MSD                  Mark Lewandowski, Tomball ISD</p>	